

# SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

During the three months I've been involved in the CPSC School Council I've been struck by just how challenging our administration and staff's jobs can be. We're lucky to have folks at CPSC whose minds and hearts are open to genuine feedback. Their commitment to addressing the issues at our school with openness and integrity is refreshing, even as messy as doing so can be sometimes. This month's school council meeting provided a great opportunity for information sharing regarding several of those important topics.

Tia Hall, Cleve May, Anita Faircloth, and Evika Sturdivant from the diversity committee attended the November 17<sup>th</sup> council meeting to discuss the committee's work in addressing diversity at CPSC. Cleve reported that the committee had three groups: one assessing where we are currently, one examining specific policies, and the other exploring marketing opportunities. Assessing diversity at Central Park, according to the committee, begins with addressing three questions: 1) Are we living well with the diversity we have now? 2) What about the achievement gap? and 3) Are there cultural tensions?

The teachers feel strongly that we shouldn't recruit populations we are not ready to serve *well*, and the diversity committee has requested that staff members utilize the TeachingTolerance.org website as a means of understanding their own biases around diversity. The school council has agreed to consider the issues raised by the diversity committee and discuss how those issues will influence school policies and procedures.

The school council briefly discussed questions raised by the website committee. It was astounding (for me, at least) to learn that CPSC has NO paid staff dedicated to the website. The school has a fantastic site thanks to dedicated volunteers, but questions remain as to whether that's sustainable without further resources.

Finally, John brought two issues to the table that should be of interest to all CPSC parents. Renovation plans for the park space behind the school has been controversial for a number of year; nevertheless, the city council plans to address a \$100,000 request for renovation during its December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Storm water repair is scheduled to begin in April, which could affect the Strawberry Festival.

As always, if you would like to bring any observations, ideas, issues, or concerns to about topics discussed at this month's meeting or something else entirely, please email your grade-level representative. (submitted by Buddy Harris, K-1 representative)

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