

## **October 30 – CCSD School Board Report**

### **Craig High School: Josh Andrews**

October was peppered with unexpected surprises and kindnesses, and we owe people some **Big Thank You's**. Like the rest of the community, CHS was without water briefly this month. Thank you to Melissa Cervera for donating 3 cases of water to the CHS student body!

Thank you, Jeannie Rogan, for popping in with a big bag of freshly ground coffee, creamer, and sugar to keep the staff energized!

Thank you to Jim Seley and JS Warehouse for the donation of 12 bags of Quikrete for our greenhouse project! Helping to keep us grounded.

Finally, a big thank you to the staff and students of CHS for the Boss's Day celebrations and recognition. It was unexpected and appreciated.

**Parent Teacher Conferences** were held October 10 and 11. We had parents representing 22 families (26 students) attend. That's 40% of our student body! It was great to see such a good turnout at the high school.

There are several **Events** that have just ended and that are coming up. We had 5 CHS music students participate in the 50<sup>th</sup> annual **Region V Honor Music Festival** in Petersburg October 20-22. We had two students selected for the honor choir (Grant Maygren and Aulis Nelson), and three students selected for the band (Kailee Stock, French horn; Payton McCoy, clarinet; and Madison Conaster, bass clarinet). Our music teacher, Rachael Balcom, assisted in the audition and preparation process prior to the event. The concert was livestreamed so local parents were able to enjoy the final performances.

**Volleyball** is well under way with the Panthers having participated in a seed tournament in Metlakatla on October 11 and 12. Our first home game against Klawock was played October 24. We have 8 athletes on our volleyball roster this year.

**Wrestling** has begun and we have 7 athletes attending practices. They participated in their first meet of the season, with 5 wrestlers traveling to Juneau October 25 and 26.

The **first quarter** is in the books, ending on October 25. So far this year, the student body is performing well. CHS is a fun place to work because of the hard-working students we have!

The **PSAT** was conducted today, October 30, at CHS. This is a preparatory test for the SAT and is the sole means of qualification for the National Merit Scholar program. It is typically taken at the junior level, but seniors are welcome to take the test as well. This year, Ms. Peavey and I encouraged our juniors (and seniors who had not taken it yet) to sign up for the test and we ended up with eleven students registered.

The **Region V Swim Meet** will be held in Petersburg November 1 and 2. We have seven swimmers representing CHS at this meet. Best of luck Panthers!

### **From our Activities Director**

Lots of activity with Fall Sports!

-Aulis Nelson is the 1st Cross Country State Champ in School history. We are very proud of him

-Volleyball Regionals will be held here in Craig in November with 8 teams and fans coming to Craig for it

- I feel like I have been successful in keeping travel costs down this year, but have been getting a lot of questions from families about why the schedules are so light.

-I am planning a Cultural Basketball tournament to be held here at the end of January with the idea of teaching our cultural history. The CTA will be helping us with that

- Wrestlers are on their way to their first meet and Swimmers are headed to Regions next week.

-Mr Andrews and I have been having discussions about some changes that need to be made to the existing handbook

- We are in the middle of implementing the use of SportsYou for coach-athlete communication.

-I was able to attend the AD Conference in Anchorage when I was there with Aulis for State and it was VERY beneficial to me

**The staff of CHS has always been proud of our comprehensive high school.** We have been always offered a wide variety of courses - meeting the varied needs of our students in the process.

In 2009, there were 10 full-time CHS teaching staff whose positions included: math/music, social studies, math/science, language arts, science, language arts, social studies, math, CTE, PE/health, and special education. We also had a full-time counselor. We had a full-time network technician, and access to two maintenance personnel. CHS also had shared staff including 2 SEALS teachers and several part-time positions including 2 paraprofessional aides, 3 reading tutors, and a librarian. Classes were organized along a modified block schedule, with 4 core classes before lunch and 3 rotating block periods after lunch for a total of 7 periods. Because of the number of staff, schedule offerings were robust and allowed for a great deal of scheduling flexibility, regularly provided double

sections for teachers, and possessed many elective options for students. This was for a student body of 92 students.

Today, we have 4 full-time teaching staff at the high school. We have one part-time teaching position. There are 5 shared staff including SEALS, PE, music, counseling, and special education. We have two part-time special education aides, a shared, part-time librarian, and a full-time custodian. Our 2-person maintenance department responds to critical needs and routine maintenance for all buildings in the district when they aren't driving bus. There are 66 students in our student body.

Our **student body number has decreased by 28%** since 2009.

In 2006 there were 59 class offerings. Today we have 42 unique offerings, not including our special education classes. This is a **29% reduction in courses** offered.

In 2006 there were 10 full-time high school teaching staff and 2 shared staff. Today we have 4 full-time teaching staff and 4 shared teaching staff. This is a **60% reduction in full-time teaching staff**.

In 2006, staff were responsible for 3-5 unique preps per semester. Today, our teaching staff is responsible for 5-6 unique preps per semester. Most of the staff teach different courses from one semester to the next.

In 2009, CCSD required 26 credits for a CHS graduate. Today CCSD requires 25 credits for a CHS graduate.

I am providing you context for the request I am making. We don't have teachers who want to see CHS offer less. However, the current high school staff schedules are non-sustainable. In order to do more with less, we have reduced class lengths to 47 minutes Monday through Thursday and 42 minutes on Friday. It might not seem like much, but 47 minutes feels rushed. 50 minutes classes are really the bare minimum a high school class should be. We have maintained our core classes at the expense of electives. Most students now have the choice between art and welding, or welding and music.

It is very difficult to schedule students who have gotten off track in their career. A lack of double sections means that we will see more students needing to take online courses for credit recovery.

I am asking the board to **consider a reduction in credits required for graduation from CHS** from the current 25 to 23. I would also ask that the board consider and support a move from the current 7-period day to a 6-period day. 23 credits in a 6-period day would require students to take classes throughout their high school career and hold themselves to a high standard. It would allow for 1-credit "wobble" and address the current situation of potential bad attitudes as seniors are being required to graduate with as many as 28 credits, when only 25 are "required."

