

Parkland Community Advisory Council

February 16, 2017

CO-PRESIDENTS

Marie Maritch
Melanie St. Hill

VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP

Michelle Wahlmark

SECRETARY

Linda Perlman-McKenna

ATTENDEES : Ann Segan, Nancy Trach, Monica Gutman, Trish Balestrini, Linda Perlman-McKenna, Nicole Mandry, Michelle Wahlmark, Marie Maritch, Melanie St. Hill

GUESTS: Tom Murray, Pete Balestrini, Mary Ost, Jessica Kara

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Jennifer Jones, Andrea Scott, Jennifer Schreiner, Melissa Grube, Lisa Hayducek, Robert Fager

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Kiera Segan, Alana Dee, R.J. Corba

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES: Lisa Roth, David Hein, Carol Facchiano-excused, Mark Hanichak-excused

ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Rodney R. Troutman, Assistant Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Marie Maritch at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes from January 19, 2017 was made by Ann Segan and seconded by Nancy Trach. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION: Parent/Child Reunification – Safe Schools

Melanie St. Hill introduced the evening's speaker, Mr. Anthony Naradko, Assistant Director of School Services for Transportation and Safety for the Parkland School District. Mr. Naradko provided an overview of the school district's plan for reuniting students with their parent or guardian following an emergency or disaster. Such emergencies may include an active shooter crisis, a gas leak, a kitchen fire, etc. The school district's Reunification Plan addresses how the school district seeks to keep kids safe under a host of possible issues and how it ensures that students are accounted for and reunited with the appropriate legal guardian.

Parkland uses the same framework as the U.S. Department of Education because it is the same framework used by other emergency organizations, such as FEMA and our local first responders. Four key elements of the plan include:

- (1) Mitigation & Prevention—this includes policies and programs aimed at being proactive, such as bullying prevention.
- (2) Preparedness—this includes practice drills to help ensure that plans work effectively when put into practice and to ensure that everyone understands what to do in emergency situations. Such drills include fire drills, red alert drills, bus safety drills, etc.
- (3) Response—this addresses roles, responsibilities, relationships, effective communication, and expectations to make sure they are clearly defined and understood by all parties in

advance of any potential crisis. This includes contacts with various outside agencies and first responders. The nature of the emergency dictates which agency takes the lead role.

- (4) Recovery—This part of the plan addresses policies and procedures relating to how, when, where students and parents are reunited, and ensures that the necessary supports are in place to get the school back to equilibrium. This includes help for students, faculty, staff and families in coping with the aftermath of a crisis, such as counseling to help cope with the stress and any trauma associated with a crisis.

Mr. Naradko outlined the Incident Command Structure, emphasizing the importance of having a uniform, controlled, organized process in place for the reunification of students and parents. He highlighted the clearly defined roles and responsibilities of various key individuals within the district, including: the Incident Commander (Mr. Sniscak/Superintendent)—key decision-maker for the school district; Public Information Officer (Tracy Smith)—responsible for communication and technology; Liaison Officer (Dr. Troutman)—interfaces with 1st responders and shares information with the Incident Commander to assist with decision-making; Safety Officer (Mr. Naradko)—oversees crisis management and works with the building principals to ensure that resources/tools are employed safely; Operations Officer (Dave Keppel)—directs transportation, grounds, maintenance & food service; Finance Officer (John Vignone)—manages the budget and handles the costs of procuring resources associated with crisis management, including the stockpile of key supplies; Student Services (Brenda DeLorenzo and staff)—assists special needs students (such as kids with medical conditions, who may not be able to walk, for example), oversees the school nurses who help to triage/treat minor injuries, oversees the school psychologists, and serves as the liaison with the Intermediate Unit.

The process for reuniting children and parents was described. Mr. Naradko referred to the floor plan of the high school as he illustrated the procedures to be followed in the event of a crisis. Police will set up a perimeter around the area. When parents arrive to park, they will be instructed to line up at the appropriate reporting area based on the child's school and/or alphabet. Official "Greeters" will give parents an Incident Release Card to complete. Parents will then be directed to the appropriate station inside or outside the high school cafeteria where a "Table Checker" will take the card and verify that the parent's photo ID matches their signature and that they are legally authorized to pick up the student. After check-in, parents will walk to the designated reunification location as directed (e.g., hallway by the pool). Meanwhile, a "Runner" will go pick up the student from the holding area (e.g., gym) and bring the child to the parent. Parents of children who may require medical intervention by the school nurse or hospitalization will be taken aside and provided with the information necessary to meet their child.

The reunification plan is adaptable depending on the specific situation. If a crisis occurs at an elementary school, the kids may be bused to the high school following a prescribed route. In a situation where the high school needs to continue to function while the elementary students are being reunified with their parents, alternative plans would be enacted to allow the high schoolers to complete their school day. Lunches, study halls and gym classes may need to be relocated to the auditorium. In addition, the same basic plan or framework can be applied to different sites should the need arise to reunify students and parents at a location other than the high school.

Mr. Naradko highlighted other aspects of Parkland's overall Reunification Plan, including: Transportation Plan—addresses bus transportation issues, and special considerations such as plans in the event a road is blocked; Site Logistics Plan—addresses parking issues; First Aid/Triage Plan; and Building-Specific Plans for each school. The building-specific plans are consistent with all other plans and outline clearly defined roles, responsibilities, procedures, etc.

All plans are reviewed on an ongoing basis and are continuously being improved to ensure the safety of the students as the number one priority.

Lastly, Mr. Naradko discussed bus transportation and safety. He introduced Peter Balestrini, a consultant from Computer Aid. Peter has been assisting Mr. Naradko for the past two years to implement technology to drive the effective and efficient planning and scheduling of transportation. Parkland now employs GPS technology on all buses allowing the transportation office to track all buses. The office can tell the speed of a bus, when it gets to each stop, whether a bus is running late. If issues arise, a new bus may be dispatched and parents can be notified using the ConnectEd system. In addition to figuring out directions, the technology can time each bus run so adjustments can be made if necessary. If a student is added to the roster at the last minute, the technology can redo the bus run and administrators can make sure that no one route runs too long or that kids won't get home too late. Mr. Naradko also highlighted that all buses are equipped with cameras. He described some of the advantages of that added technology, such as how it has helped to control kids' behavior and to prosecute many drivers who have endangered children's safety by not stopping appropriately. He closed his presentation by sharing surprising video footage from cameras mounted on the external arm of buses.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT:

Mr. Naradko's presentation was well received resulting in many questions. In the interest of time, Mrs. Roth's school board report will be reported in these minutes as follows:

The January board meeting workshop included Dr. Troutman presenting the District Goals update. In addition, the board meeting also had Kelly Rosario (Director of Curriculum) providing an update on the progress of Full Day Kindergarten classes. Her presentation was very exciting with much progress after only five months. The board passed the resolution to stay at or below the Act 1 Index rate for school taxes. Also, the board confirmed Kelly Clough Bucher & Associates as our architects for the new elementary school. There will be a board retreat with the architects on Monday, March 6, to continue the new school planning process.

STUDENT REPORT: Kiera Segan, Alana Dee and R.J. Corba

General

- The District's food drive is being held from February 13 through February 24.
- The Parent Forum's Spring Workshop is scheduled for March 15, at 7 p.m.
- "Kindness Challenge" week is the week of February 27.

Arts

- 15 students qualified for PMEA Regional Orchestra.
- 18 students qualified for PMEA Regional Chorus.
- The District Band Festival was held at PHS on February 10 at 2 p.m.
 - Band Concert was Saturday, February 11, at 2 p.m.
- The spring musical, "Pippin," will be performed April 5 – April 9.
- There were many gold and silver key winners and three best in show awards at the recent Scholastic Art Awards.

Academics

- Skills USA competition was held on February 1.
 - The competition was a chance for LCTI students to show what they have learned and compete.
- World Language Week starts Monday, February 27.
 - Students decorate the high school with posters celebrating language.
 - Various activities are held throughout the week such as cultural dress day.
- A Mini-Thon will be held on March 4, from 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
 - Different clubs are sending representatives to participate.
- Registration for the Advanced Placement (AP) tests will be held March 13 – 17.

Athletics

- Spring Sports start March 6.
- The Girls' swim team is leading going into the playoffs.
- Both girls' and boys' basketball teams are wrapping up their seasons.
 - Girls are 17-5 and are currently in EPC playoffs.
 - Boys are 15-8 and had their final home game last week.
- The wrestling team is faring well and has a winning record at this time.
- The Gatorade Pa. State Volleyball Player of the year was Sam Graver. Coach Krouse was recognized by the PIAA and NFHS for his achievements with an appointment to a National Volleyball Rules Interpreter.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

The next CAC meeting will take place on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Admin Center. The agenda will include two topics: Full Day Kindergarten and Mindfulness.

ROUNDTABLE:

Many thanks were extended to Mr. Naradko for his informative and reassuring presentation on Parkland's Reunification Plan and Transportation Safety, and for his team's efforts to keep our kids safe. Marie Maritch encouraged attendance at future meetings. She indicated that the CAC Board will be working on a video to help promote the CAC, as well as a survey to elicit feedback such as why members started coming to CAC meetings, what keeps members/attendees returning, what drew attendees to this evening's program, what other topics are of interest.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

At 8:37 p.m., Melanie St. Hill called for a motion to adjourn. Ann Segan moved, with Nancy Trach seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Perlman-McKenna