

Parkland Community Advisory Council

April 12, 2018

CO-PRESIDENTS

Melanie St. Hill
Ann Segan

VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP

Michelle Wahlmark

SECRETARY

Andrea Scott

ATTENDEES: Susan Atiyeh, Jen Jones, Nicole Mandry, Lisa Petrocelli, Melanie St. Hill, Andrea Scott, Ann Segan, Michelle Wahlmark

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Mary Braccili, A.J. Corba, Seth Fine, Monica Gutman, Tom Murray

GUESTS: Chantel Benes, Desiree Pascal, Lars Wahlmark

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Kiera Segan

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES: Linda Perlman-McKenna

ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Rodney Troutman

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Melanie St. Hill at 6:15 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes from March 15, 2018 was made by Nicole Mandry and seconded by Ann Segan. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION:

Dr. Rodney Troutman presented “the State of the District”. This presentation is given to all PTO’s, rotaries, teachers, staff and maintenance each year so that everyone has a chance to see what is happening within the Parkland School District.

School Safety and Security

- This is an ongoing conversation. They don’t wait for a crisis to plan how to respond. Quarterly meetings with emergency personnel (local and state police, Lehigh County Emergency Management) to craft plans and to meet each other. Therefore, when an emergency arises, everyone knows who one another are and what role each person plays.
- New fire alarm protocol- When a fire alarm goes off, shelter in place. Don’t automatically evacuate the building, but wait to see why the alarm is sounding. Information panels indicate where the fire alarm is pulled from so investigation can occur quickly.
- Mental health help ongoing- Identifying individuals and making sure they get the help they need- even if they don’t qualify because of cost or insurance. The district partners with organizations for low/no cost help.
- Locked vestibules.
- School resource officers- in PHS since 2001; one between middle schools.
- *See Something, Say Something* we need to continue to create a good open community that communicates and reports when things seem off.

- Phone system- A 5 second knock off of phone receiver will initial a 911 call to the front desk.

Governor's Proposed Budget

- Not a lot of bells and whistles in the budget because it is an election year.
- Parkland not expecting to receive much, if any, increase in state aid. It will be approximately \$240k (compared to the \$180M budget).
- Act 1 Index, the cap on tax increase, is 2.4%.

Focus of the Future

- Cyber and Charter Schools- These schools are not “free,” they are funded by the school district the student resides. Student tuition, given to the cyber or charter school by Parkland School District (PSD), is a set formula based number set by the state. The PSD cost, \$11,200 for regular education students and \$23,000 for special education students plus transportation, is the same for a brick and mortar school and a cyber school. To compare costs, PSD has its own cyber school. The cost of the Cyber School is \$4500 per student. The PSD Cyber School had a 100% graduation rate last year, compared to other cyber school average of 50% graduation rate. In the future, the state is not figuring out enrollment and costs. It will moving responsibility to each school district's business office to figure everything out.
- Even though PDS works with the townships to determine what new development is on the horizon, sometimes the information changes quickly or is not timely enough. The Ridge development wasn't known until after the Kratzer renovation was completed. The Spring View apartment project of 450 apartments, initially scheduled in phases over the next few year will all be completed in December of this year.

New Elementary School

- Creative Commons- Where creativity will not be limited by the height. This is a two story open common area near the entrance of the building that will be utilized by classes. This opens to a large, enclosed courtyard. This fenced in courtyard has a drainage system under turf, covered tables, an amphitheater like seating space, and large outdoor classroom space. They playground is outside of this enclosed courtyard to the south of the building.
- Makerspace rooms will be found throughout the building. These spaces will be utilized as extra classrooms that can be turned into permanent classrooms when the need arises.

Reading by 3rd Grade Program

- Huge success with full day kindergarten. The number of incoming 1st grade students reading on or above grade level now vs when there was half day kindergarten is a huge improvement!
- LETRS- Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling is now being implemented.

Parkland Ready 21

- 2400 chrome books were distributed to all of the middle school students.

- High school students will receive chrome books fall of 2018. The 11 Chromebook carts no longer needed at the high school will be sent to elementary schools for student use.
 - Use of Schoology, Nearpod and Hoonuit.
- New content management system for the website so that it will now be ADA compliant.
- Girls Who Code- girl students teaching girl students how to code.
- Teachers Technology Conference- teachers teaching teachers about technology

Parkland Foundation

- In its 7th year. Already awarded \$749k in 292 staff grants. Grant application deadline is April 1st.
- The Parkland Foundation Gala is held on May 7th. Please consider a donation or get involved as a volunteer!

Celebrating Our Staff

- Nominate someone by April 15th for the Parkland Pride Award.

District Rankings

- 14/495 best places to teach in PA
- 21/497 best school districts in PA
- 14/497 safest school district in PA

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT:

At the March 20th School Board meeting, approval of the 2017/2018 district calendar to accommodate inclement weather was approved. Also, it was noted that Richard Sniscak received the 2018 Top Workplaces award for Leadership in a large company.

At the March 27th School Board meeting, bid results for the new elementary school were reviewed. Alvin Butz presented 19 building packages totaling \$35.8 million dollars. (This dollar amount is in line with the square foot costs of other elementary schools.) 2018-2019 CLIU 21 and LCCC budgets were reviewed and approved. PA Senate Bill 2 (school vouchers) debate is heating up. Please contact your representatives by April 16th for anyone opposing the bill!

Next School Board meeting is April 17th at 7pm workshop; 8pm regular meeting

STUDENT REPORT:

General:

- Prom is May 12th at 6pm
- Senior cap and gown orders are due on the Jostens link at the PHS website for \$37
- The first annual Pie in the Face fundraiser was held 4/11 after school
- Only 400 yearbooks left to buy before deadline of April 27th

Academics:

- 3rd marking period ends April 16th
- SAT at PHS on May 5th
- Spring Keystone exams May 14th - 23rd

- College Visits:
 - o Penn State (April 30th)
- Academic Awards night May 23rd 7pm
- AP test review for the English Lit / Biology has started afterschool
- AP Test signups are still open but now include a late fee

Arts:

- Spring Musical: The Hunchback of Notre Dame April 11th - 15th
- Spring Band Concert April 26th 7pm
- Spring Orchestra Concert May 10th 7pm
- 15th annual Festival of the Arts May 17th - 19th
 - o Student Art Show May 17th 6pm
 - o Spring Chorus Concert May 17th 7pm
 - o Parkland's Got Talent May 18th 7pm
 - o Artists on the Quad May 19th 10am
- Visual and performing arts awards May 31st 7pm

Athletics:

- National Letter of Intent Signing was yesterday
- Athletic / Hall of Fame awards May 30th 5pm
- Boys volleyball team is currently undefeated at 6-0 in non-tournament play
 - o Have a home match tonight against Freedom (that is where Seth and RJ are)
- Girls lacrosse is 6-1; only loss to Wilson west lawn
- Boys lacrosse is 4-2; loses to Central Catholic and Southern Lehigh
- Baseball is 4-0
- Softball is currently 4-1; loss in a close game to Bethlehem Catholic-
 - o Both baseball and softball are away today at Liberty
- Track and field is undefeated at 5-0
- Boys tennis is 6-1, single loss to Nazareth- they have a big home match today against Moravian Academy

OLD BUSINESS: N/A

NEW BUSINESS: N/A

ROUNDTABLE:

Next Meeting will be held on May 17, 2018 at 6:00pm: election of officers, generating meeting presentation topics for next year, and approval of new members

MOTION TO ADJOURN: At 7:15pm, Michelle Wahlmark called for a motion to adjourn. Melanie St. Hill moved the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrea Scott