

Parkland Community Advisory Council

March 21, 2019

CO-PRESIDENTS

Melanie St. Hill
Ann Segan

VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP

Michelle Wahlmark

SECRETARY

Andrea Scott

ATTENDEES: Melanie St. Hill, Ann Segan, Desiree Pascal, Jen Jones, Andrea Scott, Michelle Wahlmark, Ben Gullede

EXCUSED: Nicole Mandry, Lisa Petrocelli, Mary Ost, Deb Martin

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Seth Fine

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Linda Perlman-McKenna

ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Rodney Troutman

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Melanie St. Hill at 7:02pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes from February 21, 2019 was made by Michelle Wahlmark and seconded by Jen Jones.

PRESENTATION: Anthony Naradko and Officer Thomas Banner presented "School Safety/Resource Officers' Role" at Parkland.

Before becoming a PHS resource officer, Officer Thomas Banner spent 5 years on the drug task force. His vast experience in the drug trade within the community has helped identifying problem areas, educate students, teachers and parents and enforce policies. He sees himself as a resource to use to help guide students. His goal is not to find issues and to place students in jail for their actions but to help the students better themselves

In a show and tell format, many different vaping devices, vaping cartridges and other paraphernalia were presented and passed around so that we could see first hand what was used.

The vaping devices that the students use can be used for vaping flavored non-nicotine products, nicotine products and THC (marijuana). The problem is the interchangeability of each device.

One device can be purchased in combination with a non-nicotine cartridge, then a nicotine or homebrew THC oil can be added. Smoke from THC oil, does not have a distinctive smell, it usually just smells like the flavor it is mixed with.

THC oil is very strong and it is in big demand in states where marijuana is not yet legalized. It started out mostly as an end of life pain management drug where you would need a prescription to receive the oil and device. Then, devices were being sold to the general public and when flavoring is added to homemade THC oil it was hard to detect.

THC oil is strong because in a joint or pipe, a lot of the THC is burned off. However, vaping devices can be set to specific temperatures so that 60-70% of the THC is retained. One of the biggest problems is vaping is being portrayed as a safe alternative to smoking and cigarettes but because of the relative newness of vaping nicotine, data is just coming out supporting the idea that nicotine has a more detrimental effect on teenagers vs adults.

The new vaping devices are virtually smokeless and made to look similar to other everyday devices. This takes advantage of the generation gap allowing it to be hidden in plain sight. Because these devices are small and compact and can be charged like other electronic devices they may be looked upon as computer accessories.

Anthony Naradko, PHS Assistant Principal and PSD Safety Administrator spoke about his role in keeping the students in the district safe. He spoke about the Act 44 School Safety and Security Reform Bill and the changes the district has made because of the act.

Some of the items that were addressed because of the act were:

- Use of situational awareness to assess and react to incidents
 - E.g.- because of the Parkland, Florida incident changes were made to the fire alarm procedure
- Trauma informed approaches to education
 - Awareness of how to keep students calm and work through trauma
- School Safety Committee at the State level
- Safe2Say Something program

The Safe2Say Something program is a youth violence prevention program from the Sandy Hook Promise. It is a state mandated program of anonymous reporting of students in unsafe (to them or others) situation. The district was tasked to trying to train each student and teacher.

The Parkland Morning News students developed a video shown at all schools, teaching the students when to report, how to report and what to report. Per the Say Something website, it allows anyone (students, teachers, parents,...) “to securely and anonymously report safety concerns to help identify and intervene upon at-risk individuals before they hurt themselves or others.” Reports can be made online, by phone or via app. Since Feb 11th, 291 referrals were made. It will continue throughout the school year and over the summer 24 hrs. a day. Any time an imminent life safety issue is reported, it is responded to immediately by the safety administrator, crisis workers and 911 is dispatched.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: Linda Perlman-McKenna spoke on behalf of the school board.

Highlights of all Board Meetings can be found online on PSD website under School Board tab/Meeting Highlights.

At the 2/26 School Board meeting:

- The Board approved the following: calendar for the 2019-2020 school year (beginning 9/3, ending 6/12), summer library program (6/25-8/8), summer school dates (7/1-8/8).
- Noted that the Parkland Education Foundation Gala will be held on Wednesday May 22nd at Muhlenberg College. Tickets can be purchased on the Education Foundation's website.
- A legislative update was given on SB34 and HB526 regarding tuition and cyber programs. Find more information on PSBA's website.

At the 3/19 workshop and meeting:

- Workshop included presentations of "entity" budgets which includes budgets for LCTI, LCCC, CLIU.
- At the regular meeting, Mr. Jason Henry, PSD Curriculum Supervisor of Secondary Ed was recognized for being selected as one of 31 distinguished ambassadors in PA STEM Ambassador program.
- Also at the meeting, the Board approved "Professional Development for Cultivating a Safe Classroom Culture" and approved new Digital Menu Software that will facilitate consistent and up-to-date communication to parents regarding the school cafeteria menu, menu item information and menu changes.

Next Board meeting will be held 3/26 at 7pm.

STUDENT REPORT:

Arts

- Regional Chorus is currently happening! 18 students left for Muhlenberg High School in Reading, PA and will perform a concert on Saturday
- Parkland had 9 students in Regional Band. Of those students, one will be attending all-state band in April
- Parkland will have 3 students at all-state orchestra this April
- Curtains musical is April 10-14th! Buy Tickets!
- Performing Arts Club will have a princess camp for k-3 students on May 5. Children will spend a day with princesses and sing, dance, and do crafts.

General/Academics

- Both World Language Week and End the R-Word Week had successful events at PHS over the past month
- The 3rd marking period at the high school ends on April 5th
- There are continued college visits in the guidance office and continued SAT prep sessions after school

Athletics

- Track and Field: first scrimmage yesterday against Hazelton and they continue on Monday against Central Catholic also at the high school
- Boys Tennis: vs Easton tonight; started their season 3-0
- Boys and Girls Lacrosse: start their first matches of the season Saturday
- Boys Volleyball: first match vs Pocono Mountain East (away) tomorrow
- Baseball: Plays an out of conference game on Saturday against North Penn High School
- Softball: Is currently on a trip in Florida for the weekend at spring training games

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ROUNDTABLE:

It was suggested we post pictures of the vaping devices on the PSD website so parents can see what they look like.

Parkland School District was awarded 2nd place in the large employer category in the 2019 Morning Call Top Workplace Survey.

Next meeting at PHS, the musical performance "Curtains" will follow the meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: At 8:30 pm, Melanie St. Hill called for a motion to adjourn. Ben Gulledge moved, with Jen Jones seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully
Submitted, Andrea
Scott