

Parkland Community Advisory Council

November 21, 2019

CO-PRESIDENTS

Melanie St. Hill
Michelle Wahlmark

SECRETARY

Andrea Scott

ATTENDEES: Melanie St. Hill, Arun Kapoor, Jennifer Jones, Benjamin Gullledge, Ann Segan, Michelle Wahlmark, Jennifer Schreiner

EXCUSED: Andrea Scott, Nicole Mandry, Desiree Pascal

GUESTS: Jay Rohatgi

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Tyler Bartman, Natalie St. Hill, Lauren Wahlmark

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Linda Perlman-McKenna

ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Rodney R. Troutman, Assistant Superintendent

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Michelle Wahlmark at 5:30pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes from Oct was made by Arun Kapoor and 2nd by Jennifer Jones

PRESENTATION: "Technology & Curriculum" presented by Tracy Smith & the Technology Department

Parkland's development of a Digital Ecosystem with Schoology. With Parkland Ready 21, they are going from a Teacher-Centric form of learning and shifting to a Student-Centric style. This will help keep students engaged in the learning process with the different activities and content. There has been a Professional Development (PD) process for the teachers, so they can learn this style. The goal of Parkland Ready 21 is to help build 21st century skills and creating upstanding digital citizens. The learning will never stop for the teachers and the students.

This Digital Ecosystem will be using Clever, and all roads will lead through Clever. The back end of this data system will include Home Access and Schoology. Where the front end of Clever will include all programs that that particular student will have access to (depends on their grade). For example, Schoology, Google, Study Island, Go Math, Office 365, etc. With Clever, it will help 'clear the brush' and streamline all processes, saving the teachers valuable time. With everyone using Schoology, the students will just have to open their computers the next year and move forward. They won't have to worry about learning a new platform, saving them time as well.

Year one of the initiative was 2017-18 and it started in the middle schools. Teachers are impressed by how the students are now the drivers and the teachers are more of the passengers. The students are working more together. The teachers can give real time feedback with Schoology and the students like this as well. The students also enjoy taking notes right on

the computer, which is helping the environment since many of them are paperless. The students transformed quite easily to this new system and style of teaching. The teachers have saved much time from not having to hand out papers anymore, the forms are in the computer for the students. Also, when the students submit their homework and papers on the computer, the teachers can read everything since all is typed.

Schoology is starting to enter the Elementary level and the parents really seem to like this a lot. Schoology is a one stop shop. It is web based, so it is accessible everywhere. It is helpful for the parents because they can log onto Schoology and see what their child's homework is, what tests may be coming up, if library books due, and sign up for teacher meeting, parties, etc. The Daily Teaching Tool also helps to save time. If the kids forget their homework, it is always online. The elementary students are already submitting vocabulary assignments online and they love it! Students in Kindergarten and 1st grade have iPads and grades 2-5 have the Chromebooks. K-4 are not allowed to take home their devices, but starting December 3rd, 5th graders will be allowed to take home their Chromebooks.

At the middle school level, there was a learning curve and it was a little hard to change at first. Now, the teachers love it and so do the substitutes. There is no more down time. If there is a sub, with Schoology, business can go on as usual. Schoology has transformed absences for teachers and students. It has helped the teachers a great deal with organization. Everything is at their fingertips. No use for papers and filing cabinets. The organizational possibilities are endless. This digital process is also helping teachers build relationships with ALL students. They have interaction with all students as well, not just the ones who raise their hand. If a teacher may see that a student is just 'off', they can send them a 'text' through the system to ask them if they are ok and not have to embarrass the student in front of the entire class. The Discussion Board also gives ALL students a voice, even if they are shy. The student can ask a question, and all students get to respond. The students also get a choice on how they want to respond. They can choose a video or an audio recording to answer. An example that was shared with us, a student had a stutter so would never raise his hand and the teacher really didn't get to know this student. With this process, the student now responds giving the teacher a chance to know this student and the other students get to know him as well. This discussion time also allows the students to discuss this at a later time amongst each other, saving time in the classroom.

Schoology at the High School level has been quite easy for all students to use. The students like getting immediate results on tests. The teachers like the immediate data from the tests. They can tell if everyone is learning. For example, if only 30% of kids got a question right, the teacher can ask, what went wrong, was something missed. This is also helping with building relationships with teachers, curriculum, students and leveraging technology.

We also got to watch a video that gave us parents' perspective and students' perspectives. The parents like that they can go to one place for all children and they can see homework and assignments. It is easy to use with a simple dashboard. They can also see upcoming assignments and tests as well. The students that recently moved from middle school to high school said that Schoology helped them make this transition because they already knew the platform. It also makes it much easier for the students to email their assignments to the teachers. The students can collaborate with other students on assignments. The students feel that access to Schoology helps eliminate a lot of stress because they can see when upcoming tests and assignments are due.

All elementary students will be on Schoology in the 2019-20 school year. It is a slow and steady process. Some teachers in the elementary schools have already been using it and have had much success. It will be nice because all of the elementary teachers, no matter what elementary school they teach in, can collaborate with all other elementary teachers for help or resources. We all are Parkland !!!

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: Linda Perlman-McKenna shared that meeting agendas are on the school website: <https://www.parklandsd.org/school-board/policies-agenda-minutes>. On the 21st, John Vignone provided a budget update at the Board Workshop. Two school board members are retiring—Bob Bold with 20 years and Jeff Reyburn with 8 years. The business meeting had 2 important take topics: 1) adopt a Resolution to stay within the Act 1 Index 2.6% for the 2020-21 school year and 2) the redistricting plan of the southern part of the district, also for the 2020-21 school year. Dr Troutman and the transportation department held town hall meetings for parents to attend. Harlem Wizards is tonight with the raffling off the MG tonight ! The next school board meeting are Tues Dec 3rd, the new school board members will be sworn in and on the 17th, they will have their workshops and business meetings.

STUDENT REPORT:

Arts

- Parkland had 25 Students rank for District Chorus this year. It will take place January 15-17 at Boyertown Area HS
- District Band/Orchestra auditions will take place at PHS on December 7
- Children's show "Beauty and the Beast" had a great production from Nov. 8- Nov 10
- Musical has been announced: "Tuck Everlasting" Auditions are this Saturday
- Band just marched in the NYC Veterans Day Parade.
- PHS Chorus concert is 12/5
- Chorale concert is on 12/8 at Neffs.
- Orchestra concert 12/10
- Band Concert 12/19
- PHS Chorus and Orchestra will be traveling to Disney from 12/11-12/14
- PAC had children's workshops last weekend for students K-5. It was a great weekend of singing, dancing, and acting.
- Tri-M Music Honor Society inductions were Nov. 8.

Academics

- NHS inductions were last Thursday the 14th for new members
- PLTW ceremony was also that night
- Scholastic scrimmages have been going on for the past two weeks. With more to come
- Club photos this week
- Winter Coat Drive is underway at all buildings, a great way to give back to our community

Athletics

- Girls Volleyball made it to state semifinals but fell to their biggest rival Bishop Shenahan, finishing their season with as 4th in the state
- Parkland Football lost in Playoffs to Nazareth 22-21
- Girls Basketball continues their tryout tonight, while boys' basketball has begun their season practice sessions
- Ice Hockey tied with Northampton 1-1 on Monday making their record 6 Wins, 0 losses, and now, one tie.
- Wrestling Team has begun their seasonal practices

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: At 6:30pm, Melanie St. Hill called for a motion to adjourn. Jennifer Jones moved, with Ben Gullede seconding the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michelle Wahlmark