

Parkland Community Advisory Council

December 12, 2019
PHS Library Classroom

CO-PRESIDENTS

Melanie St. Hill
Michelle Wahlmark

SECRETARY

Andrea Scott

ATTENDEES: Ben Gulledge, Nicole Mandry, Lisa Petrocelli, Jennifer Schreiner, Andrea Scott, Melanie St. Hill, Jay Rohatgi

EXCUSED: Michelle Wahlmark, Natalie St. Hill, Lauren Wahlmark, Desiree Pascal, Ann Segan, Arun Kapoor, Mary Braccili

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Tyler Bartman

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES: Linda Perlman-McKenna

ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Rodney Troutman

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Melanie St. Hill at 6:04 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes from November 21, 2019 was made by Ben Gulledge and seconded by Nicole Mandry. The motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION:

“District Food Banks” Presented by Michelle Minotti, Joey Lee, and Katrina Sundstrom

Across the district, the percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunch has increased from 18.2% in 2013 to 27.3% in 2019 (24% free and 3.3% reduced). To help combat hunger across the district, food banks and programs have been developed. SMS C.A.R.E.S. started the initiative followed by OMS S.N.A.P, PHS Snack Packs and Parkland C.A.R.E.S.

The mission of these initiatives is to provide various resources, both inside and outside of school, to students in need in the Parkland School District. The vision is to create opportunities for students and families to have the essential resources (food, clothing, school supplies, family engagement programs, outreach services) to be successful in our school community and society.

SMS C.A.R.E.S. is a group of involved faculty and staff who make a difference by identifying students who are food vulnerable and may benefit from assistance. Involved faculty have a paw print logo in their room identifying themselves as a place to go for those who need assistance. Snack packs every Friday, monthly open pantry, holiday meals, birthday bags, holiday adopt-a-family, school supplies and even free haircuts have been provided through SMS C.A.R.E.S.

OMS's S.N.A.P. program came together in Spring 2019 and an average of twenty four bags were distributed biweekly. Currently, weekly snack packs are provided for over fifty students. They have also supported their students via a Back-to-School drive, Thanksgiving meal program, "Fill the Pantry" initiative prior to winter break and Holiday Adopt-a-Family. Seventeen students elected to participate in the OMS S.N.A.P. club. Students help by organizing the pantry items, categorizing donations, checking expiration dates, creating flyers, and organizing snack packs.

The PHS Interact Club, chartered by Rotary International, is a service-based club that works on projects local, national and international in nature. It is committed to the Snack Pack program, providing food supplements to Parkland Families throughout the Parkland School District. The Interact Club currently provides Snack Packs to all eight elementary schools, OMS, SMS and PHS on a monthly basis. PHS Snack Pack Program was developed to assist PHS students in need by providing resources to eliminate barriers that impede success. Students meet after school to assemble roughly 300 snack packs to distribute.

The Parkland High School Food Pantry has been established in room B206 as a result of the efforts of the Interact Club members. The pantry currently provides weekly snack packs to approximately 28 students. The food is acquired through monetary donations and item donations from PHS clubs and the Parkland Community.

As part of the homecoming theme "Sharing is Caring," all clubs and programs throughout the Parkland School District came together for a "Stuff the Bus" Food Drive campaign to collect non-perishable food items for district students in need. Eighteen PHS clubs and classes participated and 3700 items were donated.

Parkland C.A.R.E.S. Food Pantry strives to feed and serve every member of their school community affected by and suffering from hunger. The Pantry is located in Orefield and officially opened its doors this summer. Currently it is open three times per month and families can shop twice per month. Operating as a Choice Pantry, it gives families the opportunity to choose their own food. That choice gives them a sense of dignity and control, limits possible waste, and allows them to select the items that best suit their family's needs and health requirements. More information on the pantry and how to help can be found on their website at <https://parklandcaresfp.org/>

SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE:

All Board Meeting agendas and minutes can be found on Parkland School District website; click on School Board tab/under Meeting Highlights.

STUDENT REPORT:

Arts

- PHS held district band and orchestra auditions 12/7/19 (Parkland has 11 members ranked!)
- Winter Concert schedule: Chorus 12/5, Chorale @ Neff's 12/8, Orchestra 12/11, Band 12/19, in school band and chorale 12/20.

- The chorus and orchestra are currently in Disney (Natalie and Lauren). The orchestra is performing today in downtown Disney and the chorus will perform on Friday at Epcot.
- The chorale will have "Road Show" performances at various nursing homes and hospitals

Athletics

- Wrestling has begun sparring off at tournaments. Their next match is in Lancaster.
- Both Boys and Girls basketball seasons have taken off, the boys and girls securing wins against Emmaus. The boy's manager cited a "strong family-like bond" for the new season ahead.
- Dec 13th is the Student vs. Faculty Basketball Game in the PHS main Gym.

Academics

- Parkland Debate squared off today in EPC's, however fell to Becahi in the semi-finals.
- Dec 5th students took the SAT at Emmaus HS.
- This week PSAT Scores were released for many that took them.
- John Corrucci Chemical Engineer at ASU came to PHS to speak about the Carbon Capture process

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

ROUNDTABLE: The topic for the next meeting on January 16, 2020 is 2020-2021 Budget Review.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: At 7:27 pm, a call was made for a motion to adjourn. Ben Gullledge moved, Lisa Perlman-McKenna seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Scott