

Parkland Community Advisory Council

January 16, 2020

CO-PRESIDENTS

Melanie St. Hill
Michelle Wahlmark

SECRETARY

Andrea Scott

ATTENDEES: Patrick Foose, Leslie Frisbie, Jen Jones, Arun Kapoor, Nicole Mandry, Andrea Scott, Melanie St. Hill, Michelle Wahlmark

EXCUSED: Natalie St. Hill, Ann Segan, Desiree Pascal

GUEST: Leslie Frisbie

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Ben Dobbs, Lauren Wahlmark

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Marie Maritch

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 December 12, 2019 was made by Ben Dobbs and 2nd by Lauren Wahlmark.

PRESENTATION:

“2020-2021 Budget Update” presented by Mr. John A. Vignone, Director of Business Administration

Mr. Vignone presented a two page 2020-2021 Budget Update with projections as of November 19, 2019. The total budget, as projected, is \$194 million. While this is a \$8 million, or 4.30% increase from the 2019-2020 budgeted year, it is projected to decrease before the final budget is approved. Mr Vignone felt it is reasonable to project it will be under the Act 1 index increase of 2.6%.

Looking deeper into the budget, 75% of the total budget is salaries and benefits. Veterans Memorial Elementary School staffing was started three years ago. This was possible because, even though there is a new school, there is not a large new influx of students. Students and teachers in the new school will just be moved over from other schools. Staff benefits costs are low because all of the Lehigh Valley schools came together to form a consortium and have buying power.

Each year an independent financial audit is required so the taxpayers have a comfort level that every detail is gone over and every dollar is watched. This takes place over three months with multiple auditors. A report is made that is a public document that anyone can request.

Mr. Vignone stressed the importance of property tax relief being done in a good way because much of the funding of the school district is through local, not state or federal, funding. If done incorrectly and funding is less than expected, many of the Parkland School District programs will be hurt in the process. We also have to keep in mind that the industrial growth of the township has both a negative and positive impact on our

community. The local taxes in the form of earned income tax and transfer taxes when buildings sell help relieve the tax burden of the citizens. We should always look for a good balance.

The budget is ever evolving. If you would like to see the latest projection please visit the Parkland School District website for school board and business administration budget updates.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: Marie Maritch presented on behalf of the school board.

New committee assignments have been formalized and meeting times established as follows:

- Building & Grounds: David Kennedy (Chair), Rob Cohen, Patrick Foose. Meetings are Tuesday- 4:00 PM.
- Academics, Athletics & Arts: Linda Perlman-McKenna (Chair), Lisa Roth, Marie Maritch. Meetings are Monday – 5:30 PM.
- Personnel & Finance: Carol Facchiano (Chair), David Hein, Marisa Ziegler Meetings are Monday – 6:30 PM.

Recap December 17, 2019 Workshop Meeting 7pm:

Schnecksville Elementary Renovation

- KCBA Architects reviewed plans for a Schnecksville Elementary renovation which will include: new bus loop and parent drop off pathways, site work, replacement of all HVAC aging mechanical systems, and a cosmetic refresh of the interior of the building. The entrance, original to the 1920's, will be razed and a new addition will be built that will include a new STEM Center, Literacy Center, and kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms as well as office space.
- Phase one will begin this year. It mainly involves refurbishing the interior and replacing heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. Phase 2 consists of razing and replacing the 1920's section of the building (currently the front entrance of the school) and revising the traffic circulation plan.
- The total project is estimated to cost \$23.2 million. This project will completely bring the building up to accessibility compliance. Solving all the accessibility issues that exist with the oldest section of the building was cost prohibitive; that is why the School Board chose to raze it and build the new addition, which will include more program space than the current building and makes it comparable to other buildings in the District.
- The plan includes the ability to shuffle students around the building during the renovation without the use or rental of portable classrooms. The plan will be to complete renovations by the fall of 2022 with demolition of the 1920's building to occur in summer 2023. A complete recap of the project, schedule and cost estimate can be found online.

Replacement of Bus Garage at OMS

- Next item on the Dec 17th workshop agenda was a review of the plan to rebuild the bus garage that burned down in February 2018. About \$1.5 million of the \$1.9 million price tag will be paid from the insurance reimbursement for the destroyed garage. The new building will include offices for the Transportation Department so that those employees currently housed in the Troxell building can be moved and we will reap the many benefits from finally having the entire transportation team reside all in one central location. Construction will commence soon and wrap up by early 2021.

Financial Implications of Capital Projects

- John Vignone, Director of Business Administration, presented the district's capital projects financing plan. He stressed how well the entire team has planned for capital projects and financial borrowing.
- He reviewed a chart which included borrowing plans for the next four years to cover Veterans Memorial Elementary School construction, the Schnecksville Elementary renovation described earlier and a possible addition to Kratzer Elementary to service the Ridge Farms development that is planned for

Walbert and Cedar Crest Blvd. The plan also includes the regular cycle of capital projects/facility maintenance and replacement bus and technology purchases.

- His presentation illustrated how the District's debt service will decrease over the coming years as some loans are paid off, even in the wake of borrowing for major capital projects highlighted above.
- Projected annual debt service for 2019 was \$16.12 million and will be about \$16.1 million for 2020 and 2021 and then will fall to \$15.6 million in 2022 and \$12.6 million in 2023 based on the projects that are in the pipeline under the District's Future Capital Projects Financing Plan.

Regular Business Meeting followed 8pm:

- The Board approved routine-type items such as personnel items, accounts payable, bids for athletic equipment & supplies, overnight field trips, several construction change orders and items that enable continued progress on the new elementary school building (which is progressing beautifully, by the way; we just had our committee meetings there this past Monday and got a walk-through of the building.)
- Regarding personnel items, 2 employees were acknowledged: Frank Pearn, Jr., Asst. Dir of Business Admin/Treasurer who is resigning effective Jan 17th to accept an offer as Bethlehem's SD's Business Manager, and Jeffrey Wetherhold, Physics Teacher at PHS, who is retiring after 35 years of service at the end of this school year.
- In addition, the Board voted to accept the audit/financial report of the PSD for the FY ending June 30, 2019, as well as an Affiliation Agreement with DeSales to establish at Parkland a student teaching center for De Sales students enrolled in their teacher education program.
- Lisa Roth and Marisa Ziegler were elected to serve on the JOC (Joint Operating Cmt of the LCTI) for a 3 yr term.
- Finally, the Board heard reports including LCCC, LCTI, CAC, CLIU, Legislative Report and a report regarding the Education Foundation. You may be interested to know that the Harlem Wizards game raised \$10,000 for the Foundation. The MG that was donated by Mr. Dobil was raffled off to a local woman named Anne DiSanto. The project raised \$26,450 for the Ed Foundation. We are very grateful to Mr. Dobil and the community for their support.

Roundtable

- In Roundtable, the importance of the 2020 Census was highlighted. Everyone is encouraged to participate as this affects our government funding for the next 10 years.
- David Hein was congratulated for his nomination as VP of the JOC. (He was also recently voted to be VP of PSBA.)

Next Meeting of School Board is Tuesday, January 21, 2019, at 7 PM (Workshop), Meeting (8 PM)

All Board Meeting agendas & meeting highlights with links can be found online at Parkland School District website; click on School Board tab/under Meeting Highlights.

STUDENT REPORT:

Arts

- The International thespian society conference was January 2-4.
 - The stage crew placed 3rd.
 - PHS students qualified for nationals and scholarships.
- The semi-formal was Saturday January 11, 2020.
- 25 Parkland students qualified for district chorus. District chorus is happening as we speak at Boyertown Area HS. These students reauditioned for Regional Chorus and will know their ranking Friday night after their concert.
- Chorale and women's ensemble will be performing at the First Presbyterian church on Sunday January 26, 2020.
- Chorale, Jazz band, and Strolling Strings went to the middle schools January 7th for eight grade recruitment.
- District Band is on February 13th to 15th.
- District orchestra is on January 29th to 31st. 1/29-1/31/20.

Athletics

- Wrestling is having a successful season, drawing to a close at the end of the month, and tomorrow they have a tournament at New Oxford HS.
- Baseball Intramurals are in "full swing".
- Girls basketball is 6-3 at the moment. If they beat Easton tomorrow, they will be tied for 2nd in the Conference. '
- Indoor track had a meet last Saturday at Stroudsburg. At that meet, 2 Trojans placed top 3 in the mile.

Misc

- Key Club had their first of two blood drives today. I'm told it was really successful.
- Voter Registration tables are now up in the Cafeteria.
- English Honors Society had inductions on Monday night and now has 72 new Senior members.
- Midterms are on Wednesday and Thursday, February 22nd and 23rd.
- National honor society is holding their annual pet food drive now.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ROUNDTABLE:

- March CAC Meeting will be held at the new Veterans Memorial Elementary School
- 1st Post Prom Meeting was held
 - They will be auctioning off a car at Post Prom! Students will have to be there until the end in order to be eligible.
 - Donations, fundraisers and volunteer coordination have begun!

MOTION TO ADJOURN: At 8:28pm, Melanie St. Hill called for a motion to adjourn. Jen Jones moved, with Lauren Walhmark seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Scott