

Parkland Community Advisory Council

February 20, 2020

CO-PRESIDENTS

Melanie St. Hill
Michelle Wahlmark

SECRETARY

Andrea Scott

ATTENDEES: Melanie St. Hill, Arun Kapoor, Nicole Mandry, Michelle Wahlmark, Andrea Scott, Jennifer Jones, Lisa Petrocelli, Mary Ost,

EXCUSED: Mary Braccili, Desiree Pascal

GUESTS: Jay Rohatgi, Patrick Foose

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Lauren Wahlmark, Tyler Bartman, Benjamin Dobbs, Natalie St. Hill

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Marie Maritch

ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Rodney Troutman

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Melanie St. Hill at 7:01 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes from January 16, 2020 was made by Arun Kapoor and 2nd by Jen Jones.

PRESENTATION:

“Safe2Say Something Program/School Safety” presented by Anthony Naradko and Thomas Bammer

The first part of the presentation explained the newly formed Safety and Security Department. This department is in its first year at Parkland School District. Developing great relationships with law enforcement and first responders was the key goal of the formation of the department. Because of the time spent making and keeping these relationships, district representatives can call and get an immediate response any time a need arises.

The areas of vulnerability and increased risk found within the district were identified. The state police will make these assessments at no cost but they are strapped for time and resources. Alternatively, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), a research based program, was used instead. Through the implementation of this program, the environmental physical setup of Veterans Memorial Elementary School is an inherently safer school, even before the installation of cameras and other deterrents because of how the school is built and layered. Moving forward, each building will be reviewed annually with CPTED in mind.

The Safety and Security Department also holds professional development training for PSD staff. Three hours of safety and security training is required every five years. Threat assessment and risk screening training for staff is also held.

Overall, PSD is doing quite well with physical security. Grants have been secured and measures have been taken to increase security within the schools. Grants allowed the purchase of \$50k in new radios and \$200k in vape sensors for secondary schools. School wide positive behavior programs have been started in grades K-8 and grants will allow for new programs in grades 9-12.

Through the use of student google drive accounts, the district can monitor and be proactive to stay ahead of the mental health of students. Identifying searches and items on the drive that indicate harm, depression, substance abuse and thoughts of violence are key to keeping students safe.

The second part of the presentation was an overview of the Safe2Say program. This program launched Valentine's Day 2019. It allows for students to anonymously report unsafe behavior. Reports are sent so that appropriate follow-up, with school, police and/or Children and Youth Services can be made in a timely manner. In the first year, 840 cyberbullying, bullying, vaping, violence and other tips were reported. 85 of those tips were life safety concerns. The program didn't run through the summer, only during the school year.

The third part of the presentation was a hands on learning experience on vaping. Vaping nicotine products and vaping concerns are present in PSD. Although the incidence of smoking cigarettes and using chewing tobacco is significantly lower, the number of students vaping is higher. This is because vaping is perceived as being cleaner and they can go into a bathroom stall and there is no tell-tale smoke.

The addictive and destructive element to vaping is not a deterrent. Kids don't realize that they are addicted to nicotine and need to use a patch to wean off the use of a vaping pod, just like cigarettes. It is found that smoking one vaping pod could be the equivalent of smoking 20 cigarettes. Unfortunately, chronic mental illness is associated with increased nicotine in young adults.

The other negative side of vaping is the use of THC pods and the concentrated amount of THC each pod. Some pods are purchased online and come from the west coast. Others are filled with homemade THC oil that may be heavy in insecticides or other chemicals because not enough washing was done during the processing of the marijuana plant.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT:

Dr. Troutman reported that the Board is looking at the budget and fuel bids. Fuel bids were requested now to lock in a good price now while the prices are low. They are looking to hire architects and designers for projects aimed at keeping the district buildings up to date and well maintained. They are moving into budget season and Parkland entities (LCCC, LCTI, CIU21) presented budgets. All entity numbers came in with numbers anticipated. The LCTI budget was higher than normal but this is because of the new welding lab. Next Thursday, PHS will be holding a Job Fair during school for local businesses looking for both full time and summer employees.

STUDENT REPORT:

Arts

- March celebrates Music In Our School's Month. Each Friday of March, members of the Tri-M Music Honor Society will be performing in the HS rotunda in the morning and afternoon. They will also be selling puppy chow and proceeds will go towards the Tri-M/PALS Hand Chime Choir
- Tuck Everlasting tickets are on sale get your tickets (TONIGHT:)) the show is April 15-19
- Parkland had 16 students move onto Region Chorus. They will be traveling to Eastern York High School on February 27 and their concert will be February 29.
- Parkland had 17 students advance to Region Orchestra. Their festival will be March 11-13 at Hazleton Area High School
- Parkland had 6 students advance to Region Band. Their Festival will be March 26-28 at Eastern York High School.
- The PHS Chorale and Women's Ensemble performed a concert at the First Presbyterian Church on 1/26

Athletics

- Baseball, Volleyball and other spring sports have begun their open gyms and tryouts.
 - All spring sports officially begin on March 2nd.
- Wrestling has a meet this weekend away at Liberty, while their season draws to a close
- The hockey team will face BECA tomorrow night at 6 PM
- Boys Basketball plays Easton on Saturday at 2:30 in the District 11 Quarterfinals
- Girls Basketball has an away game at Stroudsburg tomorrow at 6 against Pleasant Valley. This is a deciding factor for district playoffs. If they win, they are guaranteed another 3 games, but if they lose they are eliminated.

Academics and Misc.

- February 1st- Mr. Parkland Winner chosen was Connor Armstrong
- "Kidnap your Teacher" is tomorrow
- All of next week is world language week. The school will have various spirit days, each language will have their own parties and Monday night the festivities begin with a Cake Baking Contest and Fashion Show. There will also be a student-faculty Fat Tuesday breakfast next Tuesday.
- The key club will also be hosting a ping pong tournament on Monday with all proceeds benefiting mini-THON
 - With that, Key Club has begun planning Mini-THON. The theme for this year is Disney.
- LEO club will begin selling raffle tickets next week to raise money for the Pediatric Cancer Foundation of the Lehigh Valley.
- At the Ivy League Model United Nations Conference in Philadelphia, 5 Parkland students placed in the top-10 in their respective committees
 - Gabe Fahey, Rahul Inaganti, Ben Dobbs, Gabby Landis, and Punya Bhasin

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ROUNDTABLE: Next meeting will be on Thursday, March 19th at Veteran's Memorial Elementary School Cafeteria. "Veterans Memorial Elementary School/Redistricting/Township Growth" will be presented by Dr. Rodney Troutman, David Keppel and Karen Dopera.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: At 8:40 pm, Melanie St. Hill called for a motion to adjourn. Jen Jones moved, with Michelle Wahlmark seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Scott