

Parkland Community Advisory Council

November 19, 2020

CO-PRESIDENTS

Melanie St. Hill
Michelle Wahlmark

SECRETARY

Andrea Scott

ATTENDEES: Benjamin Gullede, Jennifer Jones, Arun Kapoor, Autumn Kieber-Emmons, Mary Ost, Lisa Petrocilli, Jay Rohatgi, Andrea Scott, Michelle Wahlmark, Doreen

EXCUSED:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Tyler Bartman, Sydney Esquieres, Valeria Quintanilla, Lauren Wahlmark

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Linda Perlman-McKenna

ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Rodney Troutman

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Melanie St. Hill at 7:03 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes from October 15, 2020 was made by Linda Perlman-McKenna and Seconded by Jay Rohatgi.

PRESENTATION:

“Post Secondary Planning” presented by Eric Roberts..

Parkland High School has a team of guidance counselors available to help guide students in their post Parkland High School career path. Mr. Eric Roberts represented his team and presented all of the resources Parkland has to offer and what the timeline and planning processes are, starting in elementary school.

Students start on their path of career exploration in kindergarten. In third grade, Xello.world is introduced and is available at any time in the clever portal. In middle school, professionals are invited to the school to speak about their careers. Middle school is also the time to start thinking about really doing well because they need the study skills to excel in high school. Many high school students will struggle because of the increased workload.

In high school, post high school exploration occurs throughout the year.

In September and April the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) is administered. Starting in November, 9th and 10th grade virtual career presentations will be posted in schoology. February's 11th and 12th grade Job Fair will be held virtually, due to COVID. Individual college and skilled employment presentations are scheduled throughout the year for students to learn about the academics and skills needed before applying.

There are approximately 5300 colleges and universities in the United States. Each year students can start applying for college on August 1st and student aid applications start October 1st. It is never too early to take walks or college tours. Most tours are even being done virtually at this time! Students should find out what

that specific college is looking for in a student. The rigor of curriculum, SAT or ACT score, essays, leadership, service experience and interviews are all examples of requirements for admission. While looking at what the requirements are, you should also evaluate the college for your needs. Geographical location, size of school, financial obligations, extra-curricular activities and accreditation are just some of the criteria used when evaluating the school.

College trends have changed a little because of the limitations of COVID. The SAT's are available as of now in March, May, June and August. However, some schools have made the SAT/ACT requirement optional because of the limited availability. Essays play a large role now. 900 schools use the common application which includes an essay. Supplemental essays are also required in competitive and private schools. Some students who have gotten accepted at a certain school defer their enrollment to next year to save money and stay at home. Even when the students choose to attend college, the trend is to apply to fewer schools that are closer to home this year.

Mr. Eric Roberts holds virtual office hours every Wednesday evening from 3-7pm. Please contact him to schedule an appointment at roberts@parklandsd.org.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: submitted by Linda Perlman-McKenna

Personnel & Finance Related Issues

- Mr. Sniscak announced his plans to retire at the end of this school year. The School Board engaged the services of a consultant, Dr. Gary McCartney, to help the Board with its search for a new superintendent.
- Superintendent Search Survey - With Dr. McCartney's help, we've posted online a seven-question electronic survey to solicit feedback regarding what key stakeholders think is important as we conduct our superintendent search. If you haven't already done so, please go to the district's website and take the short survey: <http://www.parklandsd.org/suptsearch>.
- The School Board thinks Dr. Troutman would be "THE BEST" successor; however, Dr. Troutman nobly declined in the best interest of the PSD, recommending that the Board seek a candidate who is prepared to be in the position for many years to come. We are extremely fortunate, however, that Dr. Troutman has agreed to another 3-year contract which the Board unanimously approved on Oct 20th. That will help us maintain the stability of our organization while our new superintendent gets up to speed with Rod's help.
- Director Business Administration - The Board also approved a 3-year contract for our current Director of Business Administration, Mr. John Vignone. We are very fortunate to have Mr. Vignone and are very happy that he accepted his new contract. Between Rod and John, we will be in good hands, and they will be able to transfer a lot of institutional knowledge to a new superintendent.
- Mrs. Monica Ouly-Uhl, Asst. Principal at Orefield Middle School, was recognized as the 2020 Pennsylvania Assistant Principal of the Year, a distinguished honor awarded by the PA Principals Association.

Audit/Financial Report

- The Board voted to accept the Audit/Financial Report of the Parkland School District for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020, performed by Buckno Lisicky & Company, Certified Public Accountants. These documents will be entered into the minutes of the Parkland School District.

St. Luke's Behavioral Health Services Agreement

- The Board approved an agreement with St Luke's for the provision of behavioral health and emotional support services to students, and staff. Basically this agreement permits St. Luke's to operate a licensed outpatient behavioral health satellite on our school premises.
- Under this agreement, St. Luke's will assign PSD a dedicated licensed counselor to provide individual therapy onsite during school days to students in grades 6-12 (and staff). The counselor will work with students out of private offices within our high school and middle school guidance suites by appointment, or they can meet virtually under certain instances. This program will provide our students in need with access to vitally important behavioral health services, including access to psychiatrists, psychologists and other licensed/certified advanced practitioners, that otherwise might be difficult to access within the community.
- There will be no cost to the district as St. Luke's will bill the student/family, staff, or third-party payor, as applicable. However, it is important to note that no student will be turned away due to lack of insurance coverage or inability to pay.

Calendar – Board approved revisions to the '20-'21 Calendar

- Jan 21 & 22 -- Two early dismissal days of January 21st and 22nd will now be full days of instruction, due to the elimination of mid-term and final exams for the 2020-21 school term.
- Feb 12 and Apr 1 – Two inclement weather make-up days of Friday, February 12th and Thursday, April 1st will now be “guaranteed” holidays without risk of being lost to weather closures because students will participate in eLearning on any days where schools would need to be closed due to bad weather.

Building & Grounds Related Items

- Bus Garage Bids The district approved bids to rebuild the upper bus garage that was lost to fire. We also approved bids to construct offices in the garage for the Transportation Department and to furnish and install a generator.
- Agreement for Site Development at Parkway Manor - the Board also approved a Proposal from Keystone Consulting Engineers for the conceptual design for a new site development plan for Parkway Manor Elementary School. The plan is to construct a new parent pick-up driveway to make it easier and safer for parents to drop off and pick up our students; this will eliminate the line of traffic that backs up onto the main street.

Miscellaneous

- Naming of Outdoor Learning Center at Jaindl - In light of Mrs. Schantz's retirement, and at the request of the Jaindl Elementary School PTO, the Board approved the naming of the learning center/pavilion at Jaindl Elementary as the "Diana Schantz Outdoor Learning Center."

Upcoming Board Meetings

- Dec. 1st -- Next Full Board Mtg will be Board Organization Mtg on Tues., Dec. 1st @ 7pm
- Regular Business Meeting will follow immediately after that @ 7:15pm
- Dec. 7th -- AAA Committee Meeting Mon., Dec. 7th @ 5:30pm
- Dec. 7th -- P & F Committee Meeting Mon., Dec. 7th @ 6:30pm
- Dec. 8th -- B & G Committee Meeting Tues., Dec. 8th @ 4pm
- Dec. 15th -- Full Board Meeting Tues., Dec. 15th—Workshop @ 7pm; Business Mtg @ 8pm

STUDENT REPORT:

Academics:

- The 2nd Marking Period has begun.
- National Honors Society Virtual Induction Ceremony is November 24th.
- Spanish honor society will have their induction ceremony after Thanksgiving.
- French honor society had their induction ceremony on November 16th.
- The new Mental Health Awareness Club had their first meeting on November 17th.
- FBLA had their first meeting on Nov. 5th and have started event request submissions.

Arts:

- The second virtual Coffeehouse is next Wednesday Nov. 25.
- PAC had its first meeting yesterday, where yearbook pictures were taken over zoom.
- In person pictures for ITS, FOTA, PAC, and Tri-m are next tuesday Nov. 24.
- The virtual ITS conference is January 21-23.
- The Chorale will be recording a virtual concert, no date yet for when it will be released.

Athletics

- Congratulations to the High School Track team, Girl's Soccer, and Girl's Volleyball for taking first place District 11 medals.
- Both Girls Volleyball and Girls Soccer made it to State Semi-finals, but they both fell short there, Soccer to the Penridge Rams and Volleyball to the Unionville Indians. Congratulations to all three teams on spectacular seasons.
- Tomorrow, Football will take on Liberty at home at 7 PM.
- Winter Sports are still on track to continue as scheduled subject to Gov. Wolf regulation.
- Boys Basketball tryouts are tomorrow.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Midterms and finals are cancelled.
- June 11th is the definitive last day of school because all snow days will now be online learning days.
- June 8th is the definitive graduation date. The PPL contract is in the works and should be approved in December.
- There was a discussion of being marked tardy/absent when the student is present and on zoom but didn't check in for the day or class.
- Next meeting's topic is Mindfulness. There may be shuffling around of topics because of trying to hold a meeting at Veterans Elementary.

ROUNDTABLE: None

MOTION TO ADJOURN: At 8:23pm Michelle Wahlmark called for a motion to adjourn. Jay Rohatgi moved, with Valeria Quintanilla seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Scott

