

Parkland Community Advisory Council

November 21, 2021

CO-PRESIDENTS

Jennifer Jones
Michelle Wahlmark

SECRETARY

Andrea Scott

ATTENDEES: Benjamin Gulledge, Nicole Mandry, Mary Ost, Jay Rohatgi, Andrea Scott, Doreen Wynn, Stephanie

GUESTS: Jarrett Coleman

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Sydney Esquieres, Rishika Rohatgi

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Linda Perlman-McKenna

ADMINISTRATION: Dr. Henry, Dr. Kashner, Dr. Minotti, Ms. Dopera

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Andrea Scott at 7:02pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes from October 21, 2021 was made by Jay Rohatgi and seconded by Benjamin Gulledge.

PRESENTATION:

“Curriculum Update: In-school versus Online” presented by Dr. Henry and Dr. Kashner.

- Dr. Henry and Dr. Kashner spoke about the effects of the pandemic on gaps in learning.
- Generally, kids have been doing well. While there are some dips identified in both ELA and Math, they are a bit more pronounced in Math. The district has constituted a learning loss support program to mitigate the dips.
- They also presented how curriculum work is always ongoing and how it is managed in a 6-year cycle. There is also a process to update curriculum outside the cycle based on district need and college board audits.
- The number of parent requests for PSSA exclusion last year was high. An alternative, easier process was implemented for one year due to the pandemic. The process will return to normal and the numbers are expected to return to a low number again this year.

“Veterans Memorial Elementary School Tour” led by principal Ms. Karen Dopera.

Highlights of the tour:

- All classrooms with sink and water fountain (currently not used due to pandemic)
- Great furniture
- Lots of natural lighting
- Amazing courtyard
- Kiln in art room
- TV studio with wall painted as a big green screen

- Sensory room, Drums and New library with books (all helped by Parkland foundation grants)
- No open windows for safety.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: Linda Perlman-McKenna, School Director and Board Liaison to the CAC, presented a report highlighting the topics discussed at the Board Meetings. For more details of any meeting, please view the minutes and recordings online found on the PSD website.

- The full School Board met twice since the last CAC meeting: October 26th and November 16th.
- Board committees met on November 8th.
- There was a Board retreat on October 30th for half of the day to review capital projects.

Comprehensive Plan:

- On 10/26 the Board voted to approve the submission of the District's Comprehensive Plan to the PA Dept of Education (PDE).
- The plan covers the period of 1/1/2022-12/31/2025 and must be submitted prior to November 30, 2021.
- To view the plan, you can find it online at parklandsd.org under Departments/Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent's Office... Scroll toward the bottom.

Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA)-

- The Board approved the CBA between the Parkland School District and the Parkland Education Association, effective from 9/1/2022-9/31/2025.
- The Board is very grateful to the teachers for their tremendous efforts and cooperation, especially during the pandemic.

11/16 Board Workshop:

- Kelly Rosario, Director of Curriculum Instruction and Professional Development, along with Dr. Madson and Dr. Minotti, provided an overview of Diversity, Equity, Including and Belonging in an attempt to clarify what it is and what it is not since there seems to be some confusion surrounding the plan and related district activities.

Recognition of Board Members:

- The PA School Boards Assn. recognized Mr. Robert Cohen and Mr. David Kennedy for serving on the PSD School Board for 24 years each.
- The Board recognized Lisa Roth (12 years) and David Hein (8 years).
- At the end of the meeting, Mr. Kennedy announced that he would be resigning from the Board effective 1/3/2022 to assume the new position to which he was elected as SWT Commissioner.

Personnel:

- The Board approved the retirement of Brenda DeRenzo, who has been serving as our District's Director of Student Services for the past 6 years. Brenda has been an incredible leader in the district for the past 16 years. The Administration will continue to evaluate the growing needs of our students and staff in this critical area of the organization and will bring forth recommendations once a detailed review has been completed.

Audit Report Year Ending June 30, 2021:

- An audit was performed by Buckno Lisicky & Company, CPA. The audit was clean and positive, indicating that the district is in a stable financial position. The auditors gave the District an unmodified opinion, which they described and the same as an "A" on a report card; there were no internal control deficiencies or material weaknesses cited.
- On 11/16 the Board voted to accept the Audited Financial Statement of the PSD for the fiscal year ending 6/30/2021, including Budget Transfers as required by Governmental Auditing Standards and the PDE.

Upcoming Meetings:

- 12/7- Board Meeting, starting with Board Reorganization meeting at 7pm when new Board members will be sworn in and officers announced. The regular business meeting will follow at 7:15pm
- 12/13- Board Committee meetings (P&F Committee at 5pm, B&G Committee at 6pm and AAA Committee at 7pm)
- 12/21- Full Board Meeting starting with a Workshop at 7pm and Business Meeting at 8pm.

STUDENT REPORT:

Sports:

- Football senior night was on 10/29
- Girls Soccer + Girls Field hockey advancing to states! Girls Volleyball are district champions
- Winter sports are approaching! Tryouts for multiple sports happening

Arts:

- Blackbox Nights - PAC (Halloween Black Box night was a huge success)
- Parkland Chorale sang Star Spangled banner at the 10/29 football game
 - Asked to perform for the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce on 12/7
 - Upcoming concert at Neff's church
- Festival of the Arts club coffeehouse-- new performers each week
- Moana Jr- Tickets on sale for performances on 11/12-11/15
- District auditions! Students learn a piece of music for the chance to perform in the district ensemble

Clubs:

- Spanish club meeting party Nov 1
- ASL Club Honor Society meeting Nov 3
- NOW Pitch Party Nov 4
- Nov 18 is National Honor Society Inductions
- Nov 17 + 19 LARGE club Pics YB
- Nov 22 Senior portraits w seniors not already scheduled in A wing rotunda
- November 22nd: Charlie Dent speaking for Law Club

Announcements:

- Homecoming was on October 30th. It was nice to have Homecoming once again, since we were not able to have an event like that last year.
- Parkland High School will be hosting their first own TEDx event where students will be given the platform to discuss pressing topics and issues.
- Several colleges are visiting weekly.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

ROUNDTABLE:

- The next meeting is Thursday Dec 9 with information on PLTW at PHS.
- Jay thanked Linda for her time on the board and hopes that she continues with CAC.
- Dr. Minotti gave a small gift to her on behalf of administration for Linda's selfless service.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: At 8:32 pm a motion to adjourn was called. Nicole Mandry moved, with Ben Gullledge seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Scott