

## Canon –McMillan School District Parent Council Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2022

The January 21, 2022 meeting of the CMSD Parent Council was held at Canon McMillan High School and was called to order at 9:34 a.m. on Friday, January 21, 2022 by Mary Lynn Yurko, Parent Council President. The 2022 Parent Council Board members in attendance included:

*Mary Lynn Yurko -President; and Jayme Koenig – Secretary.*

**WELCOME:** Principal Ken Crowley of Canon McMillan High School, our Guest Speaker Officer Eric Spicer-Canon McMillan High School Resource Officer/North Strabane Township Police Department, and Assistant Superintendent Scott Chambers

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### Approval of last meeting minutes (January 2022):

Becky DiDaniels (First Motion); Kristy Kaufman (Second motion)

#### Canon McMillan High School Principal Report Overview: Mr. Ken Crowley

- PSAT scores are now available for parents and students to review online.
- After school tutoring at the high school is being offered from 2:50 pm to 3:50 pm for the following subjects:
  - Algebra and Geometry every Monday in Room 127
  - Science every Tuesday in Room 115.
  - English every Wednesday in Room 231
  - Math tutoring every Thursday in Room 111.
- In March, parents will receive a message to review the student schedule choices. New courses offered include: song writing course, pastry arts class, web page design and development.
- CMHS held a blood drive on January 13, 2022.
- Students can receive 3 credits from University of Pittsburgh for AP courses. Politics; chemistry course; and a digital video production and graphic arts production course. In addition, a lifeguarding course will also be available at the high school instead of “ Introduction to Swimming” course. A CM School Store course will offer students the opportunity to design, manufacture products, and develop cashier skills.
- Summer Gym/ Health program information will be available in February. Students will only need one PE course in the 9/10th grade interval and one PE course will be required in the 11/12th grade interval.
- Summer PE/Health classes will be offered in 2-week sessions (a.m. and p.m.). The cost of this is to be announced at a later date. For students who may be economically challenged, the district may cover for those costs.

#### Questions from attendees:

Question: What does it actually cost to retake cost? *Response: PE dropped to \$110 for the summer session.*

Question: Do other districts offer summer gym courses that have fees? *Response: Peters Township and Upper St. Clair will offer course as “in person” learning instruction, with online registration process.*

Question: Are there elective credit offerings? *Response: There are pre-requisite classes that may be needed before you can take an AP class. You will need a certain grade point average to be able to take*

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*these AP classes. Online scheduling process will show what your student can qualify for (based on their grade point average, grade level, etc.).*

Question (B. Didaniels): What is the cost for a course at the University of Pittsburgh? *Response: University of Pittsburgh courses for AP students is approximately \$200 per AP course.*

**Guest Speaker: Officer Eric Spicer** – CMHS School Resource Officer/North Strabane Police Department

### **Security and the ALICE program:**

ALICE is the active shooter program where the main focus is to evacuate to the outside, and a safe location. The program is a mindset to get the students adapted to respond in these situations. The ALICE acronym is not necessarily what they do in all situations “**Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Countermeasures, Evacuate**”.

At present, the program has transitioned from the “lockdown response” because that wasn’t the best response to take in this type of situation. Statistically it is a bad approach. A typical police response time is 5 minutes. The event can be over before the police are even on scene. The purpose is to increase chances of survival before the police arrive at the scene.

A=ALERT: An alert is issued over the PA or by seeing the actor. The process will train the students to not freeze in this type of a situation. We want them to rely on their senses and EVACUATE. Get out of the “DANGER ZONE”.

There is no reason for the students to sit and hide in the active shooter location. Schools have been educating with this program since 2014. The ALICE program/drills take a “hands on” approach as a program. Every year the schools run evacuation and barricade drills. By conducting frequent drills, repetition makes the response second nature. If all else fails, students are taught to spread out, look for secondary points of exit. The school district has secondary security devices installed/barricades, and all students are taught how to utilize the resources. The high school level students are also taught COUNTERMEASURE tactics. ALICE program is taught with “age-appropriate” programs. For example, 9th - 12th grade students are taught COUNTERMEASURES. However, books / stories are used at the elementary levels, with appropriate role playing measures.

Each school in CMSD also has a School Resource Officer (SRO). There are several SRO visits occurring during the day at all of the schools within the district. CMSD also has an “Adopt-an –Officer program at the elementary level. At the intermediate level for example, schools like NSIS have an “Adopt a Grade” program. North Strabane Township patrol officers will come into the classroom and teach safety lessons during the school year. Ongoing educational programs such as the “See Something, Say Something” have been invaluable to help thwart potentially hazardous situations at many grade levels. Security upgrades are always ongoing within the district. During renovations, upgrades to security were made, and included 110 cameras in the buildings with high quality zoom capability, and various security devices. There are also secure networks installed at the high school which are upgraded frequently through the IT department (to ensure a secure network for the students).

### Questions from attendees:

Question: Is ALICE training part of the substitute training program? If not, this needs to be imbedded in it. *Response: The CMSD has a module on this topic in the training program. At the high school level, administration will tell substitute teachers if a drill will occur and brief the substitute on evacuation procedures.*

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**Speaker: Mr. Scott Chambers – Assistant Superintendent of CMSD**

### Updates on initiating a delay for school:

The delay will be based on real feel temperature (0 and -2). If ground temperature was between 5 to 9 degrees, the assessment considers if the students have 30 min of exposure, would they get frostbite? If so, a delay is initiated.

### School Board Meeting Summary:

- Covid 19 mitigation: By a 5/3 vote, the school board voted to approve “Mask Optional”. The quarantine protocol is following the same procedure from CDC. From 10 days quarantine for exposure has shifted down to 5 days quarantine. The school board will update the existing Covid-19 screening tool flow chart and post on the district website. This will go into effect January 25, 2022.
- The demographer presented township growth projections. There are currently 6,000 school age children in our district: 5,300 of those kids are registered in our district. The remaining children are in Cyber, Parochial, and Homeschooled. The demographer predicts with 98% accuracy that we will have an increase of 900-1,000 new enrollments in the next 5-10 years. The initial growth is expected to start at the elementary level.
- This increase will facilitate the need for a new elementary building the same size as Muse Elementary. The building will be constructed in the Wylandville area. A redistricting of elementary schools will happen at the time of the new building. NSIS and CIS both have the capacity to grow and handle the increase. New MS can hold 1,000 students and there are a lot of multi-use spaces that can be converted to classrooms as needed to shift grade levels.
- The official school calendar start date for the 2022-2023 school year is August 22, 2022. The new school district calendar is expected in February. Holiday break will have a built in extra week for moving into the new Middle School; this is subject to change depending upon supply chain/supply issues. There have been supply chain issues with getting furnishings for the building.
- *Contact Tracing:* Based on the law, PA Department of Health is responsible to do this. However, this has been pushed to the schools. The motion from the school board to eliminate contact tracing was made. The vote was won, thus eliminating contact tracing. This has freed up teachers and staff to get back to focusing on their normal duties.
- *Announcement:* Parents please use the “Stay Connected” App to keep up to date on events through the district. \*\*\* THE DISTRICT WILL BE TRANSFORMING TO A BRANDED CM APP\*\*\*which can be found in the mobile app store.

### Questions from attendees:

Question (M. Garner): If a mask policy is within the students 504, will we be contacted (like those for unvaccinated)? *Response: It is a law. Those individuals may have immune system problems, etc. Will they be dropping the mask mandate on buses? Response: No, it is still federally mandated. Masking is also still required at Western Area Career and Technology Center (WACTC).*

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Question: Who removes the social media post comments? *Response: Morgan Northy is the CMSD Public Relations representative. She's responsible for all things posted on social media.*

### New Middle School Update:

The students will be the first to move into the new Middle School in January 2023. Then, the administration offices will move to the new building. Contractors are currently installing plastic sheeting, heating it up so they can build during the winter months. Currently, contractors are awaiting materials for roofing, masons are running behind schedule because they need to heat inside.

Question: (B. DiDaniels): How far are we on the middle school construction? *Response: The shell is up. Contractors are putting up plastic, heating it up so they can build it during winter. Currently awaiting materials for roofing, masons are running behind schedule because they need to heat inside.*

### **Old Business:**

NONE

### **New Business:**

**Next meeting is February 18, 2022 - at Borland Manor Elementary School.** *Guest speakers are Courtney Laskowski/ Kristen Sadler/ Andrea DeFrail for MAC PAC Program.*

The CMSD Parent Council Board would like to say “Thank You” again to Principal Crowley, CMHS our host, Guest Speaker Officer Eric Spicer, and Assistant Superintendent Scott Chambers for the updates in the district.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Ann Thomas (First motion) Becky DiDaniels (Second motion).

Meeting adjourned: 11:04 a.m.