

## **Canon –McMillan School District Parent Council Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2022**

The February 18, 2022 meeting of the CMSD Parent Council was held at Borland Manor Elementary School and was called to order at 9:33 a.m. on Friday, February 18, 2022 by Mary Lynn Yurko, Parent Council President. The 2022 Parent Council Board members in attendance included:

*Mary Lynn Yurko -President; Megan Clowner – Vice President, and Jayme Koenig – Secretary.*

**WELCOME:** Principal Marella McConnell, our Guest Speaker Kristen Stadler – Mac Pac Program, and Assistant Superintendent Scott Chambers.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

Phyllis Hartman (First Motion) and Liz Gump (Second Motion)

**PRINCIPAL UPDATES:** Marella McConnell –Principal Borland Manor Elementary

- Virtual Epic Build Celebrations by grade level designations, grades 1-4, will be offered on various days between February 23-28. Grade level teachers will be sending home specific invitations to their families.
- Read Across America Week February 28-March 3 with themed dress days and a PFO sponsored Reading Day Celebration on March 2.
- Our Literacy Intervention Spring Tutoring Program will tentatively be rolled out in mid-March for students that qualify for the additional help.
- Girls on the Run is starting their season in March for girls in 3-4 grades who are interested.
- Our friends from Mikayla’s Voice will be visiting in March for the Wheels of Friendship art installation activity. The Wheels of Friendship unveiling is scheduled for April.

**GUEST SPEAKER: Kristen Sadler for MAC PAC Program**

#### Kristen Stadler – MAC PAC Program

The MAC PAC program addresses district children who are at risk for hunger. Children are provided meals during the school week at free or reduced costs through the National School Lunch program, but through the Mac Pac program, it will ensure that they don’t have to worry about where their next meal is coming from on the weekends. Five years ago Kristen Stadler moved into the Canonsburg area and wanted to offer assistance in the community. She was introduced to Blessings in a Backpack, a national organization and implemented in Peters Twp. Kristen started collecting donations and packing backpacks for kids in need in her basement of her Cecil home with the help of her children and neighbors/friends. She then expanded with the help of a teacher Courtney Laskowski and The Horizon Foundation they decided to create a

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MAC/PAC program stepping away from the national organization and making it a Canonsburg community based program.

The program is completely anonymous and allows students to receive a backpack filled with 13-14 items. The items include Ramen noodles, canned goods, hygiene products, etc. The backpacks are packed twice a month and distributed on a Friday. Whatever they receive as donations are passed along to the students. Additional information can be on the district website under parents tab. Their website is [www.cmhorizonfoundation.org](http://www.cmhorizonfoundation.org). You can contact Maureen Corwin (Treasurer of Horizon Foundation) with any questions about how to donate and assist CM students: **724-747-6809** or via email at [corwinm@cmhorizonfoundation.org](mailto:corwinm@cmhorizonfoundation.org)

Prior to Covid MAC PACs had an enrollment of 140 kids throughout our district, during the Pandemic the program had to take a hiatus and since returning its seen a decline with a current enrollment at 60 kids! MAC/PACs is always welcoming enrollment to eligible kids as well as monetary and physical donations of goods. The program is available to kids K-12. The program hopes to expand to Canonsburg Middle School and Canon Mac High School students next year.

### Questions from Attendees:

Question (M. Garner): Our PFO has started collecting for the MAC PAC program. Are here specific needs you have? *Response: We will take anything, food snack items that the students can utilize over the weekend if family is food insecure. MAC PAC wants to expand and send home personal care items (e.g. deodorant, toothpaste, etc.).* The program accepts food items (such as non perishable healthy snacks, granola bars, juice boxes, quick meals, etc.). Monetary donations are the easiest way for us to fill the need.

Question (Mo Garner); is there an age requirement to volunteer to help MAC/PAC?  
*Response: No. All are welcome*

### **Speaker: Mr. Scott Chambers - Assistant Superintendent of CMSD**

Mr. Chambers provided the attendees with updates across the district:

- Mr. Chambers stated 24% of Canon Mac students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. Approximately 500 students in elementary schools alone. Morgan Northy, CMSD Director of Public Relations, will be posting information on the district website to promote this program and spread the word about its availability to our district students.
- A 2-hour delay for today (2/18/22) was not an ideal situation with the 2-hour early dismissal already in place. An FID was the most acceptable solution for a weather issue on this day. All avenues were explored to determine that no delays were necessary including wind, flooding and accessibility to generators for possible power outages.

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- This week is was a record low of COVID-19 cases totaling 7 as of this morning. Mitigation measures are being lifted across states. We appear to be settling back to normal.
- The School Board agenda will have calendar approval for the 2022-2023 school year.
- The calendar year will be unique for the 2022-2023 school year as it will provide the moving of the old Middle school to the new Middle school. In-service days will be moved around and expected to *be* in January to accommodate a smooth transition for teachers to acclimate to the new facility. This move is fluid and expected to take place over winter break, providing the building is substantially completed.
- School Board members are touring the facility during the building process. Open house will be postponed for Middle school students until the move has been made. Possible community open house for the Middle School TBA.
- Staffing issues within the district are still being felt especially on Mondays and Fridays. The district is continuing to recruit and advertise positions available. Staffing issues have eased from the lifting of the quarantine procedure. As the college semester ends substitute teacher positions are being filled. In fact, former students have reached out to fill positions. Specialty classes are still harder to fill. State educational process is beginning to change:
  - Incentives being introduced
  - Reduce negativity
  - Positives for teacher positions has always been schedules and retirementThe CM district will be attending a regional forum in Western Pa.
- Extended Day Services (EDS) – CMSD Before and after care program will be expanded to Borland Manor, piloted by South Central and Muse. BM able to provide the space to accommodate the program. Future board meetings will discuss the program reaching Hills Hendersonville and Wylandville Elementary schools. These 2 schools currently do not have the space available.

### Questions from attendees:

Question (Phyllis): How many FID are approved for the year? *Response (Mr. Chambers): The district applied for 5 FID and state allows 5.*

Question(Phyllis): Years ago 1 hour delays were an option instead of 2 hour delays. Is that an option for CM? *Response (Mr. Chambers): It was something from the past but there has been a 2 hour delay due to the process to prepare the bussing and snow removal process. It's not out of the question but also not on the radar to adopt that procedure.*

Is there a recycle program in the district? (Specifically HS track area) Response: *Waste Management contract has changed or been eliminated.*

Question (Phyllis): What is the plan for the old Middle School? It has been rumored to be new school Admin. Building. *Response (Mr. Chambers): It will be decommissioned and no longer used for school purposes. Once decommissioned it will be sold. The School Admin. will be housed in the new Middle School building.*

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Question: Why a new Middle School and not a new High School? Response (Mr. Chambers): *Current HS is on 26 acres and new MS is also 26 acres. Currently, the MS holds 800-900 students; HS holds 1,700 students. In order to make a HS school to accommodate more students than what our current HS holds, more than 26 acres would be needed. There is also a shortage of property in proximity to the current HS available for purchase. This is necessary to keep the buses running efficiently. Keeping the 2-tiered busing schedule system we currently have implemented.*

*There is not much land available within the district and the school district took advantage of this property currently holding the new location of the Middle School. Economically the cost of a new HS would have been \$100 million investment.*

*There will be available space to accommodate growth within the district at the Middle School and if necessary grades can be distributed between High School and Middle School in years to come, if the need arises. Possibility of a 9th grade moving to Middle School, this particular change is not supported by the teachers.*

Question (Megan Clouner) The pay in other districts is higher, why doesn't Canon Macmillan adjust the rate to be more competitive? Response (Mr. Chambers): *Adjusting the rate to be higher doesn't address the problem. Other districts in the area are paying \$200 a day compared to \$100 a day at CM and still having issues filling vacancies. The lack of candidates is the issue.*

Question (Carissa Boyer): Has the district ever considered lowering the GPA requirements for teachers applying to CM? Response (Mr. Chambers): *That's a good question to be brought to HR's attention. Believed to be a policy driven requirement.*

### **New Middle School**

- Sports to be offered Football, Basketball, Soccer, Swimming, Wrestling, Baseball, LaCross, Volleyball, Track, etc.
- New MS is equipped with 2 Gymnasiums and no swimming pool. The auxiliary gym was chosen in place of a swimming pool in order to accommodate the amount of simultaneous gym classes happening at the MS, as well as the cost to maintain a swimming pool.
- New Middle School is currently on schedule and expected to have a January 2023 move in date.

### **Transportation**

Field Trip transportation has been approved for 2021-2022 school year. PTA/PFO's of each school are responsible for the cost at this time. Bus transportation is not added to the budget for the 2022-2023 school year, and will be the responsibility of PTA/PFO.

Transportation for Middle School sports is not being provided, but do have the ability to restore. The district is still awaiting the arrival of 4 new buses that were ordered at the beginning of the school year, but because of supply chain issues have not yet been received.

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Question: Is the cost of a bus to transport for field trips \$1,000? If so, that's unaffordable for PTA/PFO. Response (Mr. Chambers): *You can submit a field trip cost estimate request to Jurdon Maier and he can provide the actual cost. Driver cost is \$32 hour and \$1.25 a mile*

Question: Will Hills Hendersonville maintain the additional 3rd grade expansion into 4th grade? Response: *If projections for the following school year indicate its need, there will be no recommendation to reduce the additional class.*

Question: How does the district decide the priority of which grounds to maintain? South Central has dangerous parking lot conditions. Response (Mr. Chambers): *That property was acquired by the district a few years ago. It housed a building that was removed and therefore the surface is both gravel and pavement. It is on the list to be addressed. All properties are maintained by the school district. A building assessment is done every year by school principals and goes to committee, to be organized by necessity. If the lot in question were to be deemed too dangerous it could be closed until the repairs could be made.*

**Liz Gump (CMSD School Board)** provided information that the parking lot was due for milling and paving maintenance in the 2023-2024 school year. She also noted that there is a \$500,000 yearly maintenance budget that is fluid and can be used for issues deemed urgent. This year it was currently used by an unforeseen elevator replacement at Cecil Intermediate. According to notes from the maintenance meeting Liz attended and shared, Jurdon had walked the parking lot in question and was aware of its condition.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **New Business**

Thank you to our speakers Ms. Sadler from the Mac Pacs program and Mrs. Corwin from the Canon Macmillan Horizons Foundation.

Please contact the board members if you are interested in being a part of the CMSD PTC Board for the upcoming 2022-2024 school year. This is a great forum for parents and administration to gather and discuss district concerns. All interested parents with children currently in CMSD please contact the Board members for more details.

**Next Meeting Scheduled for March 18, 2022 at Canonsburg Middle School.** The topic is transitioning to the Intermediate Schools/Middle School/ High School.

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Tammi Miller (First motion); Carissa Boyer (Second motion)

Meeting adjourned: 11:00 a.m.