

**Canon –McMillan School District Parent Council
Meeting Minutes - September 16, 2022**

The September 2022 meeting of the CMSD Parent Council was held at Hills- Hendersonville Elementary School and was called to order at 9:33 am September 16, 2022 by Mary Lynn Yurko.

Announcement of 2022-2024 Parent Council Board. The 2022-2024 Parent council Board members in attendance included:

Jayme Koenig (President), Mary Lynn Yurko (Vice President), Eileen Landucci (Secretary)

Welcome: Principal Mrs. Shelly Brose, Mr. Michael Daniels, Mr. Scott Chambers, Mrs. Amy D’Amico.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Approval of last meeting minutes (April 2022):

Tami Miller (First motion); Mary Schweizer (Second Motion)

PRINCIPAL UPDATES: Mrs. Shelly Brose- Principal, Hills-Henderson Elementary School

- Hills- Hendersonville Open House is scheduled for Thursday September 29, 2022 from 6-8pm.
- The Book Fair will run for 2 days September 28th & 29th with parents having access during Open House on September 29th in the multi-purpose room.
- Hills’ PTA has purchased Scholastic News to be used weekly in the classrooms by the students; to build nonfiction reading skills and increase content-area knowledge.
- Our First Wellness Day is September 23, 2022. Students will participate in fitness activities.
- The PTA will be hosting a fall family fun night. This year we are calling the evening the “Fall Festival ” and it will take place October 7th from 6-8pm. There will be games, food, crafts, and much more. All are welcome to attend. It’s \$10 a child and this includes all activities as well as food (no charge for adults or for children under 3).

Speaker: Mr. Michael Daniels, Superintendent of CMSD Schools

School District Updates:

COVID Update

- We’re headed in the direction of “back to normal”
- Numbers trending up on COVID counter on CM website. CM still tracks student and staff cases though it is not required by the state any longer.
- Pandemic Team met in June to decide what CM should do going into a new year. There were no return to school guidelines from the Dept. of Health or Dept. of Education so CM decided to relax contact tracing and social distancing. Encouraged continued usage of the Daily Checklist of Symptoms (on website)
- Stay home if sick, masks are optional.

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- As of meeting time (Sept. 2022), the protocol for COVID positive cases is 5 days at home, then 5 days back at school with a mask.(CM will not be policing the mask-wearing upon return).

Teacher Update:

- High volume of teachers left the profession for other jobs, or left CM for other school districts.
- HR had a busy summer trying to fill vacancies.
- There are 24 new teachers this year (includes those hired during 21-22, and those hired over the summer).
- New teachers attended 5 days of In-Service in August; first 3 days just for new teachers. Days 4-5 were for all teachers.

Bus Driver Update:

- Current status is “okay”. Runs are being made but it is “fragile”.
- Using mechanics, custodial staff as back-ups when needed.

Cafeteria Update

- Still an issue finding workers.
- In 2021, 7 positions short; end of school year 2022, 6 positions short. Currently 11 positions short.
- Not a turnover issue, just open positions that are difficult to fill.
- Adapted lunch menus are in place because of food being unavailable.

Administrative Updates

Staff changes include:

- Brittany Taylor, Assistant Principal (was School Counselor previously) at CMHS
- Jenna Handra, Assistant Principal at CMHS
- Donna Carper, Assistant Business Manager (new position)
- Amber Kevich – Accounting Analyst for free/reduced lunch program.
- Andrea Carnahan, Transportation Coordinator (new position)
- Karl Herald, Facilities Coordinator
- Dr. Taranto was named Assistant to the Superintendent (but still serving as Principal at CMS); also Title IX Coordinator, analyzing data to determine non-CM virtual learners’ interest levels in coming back to CM (in person or online)
- Grace Lani, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, announced her retirement recently. In the interviewing process now, making recommendations for candidates at the 9/22/22 School Board Meeting.

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General:

- Safety - staff wear ID at all times, SROs in all buildings, safety reminders for everyone about keeping doors closed, Raptor screening system for visitors. Mr. Chambers is the Safety Coordinator.
- New CM logo - Board voted on 6/29/22 to approve the new logo. Planning a Splash event to launch the new logo.
- Transitioning to new “Science Standards” which are required to be in place by 2026, but CM is starting now.
- Learning gaps - serious across all schools in the U.S. Learning lapse especially in Grades 3-8 in Math at CM (comparison with other schools in PA; CM above state average but Grades 3-8 is lower group). Math was the largest learning lapse across the U.S., too. CM will be focusing on these grades to enhance math skills.
- State funding: Esser I, II, then III become ARP. These are grants from PA that were used for facilities, substitute teacher expenses, supplies, technology. CM decided to use funding for materials, rather than people because eventual expiration of funding stream.

Facilities/Construction Updates:

- In Spring 2014, the CM Master Plan was created which was a shared vision across the district and community.
- Muse built
- Moving toward full-day Kindergarten in the district.
- October 2021, CMU conducted a demographic study that estimated CM will have 900 new students over the next 10 years.
- Expansion of High School and Stadium was conducted.
- Middle School is opening in January 2023, moving in over Christmas break.

Next up

- Wylandville expansion. It is bursting at the seams, just had a trailer delivered on 9/15/22 to house classes.
- Hills-Henderson (Hills) has 19 acres on which to expand.
- Part of Esser fund will include HVAC at Hills.
- Hills will be expanded, not re-built.
- South Central is last on the list. SC has approximately 500 students.
- There is space near the school available for expansion and parking in the future.

Questions: (answered by Mr. Daniels and Mr. Chambers)

Question: Have teachers had any training on Mental Health?

Response: Teachers do receive mental health issues training during In-Service. Also trained are administrators, directors, para educators, secretaries, food service, custodians, and nurses. Well-checks for students include behavioral issues as well as academic performance. Each building has their own intervention protocol; there is no district-wide. Consistent protocol for mental health and/or social emotional learning.

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Shelly Brose response: at Hills they do positive reinforcement for students, social emotional learning, and library books that address SE topics. Also, Hills was recognized as the first school with PBIS trained staff. (PBIS = Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports)

Foleon program - Mr. Daniels attended a pilot of the program. It removes the human element from conversations and is done in a virtual format. Designed for autistic learners but can be applied to any student. Kids tend to speak more freely and are more relaxed using the program.

Question: Are all schools picking their own SLE? Any oversight from the district?

Response: There is some consistency with what the schools offer but it is left up to the building principal and staff to decide.

Speaker: CMSD Assistant Superintendent Mr. Scott Chambers

- Free lunch ended this school year; free breakfast will be starting in October.
- 1:1 Electronic devices at the high school. Going well so far; loaners are available if needed; possible roll-out to middle school in the future.
- Math Focus - planning for extra Math support in second semester. CM already has Reading Specialists in all buildings (district gets federal funding based on the free/reduced lunch count).
- Tutoring at all levels to begin in September. The high school offers after-school tutoring where students can do their homework, ask questions, etc. Focus on content from Keystone exams.
- Student population is hard to predict. Budgets and planning are done in May but sometimes numbers change over the summer. This year, things stayed relatively stable with student numbers.
- Kindergarten enrollment numbers are good. Resources were moved down to early grade levels for extra support. Average Kindergarten class size is 18:1.
- Parent Council meeting offered in the evening for Spring meeting at Canon-Mac Middle School; discussed holding an evening meeting in the Fall as well. Agreed upon time was 7:00, with location TBD.

Question (Mo Garner): Thank you for the online emergency contact form at CMHS. Will the online option trickle down to other schools? Is there an option to have fields pre-populated?

Response: It probably will be rolled out to other schools. This was a pilot. May be able to use a pre-populated option but it would require a purchase. Paper back-up is still necessary in case of emergency.

Question: Regarding 1:1 electronic device program at CMHS, is there a specialized IT team to ensure security? *Response: Chromebooks are secure. They are under the same security and firewall as other district devices and systems, which includes multi-level authentication down to the teacher level.*

Question: Is there busing for Middle School sports? *Response: Yes, the middle school is back to being able to provide busing for sports teams. (Mr. Daniels confirmed this with the Transportation Director). Some parents say there are still issues with busing for girl's soccer,*

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volleyball, softball. The middle school sent out a message that was confusing, inaccurate. The coach needs to coordinate busing for the team.

Question: Update on Wylandville project? Response: The district will be getting the survey done soon, conducting traffic studies, etc. Next phase will be planning and design (will study Muse). Possibly bring in Finance team and get bids in the Spring. May do funding similar to middle school – break the project up and get different funding for each phase.

Question (name?): Who makes up the Pandemic Team mentioned by Mr. Daniels? Are there any medical personnel on the team? Response: The Pandemic Team is made up of school administration and staff including School Nurse. There are currently no doctors on the team.

Question (name?): Will South Central and Wylandville buildings stay? Response: Yes, that's the current plan. And Borland Manor students will go to Wylandville. This is the current plan but nothing is definite at this point.

Question: Any safety concerns with kids changing classes when they're using trailers? Response: Teachers keep close watch, close doors, use walkie-talkies when kids go to bathroom, etc.

Question: Regarding the old log cabin at the front of the CMS building, will it be moved to the new school? Response: No it will not be moving to the new middle school. It is part of the Jefferson Historical Society.

Guest Speaker: Amy D'Amico, President of Canon-McMillan Horizon Foundation

CM Horizon Foundation is a non-profit organization formed in 2013 with Mr. Daniels support. They were up and running as a 501(c)3 organization by 2014. Purpose is to connect resources of the CM community to the CM school district. The foundation is led by various community volunteers. Four years ago, Horizon Foundation absorbed the Mac Pac program, and they broke away from the national "Blessings in a Backpack" group to be part of Horizon.

- Horizon has funded: Robots for Autism, Maker Space, Zoo in the Classroom, CM Store, Fab Lab, Eruption athletic program, and the new Chill Room at the high school.
- Morgan Northy (Public Relations for CMSD) has the Horizon Foundation link on CM website and handles social media content for them.
- How it works: teacher submits their request online (i.e., new seating for classroom or a guest speaker), Horizon tries to find a match, works with local businesses who provide funding for that particular need.
- The Foundation's Board meets weekly on Monday and they review all requests.
- New projects: High schoolers will be trained in CPR (9th graders will be certified), and they will be starting to offer community service hours for high schoolers.

Old Business:

Introduction of new board members: Jayme Koenig (President), Mary Lynn Yurko (Vice President), Eileen Landucci (Secretary).

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New Business:

- Next Parent Council meeting will be at Canon-McMillian High School in October – date and time TBA.
- The Parent Council will be accepting donations for Mac Pac throughout the 2022-2023 school year.

We would like to thank Mrs. Brose and the Hills-Hendersonville PTA for hosting our Parent Council meeting today. The Parent Council board also wishes to thank our guest speakers: Mr. Daniels, Mr. Chambers, and Amy D’Amico for their time today.

Motion to Adjourn:

Dana Armstrong (First Motion)

Kristina Hollandsworth (Second Motion)

Meeting adjourned: 11:12 AM