

**CANON-MCMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
January 17, 2025
Borland Manor Elementary**

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes from the November 12, 2024, Meeting

- Motion to approve by Julie Miller
- Seconded by Mary Schweitzer
- Minutes approved as submitted

3. Principal and School Updates – Mr. Matt Wolfe

- Expressed gratitude to cafeteria staff and PFO for their support.
- PFO continues to provide a monthly luncheon for staff.
- Overhaul of the PBIS program for consistency and precision in staff and student incentives.
- School Ambassador Program:
 - Currently interviewing 10-15 fourth graders for leadership roles.
 - Application and interview process involved.

4. Guest Speaker – James Purtell, Principal, Western Area Career and Technology Center

- Provided an overview of career and technical education programs, including Auto Tech, Megatronics, Carpentry, Collision Repair, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Electrical, HVAC, Public Safety, Health Occupations, Machine Tool Technology, Masonry, Networking, Rehabilitation Sports, and Welding.
- Discussed certifications students can earn, job placement opportunities, and post-secondary pathways.
- Notable program updates:
 - Auto Tech: New building for auto mechanics and diesel technology.
 - Cosmetology: Expanded due to high demand (now 100 students with a waitlist).
 - Culinary: Open to the public five days a week.
 - Health Occupations: Patient Care Technician certification preferred over CNA.
 - Welding: AWS certifications, filled annually.
- Questions addressed:
 - First-time certification costs covered by the school; retakes may be self-funded.
 - Scholarships available for supplies based on income.

5. Carlos Carmona – Sr. Disaster Manager, Red Cross for Pittsburgh Area

- Discussed the Gold Star Wrestling Match, honoring families who lost members in military service.
- CM wrestling singlets were donated; each match will be dedicated to a hero.
- Event details:
 - **Date:** Wednesday, January 22, 5 PM
 - **Participants:** Gold Star families, Adjutant General of the state, Color Guard from Trinity
 - CM Wrestling Facebook page will feature posts honoring heroes.

6. District Updates – Dr. Scott Chambers

- **Safety & Security Improvements:**
 - New wearable alert badge for all staff, allowing real-time emergency alerts.
 - Integration with PA system and security cameras.
 - Strobes and beacons to indicate lockdowns or other emergencies.

- Kiosk system for visitor check-in with driver's license scanning.
- System-wide training to begin in early February.
- Funding: First-year and start up costs covered by grants, future costs to be locally funded.

7. Dr. Taranto – High School Refresh Project

- **\$5 million refresh project** aimed at improving student experience now rather than just planning for the future.
- Updates include:
 - Restroom refurbishments.
 - Main floor painting and new bleachers.
 - New AV system in the auditorium, with installation scheduled through next year.
 - Summer school to be moved to the middle school to accommodate renovations.
- **Questions about high school drop off traffic:**
 - Increased congestion noted, discussions ongoing with Canonsburg officials.
 - Suggestions include additional drop-off lanes and staggered times.
 - Parents encouraged to use multiple entrances.
- **Weather-related school closures:**
 - Decisions are made carefully, considering student safety and also issues like student access to meals.
 - Alerts sent the night before when possible.
- **FID Days (Flexible Instruction Days):**
 - Assignments must be completed to count as present.
 - Options for paper packets for elementary grades versus online learning being considered.
- **Calendar Committee:**
 - Includes administrators and teachers.
 - Seeking representation from each grade group.

8. Old Business

- None

9. New Business

- None

10. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Julie Miller
- Seconded by Tammy Main
- Meeting adjourned