

Parkland Community Advisory Council

February 20, 2025

PRESIDENTS

Jennifer Jones
Desiree Pascal

VICE PRESIDENT

Catherine Garon

SECRETARY

Andrea Scott

ATTENDEES: Catherine Garon, Nora Garon, Michelle Garon, Nicole Mandry, Marisa Ziegler, Chris Pirrotta, Alyssa Avila, Andrea Scott, Brittany Rabe, Jen Jones, Desiree Pascal, Cherise Lee, Michelle Minotti

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES: Alyssa Avila

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Chris Pirrotta, Marisa Ziegler

ADMINISTRATION: Michelle Minotti

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Desiree Pascal at 7:11 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes from January 2024, was made by Chris Pirrotta and seconded by Jennifer Jones.

PRESENTATION: *“Parkland School Districts Makerspaces” presented by JR Renna, Sam Edwards, and Caitlin Budge*

Sam Edwards was the first to have a Makerspace in the District at Fogesville Elementary School's Media Center. The concepts and contents of the Makerspace in Fogelsville was replicated throughout the district. The Makerspaces are meant to make meaningful moments, sparking an interest in technology.

Because of Sam's innovative thinking, Parkland is far ahead of other districts in the Makerspace evolution and revolution. While many districts are just developing their Makerspaces, Parkland's Media Specialists have been working towards a refresh in districtwide Makerspaces since 2022. This process brings in core teachers and standards to expand the reach of Makerspaces.

Makerspaces in the district started organically through sharing of ideas and were different in all schools. Gradually teachers brought in things that sparked their passion and some outside agencies were brought in to standardize opportunities. Our students are lucky The Parkland Education Foundation and the District partnered to get behind the idea of makerspaces so new opportunities attached to curriculum could be explored.

All SMS and OMS project equipment is available for students to check out just like Media Center books. Each item has a unique bar code which allows the students to sign it out and use it for science experiments both at school and at home. The 5th-grade students can also sign out the equipment and share their findings at the STEAM Expo.

Some of the Equipment available to the students:

- Fork farms hydroponics that is harvested 4x per year

- Parkland cares got some cuts of lettuce from hydroponics
- Edison coding robots that respond to sound, light, and bar codes. They have legos on them so they can be transformed into other types of robots to do other things eg- snow plow, fork lift, etc
- Bee bots
- Laser cutters and safe cutters for creating with cardboard (in 3 elementary schools)
 - Veterans Memorial Elementary students made arcade games with cardboard
- Make Dos
- Windtunnel
 - All 9 Elementary schools will create and keep their wind tunnels at the school all year long
 - One of the activities we participated in at the meeting was building a parachute to run in the wind tunnel
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We are at the cusp of new innovation by bringing in the whole school to utilize and leverage Makerspaces. Class sets are being scaled up so further exploration is possible. STEELS standards, the new science academic standards, are driving the future.

STEELS

- stands for science, technology, engineering, environmental literacy, and sustainability academic standards.
- 3d types of learning- science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and cross cutting concepts
- All knowledge brought together to embed it into ELA
- The office of teaching and learning to cover all of the standards
- The media specialist curriculum
- Steam expos help generate interest and imagination
- 3-day immersive Steam camp for 5th graders

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: Marisa Ziegler presented a report highlighting the topics discussed at the 2/18/2025 School Board Meeting. For more meeting details, please view the minutes and recordings online on the PSD.

Board Workshop – 6:00 pm

- LCTI presented their budgets for the 2025-2026 school year
- Update on the Comprehensive Plan
- 2025-2026 Budget Update

Student and Staff Recognition

- 2024 Congressional App Challenge winner – Tushar Mehta
- 2025 Regeneron Science Talent Search Top 300 Scholars – Brandon Cai
- National Teacher of the Year Merit Finalist – Bethany Pepe, FCS teacher at PHS

Academics, Arts & Athletics

- Agreement between Cedar Crest College and Parkland to provide nursing students with a school nurse practicum clinical experience

- Approved the school calendar for next year – The first day of school will be August 25th, last day will be June 9th

Facilities & Operations

- Approved the purchase of a Vertiv Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), which is a backup power system that protects electronics from power outages and disturbances.

Policy & Finance

- Approved the audited financial statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024

Upcoming Meetings

Committee Meetings

- AAA Board Committee Meeting – Monday, March 10, 2025 at 5:00 pm
- F & O Board Committee Meeting – Monday, March 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.
- P & F Board Committee Meeting – Monday, March 10, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Board Meeting

- Board Workshop – Tuesday, March 18, 2025 – 6:00 p.m.
- Board Meeting – Tuesday, March 18, 2025 – 7:00 p.m.
- Budget Seminar– Friday, April 25, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.

STUDENT REPORT:

ARTS:

- The spring musical, Les Mis, will run April 2-6
- The Parkland High School Choirs will perform their mid-year concert on Tuesday 2/25
- PMEA Region Orchestra is today, tomorrow, and Saturday
- PMEA District Choir was two weekends ago and Parkland will be sending 21 singers to Regions

ATHLETICS:

- Boy's wrestling will compete in the playoffs tomorrow at Liberty
- Girl's basketball will play in their playoffs tomorrow at Northampton
- Boy's basketball will play in playoffs this Saturday at Easton Area High School
- The Swim Team will Compete in their District's meet this weekend at Emmaus and again next weekend at Parkland

ACADEMICS:

- World Language Week is next week
- Garet Hill won Mr. Parkland

Students are donating cereal as part of the district-wide food drive

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS: none

ROUNDTABLE:

- AI in the curriculum- It is used as a curriculum enhancement and teachers are encouraged to incorporate it in their lessons. If it is allowed on the Chromebook, teachers share expectations of use. For example, you can use it to help write a report and site it correctly using MLA standards.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: At 8:14 pm a motion to adjourn was called. Chris Pirrotta moved, with Marisa Ziegler seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Andrea Scott