

**CANON-McMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2025 – Canon-McMillan Middle School**

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the September 19, 2025 meeting were approved.

Motion to approve: Daria

Seconded by: Stephanie Shannon

3. Principal and School Updates

Presenter: Mr. Schrag

- Mr. Schrag welcomed everyone to the middle school and directed people to the handout for school updates.

4. Guest Speaker & District Updates

Presenter: Dr. Greg Taranto, Superintendent

A. State of the School District: Current Analytics & Five-Year Plan

District Growth & Demographics

- Canon-McMillan is one of only two Washington County districts experiencing substantial growth in the last 13 years.
- Average class size is now 422 students per grade (up from ~350 several years ago).
- Kindergarten enrollment expected to increase with transition to full-day K.
- Significant growth in low socioeconomic, ELL, and special education populations.
 - **41% increase** in low-income students over 13 years.
 - **37% increase** in special education programming over the past decade.

Financial Overview

- CM maintains the lowest millage rate in Washington County while expanding facilities and curriculum.
- Tax burden among the lowest in both Washington & Allegheny Counties.
- Spending per student remains below both state and Intermediate Unit averages.

Academic Performance

- Dropout rate at an all-time low.
- PSSA and Keystone performance trending upward following COVID impacts.
- Strong reading gains:
 - **96% of 4th graders** at or above oral reading fluency benchmark in 2024 (down from 20% of students below benchmark to 4% of students).
- New CM Impact Report expected November 2025.

Five-Year Strategic Plan Highlights

2025–2026 Priorities:

- **Facilities:** Continue HS refresh; secure NSIS entry; replace buses/vans; digital ecospace completion; phase in Wylandville construction financing.

- **Academic/Extracurricular:** Updated textbooks/materials; equip esports team; athletics upgrades.
- **Programs:** Math curriculum review; expanded Cyber Academy; pilot new academic programs; gifted program updates (Grades 2–5).
- **Staffing:** More paraprofessionals; maintain HS behavior interventionist; sub pay increases; secondary supervision supports.
- **Professional Development:** Curriculum pilots; PCCD, ELS, and digital literacy training.

2026–2027:

- 1:1 Chromebooks for Grade 5; Wylandville construction continues; explore JROTC; expand CTC partnerships; enhance cyber/hybrid learning.
- Redistricting preparation and communication (end of year)

2027–2028:

- Hills renovation planning; new stadium turf.
- Full-Day Kindergarten implementation.

2028–2029:

- Phase one of Hills construction debt.
- Transportation technology improvements (Viewfinder App).
- Continued curriculum work.

2029–2030:

- Renew CKLA (Grades 3–6) and pilot 7–12 World Language updates.

Note: Lack of current state budget and reduced federal funding may affect timelines and priorities.

B. Challenges of Today’s Teens: Vaping and Nicotine Addiction

Key Points:

- Vaping impacts students across all academic and activity groups.
- Flavored products and targeted social media advertising drive youth usage.
- Some devices contain extremely high nicotine levels and facilitate THC use.
- Vape sensors installed in MS and HS bathrooms are helping deter behavior.

Usage & Concerns

- 7.8% of students nationwide reported vaping in 2024.
- Nicotine pouches (e.g., Zyn) increasing, particularly among girls.
- Shipping: Discreet packaging makes it less obvious when packages arrive. Students are buying with prepaid credit cards which makes access easier.

Warning Signs

- Sweet scents in body odor, increased thirst, nosebleeds, mouth sores
- Cough, dental issues, unfamiliar batteries/chargers

Interventions

- Prevention education at school beginning in 3rd grade
- Combined disciplinary and counseling approaches
- Parents encouraged to use USPS Informed Delivery to monitor packages
- Advocating to government officials recommended to increase regulations

5. Old Business

No old business.

6. New Business

No new business.

7. Adjournment