

Parkland Community Advisory Council

Thursday, February 19, 2026

Co-Presidents

Desirée Pascal
Jennifer Jones

Vice-President

Catherine Garon

Secretary

Andrea Scott

ATTENDEES: Desirée Pascal, Catherine Garon, Linda Perlman-McKenna, Melanie St. Hill, Andrea Scott, and Tracy Bingaman

STUDENT REPRESENTATION: Nora Garon and Kylie Faught

SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES: Marisa Ziegler and Chris Pirrotta

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Desiree Pascal at 7:00pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Pending

ADMINISTRATION: Jason Henry and Kelly Rosario

PRESENTATION: “Science of Reading/MTSS Update” with Ms. Kelly Rosario and Dr. Jason Henry

Kelly Rosario and Jason Henry gave a thorough and insightful explanation of MTSS. The Parkland Middle Schools are committed to delivering top-tier education to each student. In alignment with our Parkland School District mission to foster a safe and nurturing environment conducive to both social and academic development, we embrace the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) approach to learning.

MTSS is a multi-tiered system of supports that systematically helps students at all instructional levels succeed. The Pennsylvania Department of Education defines MTSS as a standards-aligned, preventative, proactive and comprehensive school improvement framework for enhancing academic, behavioral, and social-emotional outcomes for all students.

Kelly Rosario, Director of Teaching and Learning at the Elementary Level, explained Structured Literacy Guidelines from the State of Pennsylvania. There are 3 parts of the approach: systematic, cumulative, and explicit

The groundbreaking and iconic blueprint: Dr. Scarborough’s Reading Rope, originating in the 1980s, focuses on both language comprehension and word recognition. These two strands work together to create a progressive and complex understanding of content and serve as the foundation for Parkland’s comprehensive solution..

Structured Literacy at the middle level, was explained by Jason Henry, Director of Teaching and Learning at the Secondary Level. There's been an effort to equip educators with "all day literacy" skills. In short, even though math and history. If students don't have critical reading, decoding, and comprehension skills, it is impossible to accurately assess them in any area. In summary, the critical foundations of reading k-2 are to learn to read; conversely, from third grade on, the focus shifts to reading to learn with a greater focus on comprehension.

The Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) is intended to detect students' academic needs and address areas in need of improvement as early as possible. MTSS provides a tiered framework of increasingly intensified supports for a student's academic and non-academic needs. As part of the MTSS framework, cross-disciplinary teams represented at the school, grade, and individual levels use a problem-solving process to integrate evidence-based academic, behavioral, and social-emotional programs and practices to meet student needs. Families are encouraged to participate in this process and will be made aware of your child's progress and if they are tier 2 or tier 3 placement. There are three tiers to MTSS and include:

Tier 1: All students receive

Tier 2: Interventions for 5-10% who require extra support.

Tier 3: For the 1-5% of students receive this for more extensive academic support

Starting points and student growth is monitored via assessments like Acadience and CDTs. Disaggregated data provides support for specific strategies. Reading specialists and title aides help implement interventions and collaborate with classroom teachers. There are 2 periods of time set aside for interventions at the elementary level (math and reading).

Middle School uses Fastbridge (diagnostic for language arts and math) and Firefly (PSSA Benchmark Tool). Cycle is the same as elementary level: 3 checkpoints, with 2 additional checkpoints for students receiving Tier 2 or 3 support.

The commitment of the district on the administrative and instructional levels is a collaborative and comprehensive approach, ensuring every student in need of support receives it.

Learn more here: <https://www.parklandsd.org/schools/middle-schools/middle-school-multi-tiered-systems-of-support-mtss>

SCHOOL BOARD UPDATE (School Board Meeting from 2/17/26)

Highlights for the Community Advisory Council

- Board Workshop
 - 2026/2027 Budget review and update (focused on revenues)
 - Important Items:
 - Approved the new school calendar for 2026/2027 school year. Check it out here:
https://resources.finalsite.net/images/v1771512595/parklandsdorg/ii0ocqqkx5pwx7qtuhpa/2026-2027_Calendar_Board_Approved.pdf.
 - Approved 2 school psychology internship agreements

- Approved an agreement with the Special Olympics PA for the Unified Champion Schools program, which allows Parkland to offer intramural Bocce Ball for the 25/26 and 26/27 school years.
- Approved a maintenance agreement with McClure for two visits per years for all district buildings.
- Approved the audited financial statements as of June 30, 2025
- Approved the CLIU and LCCC Operating Budgets

Upcoming Meetings

- AAA Board Committee Meeting – March 9, 2026 at 5:00 pm
- F & O Board Committee Meeting – March 9, 2026 at 6:00 pm
- P & F Board Committee Meeting – March 9, 2026 at 7:00 pm
- Board Meeting
- Board Workshop – March 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm
- Board Meeting – March 17, 2026 at 7:00 pm

STUDENT REPORT

Updates and News

- Parkland sent 5 students to the National Math Competition; they finished in the top 5% in the country.
- Tickets on sale for the spring performance, which will run in early April (8th-12th). Purchase here: <https://www.parklandsd.org/departments/arts/ticket-information>.
- Purse BINGO for the softball team. There are 25 rounds of BINGO, and it's their largest fundraiser.
- Parkland's Dance Team finished 14th in the Nation!
- The Parkland Cheerleaders competed at Nationals this past week!
- World Language Week is Next Week at PHS when students will celebrate cultures from around the world! Activities will include a door decorating contest, cooking competition, bocce ball tournament, scavenger hunt, dance lessons and more. Students are invited to dress in international/cultural attire and wear favorite international sports jerseys.
- Declutter & Donate: Huge Clothing/Toy Drive on March 14 from 9am-12:30pm. Plan to bring your donations to the Parkland High School Music Boosters' Clothing/Toy The drive is taking place in the parking lot adjacent to the high school band room (right side of the school).
- Save the Date: Community Resource Fair & Parent University on March 14.
- Second quarter report cards have been published.
- Parkland Food Drive runs 2/9-2/20. See more here: <https://www.parklandsd.org/schools/food-drive>.
- Don't Miss Parkland Reads District-wide Elementary Night on February 25th: <https://resources.finalseite.net/images/v1770843506/parklandsdorg/gkcgiiikf3z57uic3voz2/ParklandReadsTogether2026.pdf>

OLD/NEW BUSINESS Just a reminder that the next meeting will take place at Parkland High School at 9am on Saturday, March 14th.

MOTION TO ADJOURN A motion was called at 7:54pm by Marisa and seconded by Chris.