

**CANON-McMILLAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARENT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2026 – North Strabane Intermediate 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

Minutes from the November 21, 2025 and January 17, 2026 meetings were presented for approval.

3. Principal and School Updates

Presenter: Dr. Sharon Lepri

- Students were welcomed by Anchor Ambassadors, a group of approximately 40 students who assist with new student transitions, peer tutoring, and orientation activities.
- The Kindness Crew, also consisting of approximately 40 students, continues to promote positive behavior and school culture through organized activities.
- A recent fundraiser, “Show Some Love to Animals,” benefited the Washington Area Humane Society. Students raised over \$3,000 and donated even more in supplies. Millie’s Ice Cream and some special Humane Society visitors rewarded the work of the students.
- March Madness activities are planned to raise funds for the Sarris Library.
- Ongoing emphasis on student engagement and community involvement was highlighted.

4. Guest Speaker & District Program Updates

Presenter: Becky Lieb, Director of Special Education

Gifted Education Program Review & Revamp

- The district is currently reviewing and redesigning gifted education services (K–6).
- A collaborative team including administrators, teachers (general and gifted education), school psychologists, and a parent representative was formed.
- The initiative began in March 2025, with focus groups and data collection occurring through early 2026.
- Feedback has been gathered from stakeholders, including surveys and comparative research with other districts.

Program Goals & Focus Areas

- Develop pathways for high-potential learners to extend beyond standard curriculum.
- Increase opportunities for enrichment within the general education setting.
- Strengthen alignment between gifted support and classroom curriculum.
- Expand professional development for teachers to support differentiated instruction.

Future Planning

- Continued analysis and delegation of tasks are underway.

- A communication rollout is anticipated in May.
- Ongoing monitoring will ensure program effectiveness and fidelity.

Additional Discussion Points

- Identification of gifted students includes testing (beginning in grade 2), teacher referrals, and parent referrals.
- Focus on identifying twice-exceptional (2E) students and those not currently receiving services.
- Discussion of evaluation processes for special education services, including IEPs, FBAs, and placement decisions.
- For autistic support, student placement is based on an evaluation of needs.

5. District Updates

Presenter: Dr. Taranto

Facilities & Construction

- Wylandville Elementary construction has experienced minor weather-related delays; completion is projected for February 2027 with contingency planning in place.

Redistricting

- Redistricting is expected to occur toward the end of next school year using demographic analysis tools.
- Goals include balancing enrollment and creating space for full-day kindergarten.
- Borland students are expected to transition to Wylandville.
- Redistricting is not expected to impact intermediate schools at this time.

Kindergarten Planning

- A K–4 task force will develop the structure of a full-day kindergarten program, emphasizing age-appropriate learning, including play and recess.

Academic & Testing Updates

- The district calendar has been approved.
- PSSAs will be administered online this year due to state requirements.
- Concerns were noted regarding online testing effectiveness and student screen time.
- Alternative assessments (e.g., Terra Nova, Acadience) were noted as more informative measures of student progress.
- Technology support will be available during testing, and systems are in place to preserve student progress in case of disruptions.

Technology & Learning Discussion

- Emphasis on balancing technology use with foundational skill development.
- Discussion referenced research on the impact of increased device use on student performance.

Transportation

- Bus routes will remain unchanged for next year but will be reevaluated following redistricting.

Planning

- There used to be a state program that you could only build extra capacity into school buildings for five year population growth projections. However, that program was related to state reimbursement for building costs, a program that is not currently active.
- Julie Chandler (School Board Vice President) spoke about her efforts to advocate for greater coordination between location and county governments and school districts when looking at development to ensure sufficient capacity at schools as housing plans take shape.

Additional Information

- The windmill at NSIS provides energy equivalent to powering one classroom and was funded through a state grant.

6. Old Business

No old business.

7. New Business

- Nominations for Parent Council officers will take place at the March meeting.
- Officer elections will be held at the April meeting.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.