

Canon-McMillan School District Parent Council

Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2010

The November meeting of the 2010/2011 Parent Council was called to order at 9:39am on Friday, 11/19/10 at Hills-Hendersonville Elementary School by Jan Lawrence – Parent Council President. There were 29 people in attendance.

Mr. Theodore welcomed everyone to Hills-Hendersonville and introduced 4th grade student volunteers.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the amended September 2010 and October 2010 meetings were unanimously approved as distributed by Sue Harouse and seconded by Michele Belfiore.

Reports

Featured Speaker:

Mr. Jonn Mansfield, Director of Transportation -

- Online under the transportation department you can find 10 frequently asked questions regarding transportation, plus snow procedure.
- Discussed the training requirements for bus drivers in our district. Must be 18 years old to drive a school bus. Air brakes restriction must be removed from license to operate a school bus. Drivers must have clearances and go through 14 hours of class time and 6 hours of one on one driving instruction with a certified instructor before a bus drivers test can be scheduled at a state driver licensing center. Mr. Mansfield is a certified instructor. Licensed Pa. School Bus Drivers must recertify with 10 hours of retraining every four years in order to keep the bus license. Annual physicals are required for drivers.
- Drivers are issued a district driver manual to address safety issues, student issues, and procedures. Drivers have been trained in the areas of CPR, epi pen, disinfecting interior / seats and floors, body fluid clean up, mock fire drills, mock fight drills, mock evacuations, and special needs seminars.
- Bus safety requirements were discussed. Federal and state requirements are followed in construction of the bus all the way to the bus colors of yellow and black.
- There are 4 mechanics maintaining our districts fleet of approximately 60 school buses and other maintenance vehicles. Spare buses are maintained and ready to transport students in case of maintenance problem is found on the regular bus before its scheduled route.

- Question: If special needs student got on a bus/van without a seatbelt, can you call and request a seat belt retro fit? Answer: Transportation Department will do whatever is required for special needs student based on safety, legal parameters, and IEP team decisions.
- Question: What are the rules for 3 in a seat on the school bus? Answer: There is a maximum occupancy for each bus seat. (3 students in a seat maximum)
- Question: How often are clearances reviewed? Answer: They (drivers) are not required to update clearances. Driver license records are reviewed and any traffic violation must be reported to the director asap. All drivers are subject to random drug and alcohol testing and post accident testing as required.
- Question - Is there an emergency bus number if child does not come home on the bus? Answer - no. Calls first should be directed to the building principal or secretary. The Transportation Department phone number is: 724-745-1549.
- Question– Do we have to ride private students to their schools? Answer: Yes, within a ten mile distance of the district borders.
- Buses have cameras, but not enough recorders are available for all the buses. They move the recorders around to address issues.
- Students will stay on the bus and not be released unless they are transported to their assigned school or bus stop. Bus passes signed by the building administrator are the only exception.

School Reports:

Mrs. Tomicek (South Central) –

- Santa Shop scheduled
- Family Fun Night will be on December 10th – Cookies with Santa.
- Will be having their holiday programs, PTA holiday parties and school sing along. The music teacher put songs on power point.

Mr. Theodore and Mrs. Brose (Muse and Hills-Hendersonville) –

- Successful pumpkin patch.
- Tonight family game night, over 200 expected.
- Wellness day was yesterday.
- Holiday programs coming up in December. Happy holidays.

Mr. Taranto and Mr. Shrag (Canonsburg Middle School) –

- Last week, student play Raggedy Ann and Andy was a success.
- December 5th annual Girls Night Out has grown from 25 to 132 students. Will provide workshops for girls from nail painting to self defense.
- Holiday concerts for band and chorus coming up in December.

Mr. Hall (High School) –

- Santa Fund in December provides things for students in need. If you know someone contact a guidance counselor. Will be hosting spaghetti dinner for fundraiser, plus bake sale.
- On December 12th, 23 students will have a telethon on CMTV.
- Band and chorus concerts a success.
- Both boys and girls soccer did very well in playoffs.

Mr. Abbondanza (North Strabane Intermediate) –

- Toy drive going on with children's hospital organized by Diane Dolanch.
- 6th grade fun night was success.
- Laser show was performed for students.

Mr. Chambers (Cecil Intermediate)–

- Math competition was held at Duquesne University.
- The Yearbook is run by 6th grade students this year.
- Card thrower is coming for program.
- Veterans Day a moment of silence was held with student playing Taps on trumpet.

Mr. Kleinhans and Mrs. Dziak (First Street and Cecil Elementaries) –

- Late October students took part in live web chat hosted by Taylor Swift and Nick Cannon regarding reading and literacy.
- Book fair coming up.
- Holiday parties, Radio Disney program and energy conservation program coming up.
- Won grant for \$8300 from Highmark to buy Wii equipment.

Mrs. Kazos and Mrs. Unitas (Borland Manor and Wylandville Elementaries) –

- VIP day.
- County commissioners presented Wylandville with plaque for Blue Ribbon, students/teachers toured the court house.
- Blue Ribbon ceremony held at Wylandville.

Mr. Daniels (Assistant to the Superintendent) –

- School Board meetings include representatives from the high school student council. They present monthly by providing updates and good goings-on in the school district using Microsoft Powerpoint.
- 10 plus years Marilyn Posner, PR representative, has shared school district news for press releases in local newspapers and articles in a variety of sources like the In Canon-Mac Magazine.
- Highlights will be placed on our website, not in the mail.

Old Business

- Voted to change bylaws eliminating the treasurer's position. Attendance received redline version of changes. Laura Lapaglia motioned to define year as school year, second by Sue Harouse. All in favor. None opposed. Bylaws will be place on our website.
- Vote taken for \$77.86 to be donated to Santa Fund, motioned by Karen Fowler, second by Maria Trossman, none opposed.

New Business

- Amy Smith reported on success of Greater 19 Youth Football Championship. Championship games were hosted by Lil Mac Football Association at Canon Mac Stadium. Six Championship games were played with players in age groups from 6-7, 8-9, 10-11 and 12 years old. Three Lil Mac teams played and won all three of those championship games.
- Joni Mansmann, Director of Business and Finance, needs parents for the food service committee. First meeting will be held in January. The committee is a communication conduit between schools, administration and parents. Contact Jan Lawrence if interested.

PTA News

- \$7200 IRS penalty has been pardoned for South Central Elementary.
- CMS Student Council is sponsoring student book fair.
- NSIS PAA has created web page on NSIS website.

Blue Sheet Questions

1. What is the status of Wednesday Activity Period at the High School? Answer from Mr. Hall – They will have activity periods, but not as frequent.

Adjournment - Karen Fowler and Jen Rush motioned meeting adjourned at 11:05am

The next general meeting will be held on January 14, 2011 at 9:30am at Wylandville Elementary

Minutes submitted by: Amy Smith