

# Canon-McMillan School District Parent Council

## Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2011

The March meeting of the 2010/2011 Parent Council was called to order at 9:36am on Friday, 03/11/11 at Muse Elementary School by Amy Smith – Parent Council Vice President. Jan Lawrence – Parent Council President was not in attendance. There were 30 people in attendance.

Amy Smith (Vice President) thanked Muse Elementary for hosting and the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade student volunteers were introduced.

Mr. Theodore (Muse and Hills-Hendersonville) –

- PSSA Kickoff starts 3/11.
- The following programs and activities are taking place at Muse and/or Hills-Hendersonville: Space Encounters program, Battle of the Books, Alert to the Environment, Read Across America and Wellness Days.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the February meeting were unanimously approved as distributed by Michele Belfiore and seconded by Sue Harouse.

Amy Smith – Parent Council Vice President – Printed an important article from *PTO Today*, regarding tax id information. Amy encouraged all to share the flyer with their PTA/PFO Presidents. She also passed out a ‘Wanted Poster’ for new Parent Council officers. A ballot was sent around and will be sent around in April.

### **Featured Speakers:**

Lyn Crouse – Director, Greater Canonsburg Public Library

- Discussed Reading Makes Cents fundraiser.
- The library serves Canonsburg, Cecil, North Strabane and all Canon-McMillan schools.
- The new Frank Sarris Public Library will be 30,000 square feet. The current library is 3,500 square feet. The new library being built will have the following:
  - Separate Children’s Department and Story Room.
  - Young Adult program and room.
  - Adult area with lots of meeting rooms.
  - Private study rooms for tutoring
  - Adult Library rooms.
- The new library will strive to be a Library Community Center with meeting rooms for parties, business conferences, and showers.
- The funding for the new library continues.
- Question – Concerning the size and capacity of the rental rooms. Answer – The largest room will seat 100. There is no alcohol allowed on the premises.
- Question - Regarding the estimated opening date. Answer – The new library is 99% completed but it is empty. The goal of the library board was to pay cash for the 5.5 million dollar building. They are continuing to ask the patrons to sponsor the building.

- Question – Regarding Accelerated Reading testing. Answer – The Canonsburg Greater Public Library is the only library in the nation to offer Accelerated Reading testing. Other library's have the books, but not the tests.

### **Reports:**

Dr. Helen McCracken (Superintendent) - Not in attendance

Mrs. Grace Lani (Director of Curriculum and Instruction) – Not in attendance

School Board Representatives – Joe Zupancic reported that the state aid may be cut by 3 million dollars. The school board is restricted on how much to raise taxes. The cuts will almost guarantee larger classes, loss of electives especially at the high school. Reassessment discussion regarding the court hearing with the County Commissioners. The last assessment was in 1981. Question – Regarding the monies from the Meadows. Answer – The monies go in to a 'kitty' that is distributed upon application. Question – How do the budget cuts affect the building of the new schools? Answer – The answer is not known.

### **School Reports:**

Mrs. Tomicek (South Central) – Not in attendance

Dr. Taranto (Canonsburg Middle School) – Not in attendance

Mr. Hall (High School) –

- The Spring Musical is this week
- Six students are in Hershey for State Wrestling Championships .
- Prom fashion show.
- PSSA testing coming up. At the High School they take a month.
- Varsity Hockey is at the Semi-Finals

Mr. Abbondanza (North Strabane Intermediate) – Not in attendance

Mr. Chambers (Cecil Intermediate)–

- 5<sup>th</sup> grader won the first Reading Makes Cents honor.
- Activity Night, PSSA testing and the Maturation programs

Mr. Kleinhans (First Street and Cecil Elementaries) –

- A First Street student was selected to present a speech and be recognized at the annual Pennsylvania Association for Federal Programs Coordinators (PAFPC) conference at Seven Springs.
- At First Street The Washington Wild Thing visited and read to the students and the PSSA kickoff breakfast was held.
- A t Cecil Elementary \$1,200 was raised for charity, the PFO sponsored a Back to Beatles program and the PSSA Carnival kickoff was held.

Maureen Corwin – Parent (Borland Manor and Wylandville) –

- At Borland Manor:
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade will be participating in the math and reading PSSA assessments.
  - The 4<sup>th</sup> grade participated in the first Battle of the Books.
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade Reading Sleepover will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- At Wylandville, the VIP days are scheduled for early April.

Mr. Daniels (Assistant to the Superintendent) –

- Mr. Daniels is the Federal Programs Coordinator. On April 4<sup>th</sup> a student (Nayah Williams) from First Street Elementary will be receiving the Title 1 Distinguished Student award.
- Canonsburg Middle School achieved the Schools to Watch honor. The formal celebration will be held in May.
- The budget cuts will affect the Extended Day Kindergarten and After School Tutoring. The objective is to prepare for the worst and to put monies in the 'pot' when preparing for the upcoming PFO budgets.
- Required bus evacuations will be completed this week.
- Question regarding the cost of field trips. Answer – The amount provided by the district is \$5 per child for school sponsored field trips. The Club trips are paid for out of pocket by the students.

**Old Business** - None

**PTA News** - None

**New Business**

- Jan Lawrence - Parent Council President – will send out the Don't Drink and Drive letters.

Adjournment – Suzanne Campbell and Vicki Whited motioned meeting adjourned at 10:35am.

The next general meeting will be held on April 15, 2011 at 9:30am at the High School

Minutes submitted by: Maureen Corwin