

Canon-McMillan School District Parent Council

Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2011

The October meeting of the 2011/2012 Parent Council was called to order at 9:30am on Friday, October 21, 2011 at Canonsburg Middle School by Shianne Kampf, Parent Council President. After the pledge of allegiance and opening remarks she submitted the September, 2011 minutes for review and approval.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 2011 meeting were unanimously approved as proposed by Amy Smith and seconded by Jennifer Rush.

Guest Speaker: Greg Sulc, N. Strabane Township Director of Parks & Recreation

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Canonsburg, PA 15317

Mr. Sulc gave a presentation to the group concerning the state of the newly renovated North Strabane Township Park. The new park facilities include, but are not limited to:

- Two baseball/softball fields complete with dugouts, concessions and restroom facilities
- A 500 car capacity parking lot
- \$1 million football/soccer/lacrosse field with synthetic surface and bleachers
- Lighting for the above mentioned fields
- Five picnic pavilions for rent to the public
- Paved asphalt walking trail through out the park
- New playground near the baseball/softball fields

The above listed facilities will be under surveillance 100% of the time by a combination of cameras and police officers. A license plate surveillance system will be installed next year. This will help to track registered child predators and pedophiles. It is expected that the fields will be rented by various sports clubs with some open time set aside for the general public. The township is currently involved in talks with the YMCA to lease them land in the park to build a fitness center complete with indoor gym/basketball facilities and a swimming pool. The soft opening for the park is set for this fall with a grand opening planned for May of 2012.

Guest Speaker: Tonya Decker, Western Area Career & Technology Center

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<http://www.wactc.net>

Ms. Decker is a representative of Western Area Career & Technology Center (WACTC) in Houston, PA. As such, she discussed the education of Canon-MacMillan students enrolled in their programs. Students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades are eligible to attend in half-day

sessions. They attend their regular high school half of the day and WACTC the other half. All credits earned at WACTC count toward their high school diploma.

She explained there is currently a shortage of workers in skilled areas. With a three year program, a licensed welder can graduate and possibly earn up to \$76,000 per year to start. There is a 16% increase in the need for skilled labor (those holding state licenses) every year. A career open house will be held at the school on November 3rd.

The following programs are offered at WACTC:

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|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| - Automotive Mechanics | - Carpentry | - Child Care |
| - Collision Repair Technology | - Cosmetology | - Culinary Arts |
| - Electrical Occupations | - Emergency Services | - Health Assistant |
| - Heating & Air Conditioning | - Machine Shop | - Masonry |
| - Networking | - Welding | - Youth Apprenticeship |

Reports:

Dr. Helen McCracken, Superintendent - On sabbatical for the 2011-2012 school year.

Mr. Michael Daniels, Substitute Superintendent - Not in attendance

Mrs. Grace Lani, Director of Curriculum and Instruction - Present

Mrs. Lani's Report:

WACTC - A representative of Canon-MacMillan School District sits on the board of the career school. There is a partnership between WACTC, Canon-MacMillan and eight other school districts to provide technical education for high school students.

PSSA News - Seniors who have not yet passed their PSSAs will have the opportunity to take them again next week. Test scores did come up from last year. There was a 20% gain in scores at the High School in two years' time. "Common Core" is now the national standard. We will be here (at the standard) in 2014. They are starting to overlap now. Mrs. Lani fielded questions from the attendees concerning testing in the schools and the various related logistics and study issues.

Budget - The current budget was discussed as it relates to class offerings, staffing restraints and class size.

School Reports:

Mr. Shrag, Assistant Principal at Canonsburg Middle School – Presented the following reports as submitted by each school's principal and/or assistant principal. For a complete listing of school principals, please visit the Canon-McMillan website <http://www.cmsd.k12.pa.us>

High School

PSAT testing on October 12th went very well. Over 400 juniors and sophomores participated in the test.

The Guidance Department is sponsoring a Financial Aid Night on October 25, 2011,

6:00pm at the high school auditorium. All district parents are invited to learn about the college financial aid process.

North Strabane Intermediate School and Cecil Intermediate School

CIS's Olweus Bully Prevention Program kicked off with a BMX stunt show on October 13th.

Class meetings started October 17th.

NSIS kick off is set for October 25th with teachers doing a few skits. Class meetings will start on the 26th.

Terra Nova testing for 6th grade students at both schools will be the week of October 24th.

First Street Elementary and Cecil Elementary

Family Fun Night was October 21st at First Street.

A Chuck E. Cheese night is planned.

Both schools will host Red Ribbon events.

Both schools will hold fall parades and parties.

Hills-Hendersonville Elementary and Muse Elementary

Muse Elementary School teamed up with California University of Pennsylvania's South-Pointe Center and hosted a Heart-Walk on September 22nd to support the American Heart Association. The walk took place from 4 to 5 p.m. with parents and children walking around the school building and surrounding area. Children also participated in various outdoor activities. They raised \$600 and were awarded the Top Fundraiser for the California University South-Pointe Center. The university reached their goal of \$2,500 in donations.

Their annual Pumpkin Patch is coming up on October 28th from 6-8 pm. There are games and activities planned for the evening.

Both buildings participated in Jumpstart's "Read for the Record". The book, *Llama, Llama, Red Pajama* by Anna Dewdney was read to all students in both schools on October 6th.

Last year more than 2,057,000 children participated in the program by reading *The Snowy Day* and they hope to break that record this year.

Borland Manor Elementary and Wylandville Elementary

Fall parades are set for 1:30 pm with a party to follow at 2:00 pm on October 31st.

VIP Day for kindergarten at Borland Manor is set for November 23rd.

VIP Day for first grade at Wylandville will also be held on November 23rd.

South Central Elementary

Held a Family Bingo Night.

Rewarded a skating party for their fundraising efforts.

Fall parades and parties will be held on October 31st.

Happy Homework Parent Workshop will be presented by staff on Thursday November 3rd, 6:30pm. Parents can contact the South Central office, if they are interested in attending.

Chuck E. Cheese Family Night is set for Monday, November 7th.

Veterans Day Program for the community will be held Friday, November 11th.

Canonsburg Middle School

Year two of Olweus is underway with a door decorating contest and a sing-off next Friday.

The fall play *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood*, is Thursday, November 17th.

Fall sports are ending and winter sports are beginning in November.

Mr. Shrag then spoke about school reform. He urged parents to educate themselves about school reform, budget cuts, class size requirements and current legislation on the table (at both the state and national levels).

PTA News - Cecil Intermediate had pre-purchased discount cards left over from their fall fundraising efforts. They have some left over that they would like to sell. However, this was not put into their original fundraising plan to have an additional selling period. The representative was asked to take the issue to the Athletic Board for their review and approval.

New Business -- None

Blue Sheet Questions:

1. *Why was there such a huge change to the meetings? This has always been a forum for parents to hear from administrators. Now, with no principals here, we are unable to ask even general questions about particular schools.*

2. *It would be helpful to have more guidance counselor input in the 7th and 8th grades to better understand how class choices affect high school choices. Also, to have the four-year academic plan that was completed in September as a freshman, actually done in the spring of their 8th grade year (would have been beneficial).*

Both above questions will be submitted to Mr. Daniels for his subsequent response.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jennifer Rush and seconded by Melissa Bayne. The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am.

Minutes submitted by: Laura A. Lapaglia – Parent Council Secretary