

## Canon-McMillan School District Parent Council

### Meeting Minutes – September 23, 2011

The first meeting of the 2011/2012 Parent Council was called to order at 9:34am on Friday, September 23, 2011, at North Strabane Intermediate School by Shianne Kampf, Parent Council President. After the pledge of allegiance and opening remarks, she submitted the May, 2011 minutes for review and approval.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the May 2011 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed by Maureen Corwin and seconded by Jennifer O'Neill.

#### **Old Business –**

**Presentation of Updated Bylaws:** The Canon-McMillan School District Parent Council Bylaws were presented to the group in attendance with the following changes/updates to be voted upon:

**Article V - Meetings** *“The meetings of this organization shall be held monthly from September to May or as deemed necessary by the Administration and/or as requested by the officers of the Council and approved by the Central Office Administration. Otherwise, the meetings shall be held as scheduled at the first meeting of the school year. The meetings are open to all parents of students in the Canon-McMillan School District with legitimate educational concerns. If convenient, meetings will be scheduled on the third Friday of the month. The membership shall have advance notice of meetings. A majority of the total number of eligible voting members present at a meeting shall constitute a quorum.”*

#### **Article IX - General Rules**

The following verbiage will be removed: *“The district will allocate up to \$100 (reimbursable with receipts) to each school that hosts a Parent Council monthly meeting.”*

The following wording will be updated to read as follows: *“When possible, and preferably annually, a notification will be placed on the district website, in the district-wide publication, Highlights, to explain the role and function of our Parent Council, encourage meeting attendance, and indicate meeting dates.”*

The above listed changes and/or corrections were then put to a vote and subsequently approved by the members in attendance. Amy Smith made the motion to approve with Jennifer Davis providing a second.

**Guest Speaker: Canonsburg Mayor, David H. Rhome**

68 E. Pike Street  
Canonsburg, PA 15317  
724-745-1800 Ext. 16  
[Mayorhome@canonsburgpolice.com](mailto:Mayorhome@canonsburgpolice.com)

Mayor of Canonsburg since January 2010.

Assistant Fire Chief for 33 years.

Drug Safety – On October 29<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., the Canonsburg Police Department will sponsor another Drug Take Back Day at Shop'N Save on Pike Street. They will be collecting old prescription drugs with no questions asked. The last collection they sponsored in April resulted in approximately 50 pounds of old drugs being taken off the streets.

Volunteerism - The mayor emphasized the importance of volunteering in our community. He stated we need to work together as a team - - the community, school, hospital, fire department, etc...to the betterment of all.

### **Featured Speaker: Lyn Crouse, Director of Frank Sarris Public Library**

Frank Sarris Public Library  
35 North Jefferson Avenue  
Canonsburg, PA 15317  
724-745-1308  
[www.franksarrislibrary.org](http://www.franksarrislibrary.org)

Ms Crouse and her staff are absolutely thrilled to be in their 30,000 sq. ft. building. It is up to date, clean and bright with meeting rooms, a computer lab, children program room, kitchen, teen program room, etc.... Meeting rooms are available for rent to card holders and district residents.

The library serves the entire Canon McMillan School District including all students of Cecil, Canonsburg and N. Strabane.

1275 students attended their summer reading club.

Summer reading students took a field trip to a coal mine; Duquesne Incline; Gateway Clipper Fleet; Cathedral Learning, Nationality Rooms.

The library is part of the PA Public Libraries Association and therefore part of the Department of Public Education.

All programming is developed and presented by certified teachers.

The Library receives support from the school district.

Ms Crouse proposed we consider field trips to the library. We can hold them in conjunction with other presenters to provide a more enhanced learning experience for children.

The library boasts an Accelerated Reader Department where the school children can take tests, print their results and submit them to teachers for credit in the AR program.

Monster Mash Bash will be held on the Saturday before Halloween (October 29). This includes a scavenger hunt through downtown Canonsburg. Children can earn prizes and receives treats. This event culminates in a party at the library for all participants.

Please visit [www.canonsburgboro.com](http://www.canonsburgboro.com) or [www.franksarrislibrary.com](http://www.franksarrislibrary.com) for more

information.

**Reports:**

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

Mr. Michael Daniels will be acting as "Substitute Superintendent" in her absence.

School Board Representative – Joe Zupancic in attendance

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

**Mr. Michael Daniels' Report:**

Mr. Daniels introduced a new format for Parent Council. Due to budget constraints, and the reduction in administrative staff, only the Principal or Assistant Principal from the host school will be present at Parent Council meetings. This principal will then give a report listing the newsworthy events occurring at the other schools in the district. This will allow the other administrators more time to accomplish business at hand.

Grants - Grants were cut at the state level. ABG - Accountability Block Grant program provides us with after-school tutoring and helps with extended-day kindergarten programming. Of the monies that were cut, \$186,000 was later returned, allowing us to address class size issues by hiring two elementary level teachers.

Class Sizes - We are looking at the number of children at the elementary level. The third grade classes at Cecil Elementary currently have 29 children. We have monitored this situation, and have recently received permission from the board to go to the budgetary reserve to hire a teacher. We are hoping to have the additional teacher begin by October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Curriculum Director - Mrs. Lani is watching things closely with other administrators to see what issues need to be addressed. She is keeping a "pulse" on this issue, while mindful that funds are limited.

Budget Constraints - With the budget cuts, a lot of things were on the "chopping block" this year. Band was saved for our fourth grade students. We are watching the larger classrooms to see how the kids are learning this year. We can readdress this during the year as needed. Foreign Language - Question from attendee: "What happened with foreign language?" We have kept it in the curriculum this year. We cannot guarantee we will offer it next year. Every year we will have to look at the budget. This year, we planned using the 07/08 numbers. We are one of the only districts in the area not to furlough it's staff. Staffing cuts/eliminations were made through attrition. Our administrative staff helped by agreeing to salary freezes for this school year. We are expecting approximately 100 children to enter the school district this year. We need to plan to handle this influx.

Dr. McCracken is still the Superintendent. However, she is on a full year sabbatical until June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Mr. Daniels reiterated he is serving as 'Substitute Superintendent' in her absence.

One of Mr. Daniels' goals is to get out in the community and develop partnerships.

All-Clad Metalcrafters, LLC recently donated cookware to the Canon-McMillan football booster to help them raise funds for their program. Mr. Daniels reported that All-Clad will also allow students from our high school to visit their site and help them solve a "problem". Technology and Robotics classes from the High School went to All-Clad to see the production process. This is an opportunity for students to transition what they have

learned in school into a 'real world' environment. Mr. Daniels cited the above partnership with All-Clad as a step toward building community relationships.

**PTA News** - None

**New Business** -- None

**School Reports:**

Mr. Abbondanza (North Strabane Intermediate) – 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

Fall sports are underway with great success and participation at the high school level.

Fall play will be James and the Giant Peach.

Hall of Honor will be held tonight at the stadium prior to the game.

Canonsburg Middle School

The fall play will be The Somewhat True Tales of Robin Hood.

CMS was the recipient of the Education Leadership Award for their partnership with W & J College and Junior Achievement.

South Central Elementary

PTA sponsored a tailgate for the first Canon-McMillan home football game on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. It was a great time with hotdogs; the CMHS drum line, flag team; and the CMHS cheerleaders.

Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> will be a family BINGO night.

First Street Elementary

Open House was a success with our Chinese Auction raising funds.

We are looking forward to Fall Family Night.

Cecil Elementary

At Open House, we raised over \$2,000 for Baskets for the Needy program.

Wylandville Elementary

The PFA will hold their Fall Carnival on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Individual pictures will be taken on Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Borland Manor Elementary

The Borland Manor Fall Carnival will be held on Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Muse Elementary

Our students will be participating in Read for the Record again this year. It is set for Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup>.

Open House went well with a Chinese Auction raising funds.

Hills-Hendersonville Elementary

We will participate in Read for the Record again this year against Muse Elementary. Our annual Pumpkin Patch will be coming in October.

North Strabane Intermediate School/CIS

We have a new autistic support classroom run by Mrs. Jill Cronin. An Autism Awareness program will be presented to the whole 5<sup>th</sup> grade on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Blue Sheet Questions:**

**1. What happened to 'activity time' in the High School?**

Mr. Daniels responded: There are no plans at this time to reinstate activity time at the high school. While we encourage students to be active in school clubs, our current funding restraints do not allow us the luxury of providing time away from class for these activities. In the interest of our children's education, we also need to ensure that PSSA scores are kept at a competitive level.

**2. Can the Alert Now System be used to report students at the High School that are absent or tardy with an automated call to the parent(s)?**

Mr. Daniels responded: Right now, although the system has that capability, we do not utilize it in that manner.

One parent expressed concerns about her child being dropped off at the wrong school bus stop. Mr. Daniels expressed his concerns to this parent and then suggested she address this issue directly with Matt Harding the new Director of Support Services for the district. **Phone:** 724.745.1502, ext 2 - 9:00AM to 5:00PM, ext 3 - 7:00AM to 9:00AM .

**3. Who receives the profits from ticket sales at the high school football stadium?**

Football admission receipts go to the athletic fund. The Band Boosters operate a concession stand that benefits the marching band.

Question from parent: Does the district own McDowell Fields?

The district leased the fields for a period of 99 years from North Strabane Township for a nominal fee of \$1.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

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