

# Parkland Community Advisory Council

January 20, 2011

**CO-PRESIDENTS**

Nicole Mandry  
David Hein

**VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP**

Deb Martin

**SECRETARY**

Melissa Maggioncalda

**ATTENDEES :** Lisa Adams, David Hein, Ann Segan, Nicole Mandry, Melissa Maggioncalda, Melissa Grube, Ismail Kashkoush, Ben Gulledge, Robert Fager, Lisa Hayducek, Deb Martin, Linda Perlman-McKenna, Mary Braccili, Carol Facchiano

**GUESTS :** Marie Maritch, Kathy Rembisz, Dave Briggs, Michelle Wahlmark, Lisa Lantier

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Tara Imdorf, Tonya Bruder, Cheryl Smith

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:** Eugenia Kim, Jack Huang

**SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:** Roberta Marcus (excused)

**ADMINISTRATION:** Richard Sniscak-Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Donohue, Superintendent

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by David Hein at 7:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes from David Hein was made by Linda Perlman-McKenna, and seconded by Lisa Hayducek.

**PRESENTATION:**

**“Future Visioning – Budgets/Legislative Update”**

**Dr. Louise E. Donohue, Superintendent**

**Mr. John A. Vignone, Director of Business Administration**

Dr. Donohue initiated the presentation by remarking that the 2011-2012 budget planning began prior to the passing of the 2010-2011 budget. The district is using the accelerated time-line due to the Act 1 process. There have been many budgetary constraints and lost revenue over the past few years.

Mr. Vignone remarked that the budget has had less than a 3% increase in expenditures over the years. The district can only control its expenditures but is faced with the challenge of businesses properties being reassessed back to 1991 levels. The result has been a loss of about \$4 million in revenue for the district.

The budget for the upcoming school year will go through three stages; preliminary (2/15/11), proposed (5/24/11), and final (6/28/11). This is required by Act 1. The final budget cannot exceed the Act 1 index (1.4% or about \$1,267,736) plus exceptions (granted by the state).

Mr. Vignone pointed out that the primary concerns of revenue stem from the decline in the real estate market, real estate appeals for commercial/industrial properties, low interest earnings on investments for the district, and changes to existing funding for mandated programs (loss of

federal dollars and, likely, state funding due to the change of power and budget at the state level.). Unfortunately, the preliminary budget must be addressed prior to knowing what these numbers will be because of the Act 1 timeline.

The district works diligently at controlling its expenditures in multiple ways. They will assess the use/purchase of school supplies and programs, personnel reductions, retirement incentives, and continue striving to reduce expenditures for rising petroleum and electricity costs. Obviously, this is very challenging given many unknowns about federal and state funding for programs and grants.

**STUDENT REPORT:** Jack Huang—Class of 2012, Eugenia Kim—Class of 2011.

The student representatives provided information on Parkland High School events.

- High School students have been enjoying waking up in the morning to Dr. Donohue's voice announcing that school was closed due to the many storms we have experienced.
- Despite suffering four losses due to a mistake concerning one of the dates, the Debate Team were able to rally back and finish at a strong second place, right behind Emmaus who was ahead of Parkland only by a single win. The Team will be going to the semi-finals.
- Midterm exams will be given next week.
- Course registrations for next year are in progress.
- The National Honor Society has been doing a number of service activities such as the *Read Across America* night scheduled for March 2, 2011.
- Winter sports are now in full swing, with swimmers, divers, wrestlers and basketball players practicing and competing each day.

**SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: Roberta Marcus**

Mr. Sniscak provided the School Board Report in Mrs. Marcus' absence as follows:

Governor Corbett has filled key posts in his new administration. During his inaugural speech he stated the following:

*I believe in Pennsylvania and I believe in Pennsylvanians. And in those beliefs is a certainty that the best way to embrace innovation -- the best way to make us competitive -- is to make us competitive in education. Today, our students compete not only with those from the other 49 states, but with students from around the world. Our education system must contend with other nations and so we must embrace innovation, competition and choice in our education system.*

Senators Piccola and Williams have introduced Senate Bill 1: taxpayer funded tuition voucher legislation called " Opportunity Scholarship and Educational Improvement Tax Credit Act that would provide tax-funded tuition vouchers to students in low-income families attending under-performing schools to be used for either public, private or religious schools. The bill includes an increase of \$25 million for the program. PSBA is opposed to any legislation that would provide direct financial aid to, or tuition tax credits or vouchers for, students enrolled in nonpublic schools.

Education Week magazine released the Quality Counts report which ranks PA 7th in the nation for K-12 student achievement.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Positive feedback was given about the tour of our nursery school at PHS.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was no new business.

**ROUNDTABLE:** A “flurry” of thanks was given to Dr. Donohue and Mr. Vignone for their thorough presentation.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** At 8:30 p.m. David Hein called for a motion to adjourn. Ann moved, with Ben Gullede seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Maggioncalda