

# Parkland Community Advisory Council

January 21, 2010

## CO-PRESIDENTS

Nicole Mandry  
David Hein

## VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP

Deb Martin

## SECRETARY

Melissa Maggioncalda

**ATTENDEES** : Nicole Mandry, Lisa Adams, Ismail Kashkoush, Mark Hanichak, Melissa Grube, Melissa Maggioncalda, Ann Segan, Bob Fager, Linda Perlman-McKenna, Carol Facchiano and Deb Martin.

**GUESTS** : Nina Weiss, Tonya Bruder

**ABSENT/EXCUSED:** Melody Terrano, David Hein, Cheryl Smith, Stephanie Hodges, and Shital Rane

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES:** Tyler Coulton and Eugenia Kim

**SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:** Roberta Marcus

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Nicole Mandry at 7:01 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve the minutes from November 19, 2009 was made by Lisa Adams, and seconded by Melissa Maggioncalda.

**PRESENTATION:** The Role of the Superintendent and the Board of School Directors  
The 3 R's - Roles, Responsibilities, and Relationships

**Robert E. Bold**

President, Parkland Board of School Directors

**Roberta M. Marcus**

School Board Member, President PA School Boards Association

**Louise E. Donohue, Ed.D.**

Superintendent of Schools

Louise Donohue introduced the above mentioned topic and presenters. She also welcomed Mark Hanichak and Lisa Adams, CAC members, as the newest members to the PSD School Board. Dr. Donohue expressed that she is very pleased with the board's professionalism and service as role models for the community.

Roberta Marcus gave a brief history of school boards and public education. She specifically made mention of Pennsylvania's Free School Act of 1834 which was a foundation for public education. Historically, it was recognized that an education made students better citizens who could "promote and preserve democracy." Mrs. Marcus sited that Pennsylvania was the first state in which local

people elected members to its school board association. These members serve in the best interest of public education and provide representative-based decision making. In addition, the board works closely with other organizations.

Robert Bold provided an overview of the role of the board. He expressed that the board does not "run the schools" but, rather, serve as "overseers" who help set policy and goals. The board votes on proposed budgets, sets taxes, develops an understanding of mandates, and evaluates the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Bold explained that each member of the board should be acting for all of Parkland's community and not just those who voted for them. They also must serve on sub-committees and study the impact of policy on student achievement.

Louise Donohue outlined the role of the Superintendent. In order to qualify for the position, a candidate must have been a certified teacher, served as a principal for a minimum of five years, completed necessary coursework, and received a letter of eligibility. The Superintendent's role is to manage the district and make recommendations to the board. They work very closely with the board but do not vote.

Mr. Bold concluded the presentation with his role as the President of the Board. The president must run two public meetings each month, deal with questions from the press, and address any problems with members of the board.

#### **STUDENT REPORT: S. Tyler Coulton-Class of 2010, Eugenia Kim-Class of 2011**

- Fifteen high school students and four middle school students have qualified for the PMEA District 10 Band and Orchestra which will be held in Fleetwood on February 11-13, 2010. Several students advanced to state orchestra.
- The winter sports season is fully underway.
- The Ice-Bowl, a non-varsity football game played in teams of 8, took place on the evening of January 21, 2010.
- The Debate Finals will be held at Emmaus High School on Feb. 2, 2010. The following schools will be competing: Nazareth, Northampton, Emmaus, and Parkland.
- The PAC Children's Show "The Adventures of Flat Stanley" will be performing January 23-24, 2010 at PHS.
- It's the time of year for midterms and course registration.
- There will be a trip to Costa Rica during the week of President's Day holiday.
- Parkland's will compete for the first time in the Mock Trial Competition on Feb. 16, 2010 in Reading.

#### **SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: Roberta Marcus**

With regard to the update on the construction of the Fred J. Jandl Elementary School, Mrs. Marcus reported that efforts are being made to make the project as cost-effective as possible. To that end staff members, furniture and supplies will be moved from existing schools for use at the new school.

Also on the topic of controlling costs, the Board approved bids for petroleum and electric saving over \$600,000. With the current financial situation, this budget year will be difficult. The Board passed a resolution under Act 1 stating publicly that we will not go beyond the 2.9% index given to us by the state for the 2010-2011 district budget.

Mrs. Marcus donated the Flag of Liberty and Learning to the district. It was presented to her upon becoming President of the Pennsylvania School Board Association (PSBA).

With regard to legislative issues, Mrs. Marcus reported on the initiative "The Race to the Top" (RTTT) Grant. It is a new federal competitive grant program to support advances in standards and assessments, state data systems, teacher distribution, and assistance to struggling schools. When districts are approved, it would translate to Federal dollars for states with a possibility that Pennsylvania could receive \$400 million. Parkland attempted to apply but was turned down by PDE due to modification of the application forms. It is expected that President Obama will ask for an additional \$1.3 billion to extend RTTT to include direct funding for school districts.

Gov. Rendell will present his final state budget on February 9. States revenues continue to be below expectations and this will result in a more difficult budget process.

The Pennsylvania House Education Committee will discuss Virtual High School Commission's recommendations in the areas of governance and oversight, costs and funding, curriculum and program quality.

The Center for Public Education released an analysis of *Education Week's* annual special report: *Quality Counts 2010*. Overall, the nation received a grade of C in the six areas of policy and performance; Pennsylvania received a B-. The Center also released a new report: "Chasing the College Acceptance Letter" that examines the credentials needed to get into a competitive college. Taking harder and higher-level courses, especially in math and science, would do more to increase their chances of acceptance than would a higher GPA. A higher score on college entrance exams beats out a higher GPA.

**OLD BUSINESS:** There was no old business to report.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Carol Facchiano was welcomed as a new member to the CAC.

**ROUNDTABLE:** There were praises for a wonderful presentation and pride for PSD's involvement in Haitian relief. Lisa Adams also remarked that her experience with CAC was very helpful in obtaining her a seat on the PSD school board.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** At 8:33 p.m. Nicole Mandry called for a motion to adjourn. Mark Hanichak moved, with Bob Fager seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Maggioncalda