



Sheridan Association of Parents and Teachers

Support ~ Cooperation ~ Communication ~ Educational Enrichment

Sheridan APT Board Meeting-April 23

Meeting started at 9:35 am

Room Parents and Board Members present: Chun, Frekko, Hayes, Houston, Kotlarz, Matson, Rother, Sands, Schlemm, Scully, Swartout, Whisler, Shinn, Wilkinson, Gauthier, Marks, Curry, Doheny,

Guest Speakers:

Lauren Fagel, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Technology and Assessment K-12

Lori Wilcox, Executive Director of Growth and Talent Development K-8

I am pleased to report to you that the Inspiration Block recommendation for Cherokee School was approved by the Board of Education last evening.

- Read the report here
<http://www.lfboe.net/d67public/meetings/April_22_2014/Reports/AWorld_Language_Programming_Report.pdf>

This concept offers engaging and unique choices for all students who attend Cherokee in the areas of Language Acquisition or Inquiry/STEM-Inspired Learning. In both Inspiration Blocks, students will study science and social studies in an integrated fashion.

Major benefits of the Inspiration Block initiative include:

- Placement of ALL students across homerooms, ensuring a common experience for all students
- Alignment with Mission/Vision
- Interdisciplinary study for every child
- Common schedule to facilitate interventions and enrichment
- Bridges math experience in English for every child
- Increased collaboration across the building and disciplines
- Co-planning experience for Mandarin teachers
- Elimination of small cohorts of students upon full implementation
- Exciting opportunities for all students in grades K-4

For more details about this exciting new initiative, or to submit a question, please visit our website <<http://www.lakeforestschools.org/district-departments/curriculum/lf67-curriculum/inspiration-block/index.aspx>> .

Principal's Report: Dr. Michele Shinn

We just completed the NWEA testing.

Family Sharing night is Thursday, April 24. Hope to see everyone there!

We are in the process of planning for next year's student classroom placements. Any requests should be shared with your classroom teacher sooner than later.

Staffing is being finalized for next year based on class sizes and how many classes per grade. 42 incoming Kindergarten students are enrolled!

President's Report

*Thank you for joining us. Today we are welcoming guest speakers **Lauren Fagel**, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, Technology, and Assessment K-12 and **Lori Wilcox**, Executive Director of Growth and Talent Development K-8*

BALANCE

Inspirational Quote of the Month

“Some stories don’t have a clear beginning, middle and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what’s going to happen next. Delicious ambiguity.” -Gilda Radner

As we approach the time of year filled with endings, let’s all remember that with each ending there is a beginning and an opportunity to create what lies ahead. I just wanted to take a moment to thank all of you for your support over the past two years. I have enjoyed working with you and representing our school in a variety of capacities. Being the APT President at Sheridan has been a wonderful experience. I have learned so much and have gained a deeper appreciation of just how much our organization does to support our school and our district. I am thrilled to be passing the torch to Kate Rother who I am confident will be an outstanding leader for our community.

Calendar & Communication

Sheridan APT Old/New Board Luncheon May 21st. Details to come. Please mark you calendar and plan to join us for this lovely afternoon.

School Calendar Adjustments

June 5, 6, and 9 will be full days of school.

June 10 will be the last half day of school.

REFLECTIONS

Carmen is going to begin reaching out to everyone in the months ahead asking that you turn in a reflection on your position that can be shared with the next person to take on your role. Please be sure to get these to her in a timely manner.

Highlights from the APT Executive Board Meeting

For more details about any of the following topics please see the APT Executive Board minutes posted on their website.

Role of the School Board – Lesley Fisher

Lesley Fisher spoke to us about the School Board election process, current work, and responsibilities of board members. Terms are 4 years in length. There are 7 members including 3 officers. Once elected, they go through Illinois Association of School Board training and orientation provided by our local administration. Their role is to be a trustee of the community and school district as a whole looking out for the best interests of all not representatives of any particular portion of the community. They need to be levelheaded and unbiased in their decision

making process. They oversee educational programming, school budget, and maintenance of facilities. They own the vision of the schools and have the power to hire and fire the Superintendent. They listen and respond as needed to the public. They attend monthly BOE meetings and executive sessions, serve on BOE committees, act as liaisons to community groups, participate in workshops, and participate in additional projects and assignments as needed. They do not always agree with one another but all are committed to doing what they believe is best for our students, schools and community.

Possible Calendar Change in District 115 – Mr. Simeck

District 115 is currently considering modifying the school calendar to allow the first semester to be completed prior to winter break. This would mean school would start two weeks earlier (same time that fall sports start practicing). The details of these calendar change ideas were shared in a effort to get feedback from District 67 parents on how they would feel about similar changes being made in District 67. Mr. Simeck stressed that this topic of discussion is only in its preliminary stages and no actions or changes will happen without further discussions with parent groups as well as teachers.

District 67 Website – Anne Whipple

If you have any feedback to share about the District 67 and 115 website, they are looking to “freshen up” the website over the summer, so please provide your input.

Spirit of 67

Please consider volunteering to work a shift in the Sheridan home during this year’s Home Tour on May 8th. Contact Bridgette Doheny bridgette@doheny.com or Emily Savage emilysav@gmail.com.

Directory/Membership

Changes are in the works for how the APT’s District 67 Directory is created. We are moving to an electronic system of gathering information and releases from parents. Please be on the look out for emails with more details and be sure to respond so you can ensure that your information is accurate in next year’s directory.

Teacher Appreciation Week May 5th – 9th

Please turn in shark bites by Friday April 25th. We need lots of volunteers! Here’s a look at what we have in store for our wonderful Sheridan staff:

Monday – Breakfast treats to start the day - TREAT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Tuesday - Lunch for 60 teachers & staff generously donated by The Fresh Market

Wednesday – A midday coffee treat – COFFEE DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Thursday – Donati’s lunch delivery – BEVERAGE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Friday – More surprises in store...

**We also need volunteer to help post and take down shark bites. You can volunteer at our Volunteer Spot sign up <http://vols.pt/av5FRT>.*

4th Grade Parents

If you are interested in serving on the DPM APT Board next year when your child enters 5th Grade please contact the DPM APT President, Christie Theis at christie.theis@comcast.net.

Parent Orientation for Incoming 5th Graders

Monday, May 5th

10am - 11:00am OR 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Media Center - DPM-E

Parents of incoming 5th Grade students are invited to hear a presentation regarding the educational and extracurricular opportunities available for your children next year at the DPM-EAST campus. After the presentation there will be time for a question/answer period.

JumpStart on 5th Grade

Tuesday, May 13th

9:30-11 a.m.

The Cube at DPM

A panel of seasoned middle school parents will answer questions about their experiences on the social transition into 5th grade. Topics range from snow pants to cell phones, from play dates to uptown outings. Walk out feeling empowered so you can prepare your students for the exciting years ahead at DPM!

March/April Appreciations

Liz Scully, Tracy Lundergan and Amie Marks for holding down the fort at Sheridan's February APT meeting in my absence.

Tracy Lundergan for getting the minutes from that meeting out at the speed of light.

Laurie Whisler for coordinating National Nutrition Month at Sheridan in March and all of the lunchroom volunteers who helped with the tastings.

Kelly Huguenard and Becky Nagel for organizing a dinner for our teachers before tomorrow's Family Sharing Night.

Beth Laufeborg, Debbie Jensen, Carmen Doering and all of our classroom volunteers for their work on completing this year's yearbook.

Camile Mayer & Kristen Chun for reaching out to everyone March and April birthdays for Celebration Book Club. Also, to ***Janet Burt*** for sending thank you notes to participating families.

Emily Savage and Kristin McCain for overseeing the Earth Week poster contest at Sheridan and to all of the artists who submitted entries.

Bridgette Doheny and Kristen Chun for organizing TIME Zone for our Sheridan students throughout the year.

Kate Rother for beautifying the front of our school by refreshing our front planter for spring.

Whitney Keller, Kim Robb, Cherie Singh and Becky Nagel for planning what promises to be another fabulous Teacher Appreciation Week for our Sheridan Staff.

Bridgette Doheny and Nanci Knipfer for planning our upcoming Old/New Board Luncheon.

Hans Matson and Tim Hender for supporting our Wellness staff all year and in particular helping out with our upcoming Field Day.

Carmen Doering for helping keep all of our parents informed by submitting the APT section of the Friday Flyer each week.

Lauren Fagel and Lori Wilcox for joining us today.

Dr. Shinn and all of the amazing teachers and staff members who make Sheridan the outstanding school it is for our children each day.

Teacher Appreciation: *See President's Report for details*

Wellness Support: *Hans Matson and Tim Hender*

June 6th is Field Day!! Volunteer to be part of the fun and don't forget your sunscreen! Information will be sent home with students.

Emotional Wellness: *Micaiah Robinson*

I am really excited about this report. About a year ago we had discussed how to help parents better with the character traits and using both the school library and our LF public library. We spoke to the children's librarians and expressed an interest having a compiled book list for parents that centered around D67 character traits. This has been achieved!

On March 7th, Sheridan hosted its 2nd Family Fun Night. On this night we had stories that were read to the children by teachers that had volunteered to come in and read. We had a small turnout but those that attended seemed to enjoy the presentation. There was one large group reading and then the children could decide what classroom they wanted to go to next for the other 2 stories that they wanted to listen to. During the cookies and milk portion of the evening, that is when the parents met back in the LRC to discuss different book titles that are being recommended. At this time we also shared the Character Trait suggested book list from Kindergarten through 4th grade.

Lake Forest Book Store also has some books that they will offer a 10% discount if you mention the Sheridan Family "Reading" Night. The titles are All Joy and No Fun, Happier at Home, Character Matters, Secrets of Happy Families, and Big Disconnect.

We are planning our last Sheridan Family Fun Night for 5/2 and it will be a movie night. We are hoping to have some of the 8th graders come help with supervision.

Parent Awareness: *Brooke Garrigan and Eileen Swartout*

JumpStart on 5th Grade

Tuesday, May 13th

9:30-11 a.m.

The Cube at DPM

A panel of seasoned middle school parents will answer questions about their experiences on the social transition into 5th grade. Topics range from snow pants to cell phones, from play dates to uptown outings. Walk out feeling empowered so you can prepare your students for the exciting years ahead at DPM!

Digital Safety

The Parent Awareness team submitted a Digital Safety Proposal to the administration to propose a partnership between the APT and schools to review/enhance the curriculum for students and education for parents about student's use of technology.

Our plan moving forward is as follows:

- May/Summer 2014: Sharing information and resources that may be helpful to parents as summer approaches: What should a child do when xxx happens? Etc. We will offer information on the Technology FYI online communication discussed at our face-to-face meeting throughout the summer as it pertains to our purpose to inform parents about digital safety. Both Anne and I endeavor to bring this resource to parents prior to the end of this school year. It will be an ongoing communication with posts more or less frequent depending upon circumstances, events, and suitability of information.

- Summer 2014: A refresh of our current digital citizenship practices/curriculum to be revised this summer: What are the learning targets? What will be covered at which grade levels? This information will be posted on the district website and within the Technology FYI online communication.

- August 2014 - June 2015: Transparency throughout the school year (and beyond) about the digital citizenship curriculum: what is taught, how it is embedded into the curriculum, parent information, etc. This will occur through the Technology FYI online communication and other avenues as appropriate, like Friday Flyers.

- Fall 2014: A parent information meeting will be held, including a panel with district staff, outside “experts”, and perhaps others as we see appropriate. At this meeting I will share information regarding the district’s digital citizenship program. We intend to schedule this event once all school curriculum nights have occurred. We will consult all of you for your thoughts on the best day/time.

- There is also a tab on the APT Executive webpage called Parent Awareness. It includes technology dangers & warnings about technology used by our students.

<http://lfdist67apt.weebly.com/parent-awareness.html>

Hot Parenting Topics

Parent Awareness reps will continue to ask for “Hot Parenting Topics” at school APT meetings. Examples of Hot Parenting Topics could include homework help, balancing it all, media use, etc.

Are there any ‘Hot Parenting Topics’ that you would like us to bring forward today?
(Solicit ideas now)

If you think of other ideas, please contact Melinda or Heather at any time. Thanks!

Community Events

What’s Next for Me? Changing Times, Changing Bodies

Saturday, May 31, June 28 and Aug 9 from 9 a.m. – noon

Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital

Taught by a nurse for Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital, this class will provide accurate and concise information and assist parents in guiding their daughter through puberty and beyond. It will explore the physical, emotional, physiological and social aspects of what's normal and how to adjust to these variances in their lives.

This class is for pre-adolescent girls (9 to 12 years of age) and their mother or adult support person. Registration is required. Register at lfh.org. The fee is \$30 per couple and includes breakfast.

Board Of Education: Alana Hender and Heather Kotlarz

Videos of Board Meetings and more detailed information is also available on the District 67 website www.lakeforestschoools.org See Website for details. Board of Ed is always looking for feedback.

Community Service: Emily Savage and Kristin McCain

Please see website for full details. Check out the great posters for Earth Week!

Spirit of 67: Bridgette Doheny and Michelle Curry

The Home Tour is May 8th!! It is going to be a great Tour! Please get involved and volunteer a shift for one of the featured homes. Full details on website.

Time Zone: Bridgette Doheny and Kristin Chunn

Last two Time Zone's are May 13th and May 14th! Please see website for details!

Teacher Liason: Laura Schlemm

Next Friday, May 2 is "Family Movie Night"! The movie is Fern Gully. There will be concessions and raffles! Come join the fun from 6-7:30 pm.

May 9th is 4th Grade Spring Concert from 1:45 - 2:30pm.

Co-Secretary Report: Liz Scully and Tracy Lundergan

And Last but not Least...It is has been a great experience being Co-Secretaries for this Board.

We want to thank Suzanne Sands for being such an effective and involved President! And welcome Kate Rother to the 2014-2016 President Board position and Tish Houston who is taking over as Secretary. Have FUN!!! :)