



## APT Meeting Minutes - February 18<sup>th</sup> 9:15am – 10:30am

**Participants:** Dr. Michelle Shinn, Kate Rother, Tish Houston, Laura Schlemm, Suzanne Sands, Katie Frekko, Eileen Swartout, Becky Nagel, Lana Raines, Jessica Muller, Rae Alvarez, Michael Simeck, Lauren Fagel, Kim Moore, Shannon Shader, Ellen Trager, Laura Whistler, Meredith Gauthier, Brooke Kuehne, Alana Hender, Whitney Keller, Kate Rappel, Maria Molloy, Rachel Baker

**Student Presenters:** Mrs. Donoval's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class presented their "Lake Forest Project."

**Guest Speaker:** Mr. Michael Simeck, Superintendent of Districts 67 and 115

- Mr. Simeck is in the midst of four meetings at the various elementary schools (and an evening time) to gather additional feedback regarding the pending changes to the World Language Program. Yesterday's meeting was held at Sheridan. Mr. Simeck stated that District 67 will continue its strong commitment to a foreign language program. The upcoming changes are expected to be communicated in final form within the next few months and will be implemented for the 2015 – 2016 school year.
- There will be a space utilization study performed at Sheridan in the coming months to assess how to better utilize some of the large spaces (IRC, computer lab) in conjunction with Sheridan's current number of students.
- The results from the District's Climate Survey have just been received and will be distributed in the next week or so. This study was important as one of the messages that came out of the District-wide mission statement project was that students' emotional wellness and social well-being are valued with a similar priority as academics. This report contains a multitude of data pertaining to the emotional climate at the District schools. Mr. Simeck anticipates coming away with a few areas where positive changes can be implemented.
- The author of Mindset, Dr. Carol Dweck, will be presenting to District 67 as well as members of the community and staff on August 21<sup>st</sup>. More details on school wide discussions to follow, but all are encouraged to read this book.
- PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) testing is starting in the coming weeks across the District. This is a new test mandated by the State of Illinois replacing another student assessment that is no longer required. This is the first year of the District's participation. Mr. Simeck believes this test is positive in that it is linked to the student's curriculum and, therefore, can provide valuable data. However, Mr. Simeck believes a downside to the PARCC is the length of time it takes the students away from learning as the test takes 10-14 hours. This test is for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Mr. Simeck stated that it is unclear if Illinois will remain part of the PARCC consortium in future years given these and other limitations.
- This has been another challenging winter weather-wise and Mr. Simeck is very sensitive to the difficulty parents face when there is no school because of cold or snow. The decision to close the schools takes into account many factors. One of the primary concerns is if there was a need to evacuate the students (e.g. anything from a child inadvertently pulling the fire alarm to a real fire), the time it takes the students to walk to a place of safety could be potential harmful in frigid weather. This is not as much of an issue for Sheridan students as they could walk to LFHS. However, it would take the Cherokee students well over 15 minutes to evacuate to their safety destination, Lake Forest Country Day School. The Administration is considering various alternatives and always attempts to keep the students in school as long as it is safely feasible.

### **Principal's Report:** Dr. Michelle Shinn

- Dr. Shinn explained why there was a fully day off for the recent blizzard instead of a late start day. The students need to be at school at least 5 hours for a day to count as a full school day. If there was a late start day on a Monday early release day, the students would not be at school for this 5 hour requirement. There is a lot of thought and discussion that goes into deciding not to have school due to severe weather conditions. Teachers and staff are also disappointed with the number of these days we have had the last few years as it causes disruption to students normal weekly routines.
- Thank you to the Winter Carnival Committee and Emotional Wellness Committee for organizing a great, new theme in the upcoming Winter Carnival! There is a lot of excitement and school spirit generated in anticipation of this event. Dr. Shinn has even volunteered to have a pie thrown at her in the Pie Throwing Contest!
- Dr. Shinn has filled Mrs. Miyamoto's maternity leave position with an internal candidate. There will be an announcement shortly and a parent meeting to discuss the transition.
- Dr. Shinn explained that Sheridan has its own type of "inspiration block" that is less formal than at Cherokee, but just as productive. Sheridan has collaborations happening on-going throughout the school. One example taking place today was the science, music and art teachers collaborating in learning about sound waves. The students actually make and decorate their own musical instrument as part of the project, which happens simultaneously as part of all three subjects (e.g. music, art and science). Sheridan's motto is "We inspire students all day long (not just during a block)!"
- As Mr. Simeck mentioned, PARCC testing will be starting. There is some class time being devoted to preparation as this test is all computer-based and utilizes some concepts, such as window-within-window, highlight/copy/past, etc., that the students have not historically been exposed to. This is the first year of the test, so the data will form a base line to be used in future years for comparison. The Administration has talked with other schools that began taking PARCC last year to gain insights on what to expect.
- Please send your child(ren) to school dressed appropriately for the weather. If the students need to be evacuated for any reason, they would be going out into potentially frigid weather. Please do not send students wearing shorts during these cold months.

### **APT President's Report :** Kate Rother

- The Winter Carnival is a great example of what can be accomplished by a partnership among the teachers on the Emotional Wellness Team, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade Student Services group, and the Winter Carnival Committee. It will be a super event!
- APT Team Building Event – This annual event could potentially be a cocktail party at Kate's house, paddle event or anything else. Please email Kate with any ideas and preferences.
- Teacher Appreciation Week is May 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>. Please look out for more details to come.

### **Congratulations!:** Kate Rother

- Congratulations Suzanne Sands who is a new District 67 Board of Education member!
- Congratulations Kristen Chun and her family as they welcome our newest "mini" Sheridan APT Board Member – Olivia Chun!

### **Gratitude (a.k.a. Super Hero Corner!):** Kate Rother

- Becky Nagel and Kelly Huguenard – Staff Conference Luncheon
- Tracy Barrett, Debbie Jensen and Beth Laufenberg – Yearbook
- Wendy Darling and Tish Houston – Visiting Author – 2<sup>nd</sup> Visit Bill Buczinsky

## **APT Committee Reports**

### **Winter Carnival:** Yvonne Bruce, Kim Strothman, Kimmy Taylor

- Sheridan's first ever Winter Carnival will be held this Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 6pm - 7:30pm at Sheridan. Tickets are \$8 per person in advance and \$10 at the door. Flyers with all the details were sent home and are available on the Sheridan ATP website: <http://sheridanapt.weebly.com>. Parent volunteers are needed! If you are interested in helping out, fill out your contact information on the RSVP form or contact Yvonne Derrig at [yderrig@gmail.com](mailto:yderrig@gmail.com).
- This year's event is special as it is the first time the Winter Carnival team has teamed up with the Emotional Wellness Committee. There will be tons of fun games, dancing, an obstacle course, bubble bowling and A PIE IN THE FACE contest! So far there are several teachers, Dads and even Dr. SHINN signed up to have whipped cream pies thrown at them! Get your ticket to this great event!

### **Food Service (March Nutrition Month):** Kate Rappel, Molly O'Neil

- March is National Nutrition Month and Sheridan will be hosting three food sampling days – March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> – during the lunch periods where the students can try new fruits and vegetables. A volunteer spot sign up sheet was sent via email as there is a need for two parent volunteers per lunch shift in addition to lunch room volunteers. There will be 2 vegetables and 1 fruit provided for the students to sample. This sampling is optional for students who wish to participate.

### **Parent Awareness:** Eileen Swartout, Shannon Maguire

- Two recent community events included:
  - LEAD and the Community Wellness Task Force of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff's community conversation entitled, "How Do We Keep our Kids Emotionally Healthy and Bolster Coping and Resiliency Skills?" featuring Dr. Mark Reinecke from Northwestern University was held on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>.
  - "When Love Doesn't Conquer All" was held on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kling's Fair But Firm program is designed to work with youth exhibiting behavioral problems such as disrespect, defiance, verbal and physical aggression, truancy, and an ongoing refusal to comply with instructions from parents or teachers.
- There is an upcoming event, the SpeakUP! Prevention Coalition Meeting, to be held at LFHS West Campus on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm - 1:30pm.

### **Staff Luncheon and Teacher Appreciation:** Becky Nagel, Kelly Huguenard

- The second trimester conferences are February 26 and 27 and traditionally the APT provides a lunch for all staff on the Friday of conferences. A signup was sent through Volunteer Spot enabling Sheridan families to participate by providing parts of a meal for the teachers on February 26<sup>th</sup>. All spots are filled and set up will begin at 10:30am on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>.

### **Emotional Wellness:** Lana Raines, Micaiah Robinson

- The EW Committee teamed up with the Winter Carnival Committee for the first time this year. They have helped in the planning along with the 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who are part of the Student Services team. Additionally, the EW teachers have recruited other teachers to join in the Winter Carnival fun both in helping with games and taking part in the pie throwing contest. We thank everyone involved for their time and effort in what will be a super event this Friday night!

- The EW Committee will be hosting a University of Sheridan on Friday afternoon, May 15<sup>th</sup> at which parent/community volunteers will present 25-minute sessions to inspire the students' creativity, passions, curiosity and talents through an interactive and hands-on experience. Please visit Sheridan's EW website ([www.shewc.weebly.com](http://www.shewc.weebly.com)) where you will be directed to fill out a google form.
- The EW Committee has been working on a plan for each of Sheridan's constituency: the staff, the students, and the parents (in conjunction with the students and staff). Below is the near-term plan.
  - *For The Staff:*
    - Turn the staff lounge into a "wonderland" like they did before the winter break.
    - St. Patrick's Day Potato Bar – sign up sheets to in staff lounge
  - *For the Students:*
    - For future field trips, putting "buddy" system in place so that the younger grades travel via bus with their older grade companions.
    - "Winter Carnival" (discussed above).
  - *For the Parents/students/staff*
    - Family reading week. Each day of the week will be a grades turn to have parents come in and read (ex: Monday would be kindergarten's turn to have the kindergarten parents come in and read to that grade).
    - Sheridan Hidden Talents – looking for parents with talents to have an interactive sharing day. Working with APT on finding parents.

**Sheridan Art Update:** Ms. Tkachuk

- March is traditionally Student Arts Month. Sheridan's Annual 4th Grade Student Art Show will be March 2<sup>nd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> at *Gallery 300*, which is located on the first floor of the Admin Center at 300 S. Waukegan. There will be an Opening Reception for the entire community on Thursday night, March 5<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00pm – 7:00pm. Regular Gallery hours are Mon – Fri 7:30am – 4:00pm and on weekends during Citadel performances.
- Art Teachers at Lake Forest and Lake Bluff schools have once again been invited to select student pieces to exhibit in the annual "Emerging Artists Exhibit" at the Deer Path Art League. Sheridan will be represented by 15 incredible young artists in Grades K-3. Names will be announced in an upcoming Sheridan Friday Flyer. Students will be notified this week if they have been selected to participate. The Opening Reception is Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, from 5pm-8pm and the exhibit runs thru March.

**Spirit of 67:** Kimberly Carris,

- Thank you to everyone who has made a donation to the Spirit of 67 for the 2014 – 2015 school year! Any family who hasn't yet had the opportunity to donate, please consider any size contribution. Forms can be downloaded and donations can be made at [www.spiritof67foundation.org](http://www.spiritof67foundation.org).
- The Spirit of 67 hosted a successful Family Game Night at the end of January with over 100 families in attendance. All of the games purchased for the event were donated among the three elementary schools afterwards for use in classrooms and during indoor recess. Thank you to the event sponsor, Forest Orthodontic & Pediatric Dentistry, for their generous \$10,000 donation to the Spirit of 67 Foundation and to Suzy Swirl for providing delicious treats at the event.
- The Spirit of 67's Spring Home Tour will be held Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 3pm. Volunteers will be needed to help guide visitors through the homes. Please look out for a volunteer sign up email if you are interested in helping. Additionally, the Home Tour Program Book is currently being put together and there are numerous advertising opportunities available for local businesses, as well as

opportunities for parents, grandparents and families to give Shout Outs to their special student(s). The deadline for all program book advertising is March 2<sup>nd</sup>. For more information please contact Ami Vora at [ami.vora@hotmail.com](mailto:ami.vora@hotmail.com).

**Board of Ed Liaisons:** Brooke Kuehnle, Holly Matson, Suzanne Sands

- Please see attached minutes from the last three Board of Education meetings. Minutes are also available on the District 67 website at: <http://www.lakeforestschoools.org/board-of-education/district-67-boe/boe-meeting-minutes-archive/index.aspxmeetings>.

**Next APT Meeting – Annual All Schools:** Wed. March 11<sup>th</sup> 9:00am at Croya (at LF Rec Center)