



Sheridan School APT

Minutes from 9/18/13

Call to order by Suzanne Sands at 9:35 am.

In attendance: Kimberly Carris, Wendy Darling, Bridgette Doheny, Michelle Glyman, Meredith Hayes, Alana Hender, Tish Houston, Kelly Huguenard, Heather Kotlarz, Beth Laufenberg, Sarah Lockhart, Tracy Lundergan, Amie Marks, Hans Matson, Camile Mayer, Becky Nagel, Lana Raines, Kate Rappel, Micaiah Robinson, Suzanne Sands, Laura Schlemm, Liz Scully, Dr. Michelle Shinn, Danielle Sullivan, Eileen Swartout, Laura Whisler

Principal's Report -Dr. Shinn

The year is off to a great start. Happy to have the APT meeting back at Sheridan. There is a lot going on. The teachers are knee deep in many new things including a new math program. NWEA testing the measure of growth starts in second grade. Field trips have begun. Lunchroom is running well. More information about the ISATs and what the new scoring means will be shared in October. As always please bring any concerns you have about anything going on at Sheridan or anything you are hearing to Dr. Shinn's attention or Suzanne's attention so they can be addressed.

Guest Speaker – Nicci Hannemann, K-4 Math Program

Bridges, the new math program is produced by The Math Learning Center, a non-profit organization. The new program provides a deep understanding of math concepts. It is not a spiraling system – It continues to build upon previous concepts. Bridges uses visual models and incorporates independent and partner work. Visit the website at www.mathlearningcenter.org. The site has apps for smart phones and tablets as well as numerous other resources for families.

The focus for the learning of math facts is strategy based rather than just rote memorization. Still practice math facts at home – mix it up and keep it short. If you want more information about Developing Fluency in Math Facts see the article Nicci shared with us as a follow-up to the meeting. <http://sheridanapt.weebly.com/uploads/2/8/6/5/2865117/tla-8devfluency.pdf>

There will be a Parent University about Bridges on October 7.

President's Report - Suzanne Sands (as submitted)

Welcome to another fantastic year at Sheridan School. Our role as the APT is to provide support for our teachers, encourage cooperation with the school community, facilitate communication between school and home and provide educational enrichment for our children.

BALANCE

Balance is this year's APT Theme so I will be sharing a quote for thought at each meeting.

**Balance is not better time management, but better boundary management.
Balance means making choices and enjoying those choices. ~ Betsy Jacobson**

Communication: Website & Email

We are going to continue to use email as our primary form of communication with parents in an effort to abide by the districts efforts to be as paperless as possible. We are also going to use our website as a dynamic source of information for all things APT. At today's meeting we are going to tour the site briefly. We have a new scrapbook page for posting pictures taken at school or at APT events. Anyone can submit pictures. Plus, all information you might need about the APT can likely be found there. Carmen Doering is our Communications Coordinator. She is the person you will need to contact if you wish to send an email to all Sheridan Parents or if you would like something added to the Friday Flyer. She is also the contact person for our sandwich board that has already been used for the Beach Bash, Spirit Wear sales and this meeting. The sandwich board has already been reserved for most of our major events so be sure to check with Carmen if you need to post something. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time.

Recordkeeping and Reflections NEW Idea

This year we are going to try something new. Rather than asking people to turn in forms summarizing their roles at the end of the year we are going to reach out to people throughout the year. For example, after the Beach Bash we will send a form to the coordinators and ask for them to fill it out so we have the information for whomever is in the role the following year. Carmen will be working on coordinating this and saving all of the files using our Google account that we already have in place for email.

Meetings & Agendas

Our meetings will be at Sheridan this year. We will continue to send a reminder one week in advance of the meeting. Please be sure to reply to the reminder if you would like to be on the agenda. Also, please send Liz and Tracy a summary of what you plan to share so they can add your input to the minutes without having to take dictation during everyone's reports.

APT Membership

Please make sure that you have joined the APT and encourage your friends to do so as well. If you are unsure of your status you can check the most current list on the APT Executive Board website using the link on our homepage. A link to membership forms can be found on our Sheridan APT website home page. At this point the way to join is to fill out the form, attach a check to LF APT and return it to Kristen DeNoble at 623 E. Glenwood Rd. She is the membership chair for the APT this year.

News from the District (excerpts from the APT Exec. Board Minutes)

Andy Henrikson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources LASIC (Language Acquisition and School Integration Committee) has been formed to evaluate the Mandarin Immersion and its effects on Cherokee school, where it is housed.

- The Mandarin Immersion Program is here to stay. The program is a success with those enrolled and the committee is looking at how to make it a success for all involved, whether or not enrolled.
- The evaluation process will be thoughtful and inclusive. Tentatively, expect a recommendation from LASIC in December.

Note: I am on this committee and will be sharing news with you as it becomes available. If anyone is interested in joining the committee just let me know or contact Andy Henrikson directly.

Superintendent's Report – Michael Simeck

- People have noticed a lot of new faces in administration this year, but what may not be as obvious are those administrators who left. In fact, the District is down ½ an administrator. Costs have remained the same, since District 67 costs are down almost 1% and District 115 costs are up almost 1%.
- Shared services administration continues to benefit both Districts. It really helps to smooth the transition from 67 to 115 because we have a lot more control over coordination of curriculum, etc.
- Kelly Jackson is the new Principal at Cherokee. The shared principalship between Sheridan and Cherokee was a good stop gap, but it was important to have one principal per school. Background checks of Kelly indicate that she is an excellent fit for Cherokee and she has experience with language programs.
- Andy Henrikson is the new Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources. It's important to have an HR person who has experience as a building principal (if you're a principal, you want to call HR and talk to someone who's been in your shoes).
- Lauren Fagel is the new Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, Technology and Assessment. With this new administrative position, we have brought technology and curriculum and testing all under one umbrella.
- Lori Wilcox is the new Executive Director of Growth and Talent Development. This position will allow for seamless integration of professional development. Lori will also work closely with the math and gifted programs.
- Michael Kroll is the new Assistant Principal for DPME (5/6).
- Barry Rogers is the new LFHS Principal.

Question - Bridget Booker has been such an asset to Everett but she is now splitting her time among all the elementary schools. Will Everett lose her?

Answer – There has been an inequity the last few years because Everett has had an assistant principal, but the other elementary schools have not. Bridget will now share her talents with all the elementary schools – she has space at each school.

- Enrollment – We expected enrollment to drop by 150 kids, but it only dropped by 27. This year we have 127 new families in the District (grades 1-8), which is the largest increase in 13 years (when it was 67 more families). This resulted in some new hires over the summer, since new sections of 1st grade and kindergarten were added.

Kindergarten didn't grow as much as the other grades. We did just hire a new half-day teacher for Sheridan kindergarten.

- LFHS – increased enrollment too (about ½ from out of country)
- With respect to long term planning, the increased enrollment is a good thing. We don't want to get too small because then we have to consider whether we can sustain each building.

Communications Report – Anne Whipple

- New District website (kindergarten-12th) will launch in October. There will be many changes that we all will have to get used to, but in the end it will be much more user-friendly.
- There will be workshops held in October and November so that parents can learn how to use the new website.
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Vice President – Beth Laufenberg

- Community Wellness Task Force will have a 5k walk for suicide awareness on 9/21 at 11:15. A festival will be held from 12-5pm and proceeds benefit Lake County Suicide Task Force.
- Rec Center – 9/14 Adopt a Beach (McCormick beach cleanup), 9/21 Picnic in the park (everett park 12-2)
- LDA – grants process in progress, visit website for more info.
- Gorton – 6th grade grotto dance 9/27, 28. Saturday night sold out! Tickets for Friday still available.

NOTE: If anyone is interested in serving at a Sheridan Representative to the LDA (Learning Disabilities Association) please contact me.

September Appreciations

- Dr. Shinn and all Our Amazing Teachers and Staff for all they have done to make the transition back to school a smooth one.
- Lisa Cervieri & Keri Falls for making sure all of the School-Pak orders were delivered to the appropriate classrooms.
- Kate Rother for beautifying the front entrance by filling our lovely planters.
- Beth Laufenberg & Sarah Lockhart hosting the Kindergarten Play Date at West Park and helping deliver signs & t-shirts to welcome our Kindergarteners to Sheridan.
- Kate Rappel & Kate Rother for organizing Sheridan's Spirit Wear Sales and helping deliver signs & t-shirts to welcome our Kindergarteners to Sheridan.
- Michelle Glyman & Emily Savage for coordinating our Room Parents.
- Carmen Doering & Christine Fredericks for organizing the Fall Back to School Staff Luncheon as well as to all of the volunteers who contributed food and supplies.
- Tish Borkowski & Meredith Hayes for organizing another fantastic Back To School Beach Party.
- Meredith Hayes & Kristin Ryan welcoming our numerous new families with a new family coffee, welcome folders filled with resources, and the meet the principal meeting just prior to today's meeting.
- Emily Savage & Kristin McCain Coordinating Picture Day Volunteers and all those who volunteered to help make sure things ran smoothly.

- Vanya Kramer & Laurie Whisler for getting our Lunch Volunteer sign-up up and running on Volunteer Spot and for representing Sheridan on the district Food Service committee.
- All of our Room Parent volunteers (listed on the website) for helping organize volunteers for their classrooms and collecting email addresses so we can communicate effectively with our Sheridan parents.
- Raging Kitchen for helping us out with the New Parent Coffee & the Back to School Beach Bash.
- Niccole Hannemann for taking time to come and talk with us about Bridges – our new K-4 math program this month.

Treasurer's Report - Amie Marks

Budget is about the same as last year. The 2013-14 Sheridan APT Budget was distributed. There is no reimbursement for tax – please turn in your receipts. Reimbursement forms can be found on the Sheridan website. Money in the budget is there to be spent. If you have an idea for something please let Amie know.

Co-Secretaries- Liz Scully & Tracy Lundergan

Please be sure to check attendance sheet at each meeting. And if you are speaking at a meeting please email Suzanne, Liz and Tracy your report prior to the meeting.

Committee Reports

New Families -Meredith Hayes & Kristin Ryan (as submitted)

Working with the APT Executive Board, we prepared materials for the nearly 40 new families (27 new to Lake Forest; 11 new to Sheridan) that included information on Sheridan school and the general community. We hosted a coffee at LF beach to distribute this information and answer any questions parents had about the school experience at Sheridan. We are currently organizing a Buddy Program where we will match new families with existing families.

Parent Awareness - Brooke Garrigan & Eileen Swartout (as submitted)

The following are several community happenings that may be of interest.

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

October 26 or November 16 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.

Red Ribbon Week

October 21-25

LEAD will supply age-appropriate talking points to Parent Awareness to disseminate about talking to our kids about the meaning of Red Ribbon Week.

Red Ribbon Race

Saturday, November 2nd

8:30 a.m. at Elawa Farms

Register at www.leadingefforts.org

LEAD's Parent University Keynote Speaker

Noted author Bruce Feiler will share "The Keys to a Happy Family"

November 6th at 7 pm

Gorton Community Center

Worry About Family Dinner, Ditch Date Night and Let Your Kids Pick their Punishments? Are These the Keys to a Happy Family? Bruce Feiler is the author of five consecutive New York Times bestsellers. His latest book, *The Secrets of Happy Families* (Feb. 2013), is a bold playbook for families today. It collects best practices for modern-day parents from some of the world's most creative minds. Parents will walk away from this personal, highly practical talk with a fresh outlook on life and a host of techniques to make their families closer, stronger, and happier.

LEAD Podcasts

Can't get to a seminar? LEAD is producing podcasts for parents on the go. Available topics now include: Parenting out of Strength, Not Fear, Loving Well, and What Teenagers would like their Parents to Know". Topics will change weekly, and can be accessed through LEAD's website, leadingefforts.org

Yearbook - Beth Laufenberg, Debbie Jensen, & Carmen Doering

Beth Laufenberg will email room parents to confirm each class's photographer and yearbook coordinator.

Sharkwear- Kate Rappel & Kate Rother

Sharkwear sales are up \$500 from last year. There are some items for sale in the office that can be purchased on the spot.

Board of Education Liasons- Alana Hender & Heather Kotlarz

Alana and Heather will meet with Superintendent Michael Simeck four times a year and will be attending the BOE meetings. Please send questions and/or concerns for Mr. Simeck to them and they will take them to the meetings and report back. Their first meeting with him is 10/28 and questions are due to them by 10/14. They also asked Suzanne to add them to the APT website so people could access them that way. Suzanne has already done that. See link to their email addresses at sheridanapt.weebly.com.

Food Service - Vanya Kramer & Laurie Whisler

There is a chef now on site at DPM, where most of our food is prepared. Latin school in Chicago is going to loan us their chef once a month to help train our Sheridan staff and prepare extra items. Tuesday will always be some sort of chicken entree and Thursday will always be pizza day. Please sign-up for lunch duty, especially if you have a Kindergartner or 1st grader. You can access the sign-up from the APT website. Any concerns, contact Laurie Whisler or Vanya Kramer.

Fine Arts/Visiting Author - Kimberly Carris & Wendy Darling (as submitted)

We are pleased to announce the Amy Krouse Rosenthal, a New York Times bestselling author and former Lake Forest resident, will visit Sheridan School on September 24 and 25 from 1:15-2:30.

A special invitation has been sent home to morning kindergarten children and parents/caregivers for the kindergarten reading on September 24 from 1:15-1:30.

Look for her books on display at the IRC and the Lake Forest Library. Signed copies of Amy's books were available for purchase.

Spirit of 67 - Bridgette Doheny & Michelle Curry

Invitations to the Spirit Luncheon have been sent out. Please attend this great event and be aware it does sell out. If you haven't donated to the Spirit of 67 Foundation yet, please consider doing so. A Few Grant Highlights: The Visiting Author and Fine Arts programs are all funded by the Spirit of 67 Foundation. Sheridan (along with the other elementary schools in the district) was awarded iPod nanos for second grade along with audio book subscriptions so they can be used to support our second graders in their quest to become strong independent readers.

Back to School Beach Bash Tish Houston & Meredith Hayes

Back to School Beach Bash was a huge success. We had an excellent turnout this year at LF beach as we welcomed families old and new alike to come out to swim, picnic, and play games. Raging Kitchen did an fabulous job with table décor and snacks..

Monster Bash - Tish Houston, Michelle Burns, Carrie Cole, & Katie Frekko

Plans for an outstanding Monster Bash are in the works. Mark your calendar's this year's event will be on Friday, Oct. 25, 6-7:30pm. Volunteers are needed for shifts during the event. We will be sending out more detailed information and requests for volunteers via email.

Evening Parties & Coffees for Sheridan Parents

Please check our website for the list of parent social events planned so far.

www.sheridanapt.weebly.com