



**Sheridan School  
APT Meeting  
Minutes from January 22, 2014**

**APT Sheridan January 2014 Meeting**

Meeting started promptly at 9:30 am

**Attendees:** Carris, Frekko, Hayes, Houston, Kotlarz, Laufenberg, Lundergan, Marks, McCain, Raines, Rother, Sands, Scully, Schlemm, Singh, Swartout, Proeh, Shinn

**Guest Speaker: Margo Newtown, Sheridan's Information Literacy Instructor**

This role is constantly evolving based on the children's and the teacher's needs. Main elements of her role at Sheridan:

**TEACHER:** Margo brings years of 7th and 3rd Grade teaching to this position. Primary skills are: Information Literacy, Library Skills, Media Literacy Skills, Internet Safety Skills and Technology Tools. **RESOURCE:** Information based on Books, Websites and Articles. **TECHNOLOGY LEADER, CO-TEACHER** where needed, and **COLLABORATOR**.

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

**February is Kindergarten Registration Month!** Parents of incoming kindergarten students should plan to attend a Kindergarten Information meeting on **Thursday, February 6, 2014** from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at their home school. Parents will learn about our school and the kindergarten curriculum. After the general meeting, parents can visit kindergarten classrooms.

There will be an additional information night for parents interested in enrolling their child in the Mandarin Immersion program on **Tuesday, March 4, 2014**. This meeting will be held at Cherokee School at 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Information meetings are for parents only. Registration packets will be mailed on January 24th to families who have expressed interest in our kindergarten classes. Additional registration packets can be picked up in

our school offices.

Completed registration packets are due on or before **March 7, 2014**. Call Dr. Shinn with any questions.

***New School Resource Officer:*** A plain clothed Police Officer will be at Sheridan a few days each month. Please see Suzanne's President Report for more details.

***Educational Program Review:*** Dr. Elise Frattura will be reviewing Districts 67 and 115, results will go back to the School Board.

***Full Time Math Assistant:*** Kari Kunkle has joined the Sheridan staff. She will work with the students in small groups for Math Support.

***Preferred Building Substitute:*** Starting Monday Laura Hagnell will be our on-staff Permanent Substitute Teacher.

### **President's Report: Suzanne Sands**

*BRRRR! Wow winter is really packing a punch this year. Today we are welcoming Margo Newtown our Information Literacy Instructor to talk to us about her role here at Sheridan.*

### **BALANCE**

#### ***Inspirational Quote of the Month***

***"A well-developed sense of humor is the pole that adds balance to your step as you walk the tightrope of life." William A Ward***

Remember to enjoy the journey each day. Sometimes we get so caught up in our schedules and routines that we forget to laugh when we should be laughing.

### **Calendar & Communication**

*Our next meeting is February 26th. Our guest speaker will be Rick Schuler one of our District 67 School Board members. I have Sheridan APT notecards available for any board members who would like to send thank you notes or other correspondence as a part of your APT role. Please let me know if you need some.*

### **REFLECTIONS**

*Carmen Doering and I are trying to collect reflections from Board members electronically to begin the process of maintaining helpful records throughout the year on our Google drive that can be shared in the future as roles transition from one person to another. We are not getting much of a response from folks overall although a few people have sent in the information. Any suggestions?*

### **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.*

### **Officer Conrad Christensen, District 67 School Resource Officer**

*From the Friday Flyer Announcement:*

- Officer Christensen has 10 years of experience in law enforcement. He was selected after a collaborative interview process involving our administrators and the Lake Forest Police Department. We would like to thank the LF Police Department and The City of Lake Forest for their partnership, and for providing the support to our schools.*
- Officer Christensen will spend the majority of his time at DPM, but will also be working throughout the district on a flexible schedule. Officer Christensen will be wearing 'plain clothes,' but because he is a member of law enforcement, will be wearing his badge, and carry a firearm and radio.*
- His responsibilities at DPM may include meeting with 5-8 health classes, supervision for athletics or other large after-school events, attending technology classes to discuss social media and online safety, coordination of school safety drills, partnering with the counseling team for social group meetings, and providing connections to the curriculum. For our elementary schools, he will be primarily assisting with safety drills, traffic safety, working with curricular areas of justice, safety and law enforcement, and building positive relationships in our schools.*

### **Vision/Mission Work**

- The District is currently in the process of developing new mission and vision statements with the help of a firm that has been hired to facilitate this process. They will be seeking parent input in the weeks ahead for be on the look out for more information about opportunities to share your input.*
- Mr. Simeck is recommending that people read the book [The Smartest Kids in the World](#) by Amanda Ripley in preparation for this process. All of our school board members are currently reading it.*

***To learn more about happenings at the High School our within our district please visit the website.***

### ***January Appreciations***

- *Kiddles, Kate Rappel and Kate Rother for managing our Holiday Spirit Wear Sale.*
- *Wendy Darling, Laurie Whisler and all of our cookie volunteers for providing our staff as well as the Police and Fire Departments with yummy holiday treats in December.*
- *Beth Lafeberg, Debbie Jensen, Carmen Doering and all of our classroom volunteers for their work on the yearbook.*
- *Janet and Paul Burt for generously hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Parent Party.*
- *Camile Mayer & Kristen Chun for reaching out to everyone for Holiday Book Purchases honoring our staff as well as students with December & January birthdays for Celebration Book Club. Also, to Janet Burt for helping out with the thank you notes.*
- *Emily Savage and Kristin McCain for organizing the upcoming Bernie's Book Drive at Sheridan.*
- *Kimberly Carris and Wendy Darling for facilitating the upcoming Fine Arts Performance at Sheridan "By the Numbers" by Face to Face Productions.*
- *Kate Rother for beautifying the front of our school by refreshing our planters as needed.*
- *Carmen Doering-Clark for helping keep all of our parents informed and our website updated.*
- *Tracy Lundergan for putting together the November minutes so quickly.*
- *Margo Newtown for joining us today.*

### **Treasurer's Report: Amie Marks**

Please make sure to get any receipts to her for reimbursement.

### **Community Service: Kristin McCain and Emily Savage**

Bernie's Book Drive ends February 14th! This charity provides new and gently used books to children who don't have the opportunity or resources to obtain books on a regular basis in the greater Chicago area. Sheridan's goal is to collect 12,000 books! There will be a classroom challenge for each class, the winning class receives a GRAND PRIZE SURPRISE!!

### **Fine Arts: Kimberly Carris and Wendy Darling**

On February 5th there will be an all-school event! "By The Numbers" will be coming from Chicago to perform and entertain our children! It also includes Language Arts, Reading and Math as part of the show's topics! Sounds like a winner!!! Check out our website for more details!

### **Bandstand: Tish Houston, Lindsay Kelly and Danielle Sullivan**

Teen Beach Bandstand, a fun, music themed all-Sheridan party will be held on Friday, February 21st from 6 to 7:30 pm. The party will be based on this Disney movie, so think beach decor, and look out for beach balls, leis, palm trees and more! Cost is \$5 per child in advance and \$10 at door. Music, pizza, games and tons of fun to be had! Once we send out, please sign up to volunteer on [volunteerspot.com](http://volunteerspot.com).

### **Parent Awareness: Eileen Swartout & Brooke Garrigan**

***Text-A-Tip Launched.*** The Community Wellness Task Force of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff launched a 24/7 anonymous text system called Text-A-Tip on Jan 20. The system will allow community members to send a text message to a dedicated number and receive an immediate response by a local licensed/certified mental health professional. Persons wishing to share a concern about himself or herself or someone else will be able to do so, and receive help, while maintaining anonymity. Our community receives a unique ID which routes messages, in real-time, to our respondents. All messages are sent through a cloaking server located in Canada that keeps the communication completely anonymous.

The system goes live on Monday, January 20, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Anyone wishing to use the system will simply text the phrase "847HELP" to 274637. For more information, visit [leadingefforts.org](http://leadingefforts.org)

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

January 25, February 22, March 15 or April 26 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](http://lfh.org). The fee is \$30 per couple and includes breakfast.

### ***LB/LF Drug & Alcohol Panel: What Every Parent Should Know***

February 13 6:30 pm

DPM Auditorium

A diverse panel of local health professionals, law enforcement, and parents will discuss the effects that teen alcohol use can have on decision-making. Presenters will educate and share personal stories on how destructive teen alcohol use can be and the devastating consequence that can occur.

### ***Hollywood Exposed March 11th***

Time and place TBD (Look in coming Friday Flyer newsletters or we will know at Feb APT meetings)

Tina Marie Griffin speaks to teenagers all over the country with a mission to reveal the deadly consequences of the glamorization of drug & alcohol abuse, sex, and self-destructive behaviors portrayed in entertainment. Tina Marie will educate and encourage people to live to their fullest potential by making positive media choices, thereby building higher self-esteem and moral character.

She will speak at DPM during the school day, and for high school students at night on the 12 th . The presentation for parents is March 11 th .

### ***Hot Parenting Topics***

As your Parent Awareness Representatives, we'd like to help provide the resources you need to do your job as parents. So each month we are asking you for 'Hot Parenting Topics' that you would like help with.

*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?*

If you think of other ideas, please contact Eileen Swartout 312-560-1642 or [ebswartout@yahoo.com](mailto:ebswartout@yahoo.com) at any time. Thanks!

### ***The Pressure's On! Helping our Kids Cope***

New date: April 9th at 7:00 p.m.

CROYA

Panel Discussion will discuss the overwhelming pressure that our kids face

today and will provide parents with strategies and resources to constructively address issues as they arise. They will draw on the results of this year's Youth Summit, where 100 eighth graders spent the day discussing today's pressures and how it affects them. Intended for Middle School parents.

**All other events on the Middle School Series have been canceled for 2014.**

**Board of Ed: Heather Kotlarz and Alana Hender**

Our next meeting with Mr. Simeck is Monday, January 27. Please email us with any questions with any questions/concerns you would like addressed.

***Brief Summary of Current Month's Board***

*\*For complete minutes or to view the meeting please visit the District website [lakeforestschools.org](http://lakeforestschools.org)*

Superintendent's Report:

- Mr. Simeck offered congratulations to Andy Henrikson who has accepted the position of Superintendent of the Mundelein school district and will begin his responsibilities there in July. He will stay with District 67 until then.
- The Mandarin program is a popular program that was created with the encouragement of parents and grew very quickly, resulting in some unintended consequences. We are trying to address parent concerns and plan for the future. We have put together the LASIK Committee for this purpose as well as a Cherokee School advisory committee. LASIK was advertised to the public to find interested volunteers. Every person who said they wanted to be on it is. The Committee is going through a very thoughtful process, and anticipates implementation of a plan to take place next year.

Public Participation:

- One parent attended who was concerned about the Mandarin program segregating our community, and approximately 7 parents spoke in support of the Mandarin program.

Education Committee:

- Goal of committee is to make recommendations, vet and provide guidance – not make decisions
- Discussed LASIK and the Rockville trip
- Will discuss Illinois report card in February

#### LASIK (Language Acquisition & Social Interaction Committee) Update:

- Andy Henrikson said that District 67 hired a facilitator, Dale Truding from the Arlington Heights School District, to organize and facilitate the LASIK Committee meetings. Dale and Lauren Fagel discussed the decision-making model below:
  - They are using the Stanford Decision Model that has five steps and included the dates of completion for each: Understand (8/12/13), Ideate (8/12/13, 9/16/13), Observe (9/16/13, 10/21/13), Prototype (11/11/13, 12/9/13) and Test (12/9/13).
  - Next Steps
    - 1-2 prototypes emerged as a result of the committee work. Our educational professionals will review these prototypes over the next few months. They will share the results with Mike Simeck who will present a recommendation to the Board of Ed, and then Mike will make a recommendation to the board in February 2014. February 2014-August 2014 will be the planning and preparation phase.
  - They looked at all world languages, not just Mandarin.

#### Finance Operations Committee:

- Board adopted a 2013 tax levy – with the agreement that further discussion will take place at the next few meetings
- Meeting was held with District 67's auditors to discuss current financial procedures and the potential outcomes of a tax levy
- All procedures are being followed regarding spending in the district. No one approves their own expense and all cases are dual or triple checked before approval.
- Meeting consisted of the auditors, all members of the Board of Education, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, community representatives, finance and operations staff as well as education staff. This is the first time such a comprehensive group was assembled to discuss the finances. It provided the opportunity for a circular dialogue that was extremely beneficial.
- Current budget allows for 1.1 million in capital expenditures over the next five years. This includes life safety upgrades required by the state of Illinois, ongoing asbestos tile removal, and asphalt paving. This does not include any discretionary spending projects.
- Possible education enhancements would be the increase of reading and math specialists and coaches, permanent substitute teachers and special education support staff. New spaces like the Cube also



create greater interest and enthusiasm for learning. All enhancements would be implemented to increase achievement and growth for all kids.

- An increase of 2% would provide an extra \$600,000 per year to our budget. This increase would allow the district to realize some of the discretionary spending goals.
- Auditors will be present at the January meeting to further discuss the tax levy.

#### China Trip:

- Six teachers, three administrators and a Board of Education representative recently went to China to deepen their cultural understanding, broaden their perspective of the world, and build relationships with the Chinese schools.
- Teachers from District 67 and 115 attended
- They visited two schools a day and had many opportunities to meet with administrators, teachers and students. In addition to watching actual classrooms in action, they also had opportunities to dialogue with other participants. There were 381 American participants from 13 states represented.
- Many similarities between our educational systems exist such as: all want the best for students, teaching WHOLE child, allowing choices based on interests, creating opportunities for all children, professional development, teacher mentor programs.
- Many differences exist as well: class sizes were much higher in China with 40 or 50 students per class, high school has a required entry exam, education is only required through age 15, classes heavily tracked, special education schools are separate

#### Mission Statement for District 67:

- Shani Harmon from the Transformation Team was approved by all members of the Board of Education to facilitate the development of the district's mission/vision. District 115 recently approved the Transformation Team to develop their mission/vision and plan. She will help both districts develop a strategic plan for the next seven to ten years.
- Phase 1 is to explore the best thinking within the district. Phase 2 is to engage the community.
- The vision will be parallel to District 115 yet still independent.
- The vision and strategic plan will be presented by the end of March

***Brief Summary of Coming Month - Plans:***

January 27, 2014 - quarterly meeting to be held with all school representatives, Superintendent Simeck and Anne Whipple. Prior to meeting, questions will be solicited at APT meetings and via school newsletters.

January Board of Education meeting – January 28, 2014

**Yearbook: Beth Laufenberg, Debbie Jensen and Carmen Doering**

February 28th is the deadline to turn in your class pages! The winner to get their assigned class page in first was our super-aewsome APT Sheridan Board President: SUZANNE SANDS!!! (applause and congratulations amongst the group)

**Spirit 67 Foundation: Suzanne spoke briefly about the importance of families supporting the Spirit of 67 Foundation.**

We are 80 families short of reaching our highest Parent Membership ever! Please go out and spread the word to see if anyone not a member will consider joining to help make this goal! The more families that are members increase our percentage membership which will offer 67 more Grants!

**Teacher Liason: Laura Schlemm**

Family Game night is this Friday! Come to Sheridan and join in the FUN! The Parent Topic will be "How to Navigate your Electronics"! Please bring and donate your game to the local Shelter for Battered Women charity.

Thank you for the cookies. All the Faculty LOVES this tradition!

\*\*\*Please try to get your children to school before 7:55! It really delays the school start time! Thanks!

