

April 17, 2013 APT Meeting Minutes

Meeting started at 9:38 am.

In Attendance: Curry, Doheny, Hayes, Hender, Kelly, Laufenberg, Sands, Scully, Whisler, Puglisi, Kingsley, Shinn, Schlemm

**Guest Speaker: Ms. Puglisi, Sheridan Science Teacher**

Ms. Puglisi asked three 4th Graders to help explain from their perspective what they learn in Science. She created an iMovie with these students, which she played at the meeting. The iVideo included a virtual classroom tour showing the types of experiments they have throughout the year. It included meeting "Mr. Bones" the class skeleton who seemed very relaxed, "Mischa" the turtle and "Barney" the Gecko! In Science class all students study Earth, Physical and Life Science throughout the year. The iMovie file is too large to include on our website, if you would like to see it, please contact Ms. Puglisi.

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

Dr. Shinn thanked Ms. Puglisi for coming and commented that she does a great job capturing the interdisciplinary subjects in her class (Science, LA and Music).

Dr. Shinn expressed her happiness that she is able to stay on at Sheridan as the school Principal! She feels lucky to have a great team! (Great news :!)

The new Sheridan Shark's name is "Spark" the Shark! Look for new Posters throughout the Hallways focusing on "Emotional Wellness". Jump Rope for Heart at Sheridan raised just under \$7,000! An amazing amount of money! Approximately \$21,000 was raised from the 3 LF Elementary schools total). Spirit Grants came back (see Spirit 67 Report). Dr. Shinn showed us a new "Door Block" that will be placed on all classroom doorknobs to further insure the children's safety (as a result of the CT shootings). New Speakers are being installed in the Hallways for receiving emergency information, if necessary. Enrollment across the District is low. The incoming Kindergarten class has only 25-registered total, split between 1/2 Day and Full Day. For September 2013, most likely, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grade classes will have only 2 classes for each grade.

**President's Report: Suzanne Sands**

*We are in the home stretch. In fact, this is our last business meeting of the year. Thank you to all of you for giving of your time and talents to serve on our Board. Thanks also to all of our room parents and parent volunteers. We couldn't do the work we do without the help and support of our Sheridan parent community.*

*Thank you also to the Dr. Shinn, Ms. Moser and all of the Sheridan teachers and staff for giving our children a school year filled with wonderful learning experiences in a warm and loving environment. Today we have Miss Puglisi, our Sheridan science teacher here to speak with us. I want to thank everyone who is here today for making the time to attend this meeting.*

### **Community Quote of the Month**

***“The secret to a happy life is respect. Respect for yourself and respect for others.”***

*~Ayad Akhtar, American Dervish*

*RESPECT (Valuing and showing consideration for yourself, the environment, and the community.) is the Emotional Wellness focus in our children's classrooms during March and April. Two of my favorite books to share with children about respecting differences are People by Peter Spier and The Big Orange Splot by D. Manus Pinkwater. I would encourage you and your children to read, discuss, and enjoy these books together.*

### **Reflecting and Planning Ahead**

*Our open Board positions have almost been filled. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to serve over the next year or two. Thank you also to those of you who have helped encourage people you know to get involved. To that end I have a couple positions I am still in the process of trying to fill and would love any suggestions you may have after the meeting. On May 15<sup>th</sup>, we will have our annual Old Board/New Board luncheon to celebrate this year and welcome new board members. Kristin Ryan and Bridgette Doheny are planning this lovely event for us. Everyone will be getting an end of the year reflection to fill out and pass on to those taking over your positions. Please begin gathering anything relevant to your position that you think would be helpful to someone taking over. If you are returning, please do this anyway so it will be easier for you next year.*

### **From the APT Executive Board Meeting**

#### **Michael Simeck, Superintendent's Update**

**Website** –*The plans for the new website are in the works and a provider has been*

*selected. As with anything new there will likely be bumps along the way. By doing this in partnership with District 115 we are saving a significant amount of money. Families will have access to all web based information from both districts using one username and password. There will also be a mobile app.*

**School Board Elections** – *Mr. Simeck talked about the fact that now that our new Board members have been elected there will be a steep learning curve for them as the step into their roles. He expects they will be seated at the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.*

**Enrollment** - *Our enrollment across the district is down by 175 students at this point. As a result the Board approved the honorable discharge of 5 teachers. This also presents opportunities for the district because there is more money per student available.*

**Math Adoption** –*The committee charged with this project is excited about the program they are looking at for K-5. A new program is needed to align with the Common Core.*

**Holocaust Immersion Unit for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders** – *This is the kind of learning experience we want to be providing for all of our students. Students were engaged and challenged across disciplines.*

**Looking Ahead** – *Working on a Vision for the district is the next major challenge facing the administration and Board of Education.*

### **Anne Whipple, Communications Report**

*Food Service changes are being implemented based on the parent feedback from the survey. Quest has one of their visiting chefs working on this with our food service people. There will be a reception for the new CUBE at DPM at 6 PM prior to the next Board Meeting on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. All families are invited to the reception to see the new space. Everyone is encouraged to communicate with teachers, principals and when warranted administrators to provide feedback at any time.*

*[An aside: The district has a variety of ways that parents can voice their opinions, ask questions and provide feedback. Our Board of Education Liaisons are a great resource if you have questions about district level issues for the Superintendent. You are also welcome at anytime to communicate directly with teachers, other*

*staff members, Dr. Shinn and Ms. Moser, members of the district's administrative team and Board of Education members. In my role, I am also here to hear your concerns and bring them to the attention of the administration when appropriate. Please know that while I am more than willing to address concerns brought to my attention with the utmost confidentiality when requested or as appropriate, it is important that when communicating your concerns to me you do me the courtesy of identifying yourself. If for some reason you do not want to be associated with your own concern or complaint I would ask that you consider if it is really something I should be asked to address.]*

**Shawn Ward, APT Executive Board Treasurer**

*All receipts are due no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>. Our books will be closed for year at that point so please get your receipts in to Amie Marks prior to that date.*

**From Rebecca Leafman, Emotional Wellness Initiative**

*She presented information about the district's Emotional Wellness Initiative and its history. She shared a number of worthwhile parenting resources that had been shared at the recent **Parents as Partners Workshop**. All of the handouts from that workshop and many more parenting resources can be found on the on the Emotional Wellness page of the district website at <http://www.lf67.org/district/programs/EWC.html>. Please check it out if you haven't already done so.*

**March & April Appreciations**

- *All of our Sheridan teachers and staff for all they do for our children each day.*
- *Kristin Ryan & Kelly Huguenard as well as all of the volunteers who provided a fabulous Conference Luncheon for our teachers and staff.*
- *Kim Robb, Whitney Keller, Christie Theis & Theresa Speed who are planning an amazing Teacher Appreciation Week.*
- *Kate Rappel & Kate Rother for managing the Spring Spirit Wear Sale.*
- *Emily Savage & Angie Hatfield for the work they are doing to get the word out about the upcoming Earth Week.*
- *Nancy Allard & Bridgette Doheny for organizing TIME Zone for our 4<sup>th</sup> Graders last month and for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders in May.*
- *Beth Laufenberg, Nanci Knipfer & Carmen Doering-Clark as well as all of the class volunteers & photographers who have contributed to our yearbook this year.*

- *All of our Room Parents who continue to organize volunteers for field trips, class parties, TIME Zone and more.*
- *The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Year End Celebration Committee for working to make the end our 4<sup>th</sup> Graders' Sheridan experience memorable & fun.*
- *Margaret Tomaselli for continuing to make our school's front entrance beautiful & welcoming.*
- *Carmen Doering-Clark for helping keep all of our parents informed.*
- *Amy Kelly for putting together the February minutes, sadly her last set of minutes for the Sheridan APT.*

#### **Extras**

- ◆ *Field Day is May 30<sup>th</sup> so be on the look out for volunteer information.*
- ◆ *Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> so be on the look out for opportunities to help out with this special week for our teachers and staff.*
- ◆ *Old/New Board Luncheon May 15<sup>th</sup>.*

#### **Board of Education: Alana Hender**

Notes from 3/19 BOE meeting....

-Dr. Andy Henrikson talked about the new teacher evaluation system we are now using and the 21st Century Common Core Standards. You can get details about both on the district website.

-John Julian and Mr. Simeck thanked Dr. Shinn for her dedication to the district during the Cherokee Principal Search.

-Rebecca Leafman spoke about students dealing with stress and some techniques that may help.

-Anne Whipple presented ideas for the new district website and the board approved it.

-Board also approved the dismissal of 5 elementary school teachers because of a decrease in student population

#### **Teacher Appreciation Week: Kim Robb, Whitney Keller, Christie Theis and Teresa Speed**

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 6-May 10! New and exciting info coming soon!

#### **Community Service: Angie Hatfield and Emily Savage**

Earth Week is April 22 - April 26th! Flyers being sent home soon! All info is on the

website!

**Food Service: Laurie Whisler**

Quest has been very responsive to parent concerns. They may do a 1x a month free trial tastings offered to the students!

They are still exploring how to improve the food choices and quality while keeping within our price point!

**Parent Awareness: Brooke Garrigan**

***"Jump Start to 5th Grade" Parent Awareness Panel will be held on May 14, 9:30 -11:00 am in The Cube at DPM.***

And we would like to ask the APT board for 'Hot Parenting Topics' that may be interested in finding out more about. The Parent Awareness Committee and Administration will use input to identify new content for the Parent Resource Corner.

**Time Zone: Bridgette Doheny**

May 14 is the 2nd Graders "Pioneers" TIME Zone at Deerpath!! (Always a winner with the kids!)

**Open Lands and Recreation Center: Kristin Ryan and Danielle Sullivan**

Here are a few Recreation Center highlights for April/May/June to share!

- ◆ ***April 27<sup>th</sup> 7pm- 12am Smelt-o-Rama***
- ◆ ***May 5<sup>th</sup> 1pm- Kinderhaven Art show (bring art supply donation for admission)***
- ◆ ***May 18<sup>th</sup> Kindershop- 9 AM - 3pm Baby & Children's Resale at the Recreation Center Gym***
- ◆ ***June 2<sup>nd</sup> 12-2pm free family event at the new & improved Waveland Park***
- ◆ ***June 7<sup>th</sup> Fred Jackson annual golf tournament at Deerpath Golf Course***
- ◆ ***July 4<sup>th</sup> Festival and Fireworks at Deerpath Park featuring Dennis DeYoung ( of Styx) as the headliner and Maggie Speaks as the opening act***

*Note: This position moving forward, 2013-2014 School Year, will be handled by the V.P. on the Exec Board*

**Spirit of 67: Bridget Doheny**

Many exciting Grants for Sheridan and all of District 67 were obtained! They are

as follows:

### **Fine Arts Enrichment Program**

This program will provide all grades with educational and culturally enriching Fine Arts performances. A wide array of diverse programming is planned for the coming year thanks to the tremendous efforts of the APT Fine Arts Committee.

### **Artist in Residence**

This program will assist District 67 in the funding of an artist in residence to align the movement portion of the music curriculum with the dance portion of the wellness curriculum, allowing teachers to reinforce the same concepts and skills and allowing for student choice and self-expression through creative movement.

### **Loom Knitting**

This grant will purchase knitting looms for Deer Path Middle School's Home Arts Program for use in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade related arts rotation. These looms will allow all the students to make hats during their Home Arts rotation, providing a new way to increase self-confidence, accomplishment and enjoyment.

### **Bringing Technology To Music**

This grant provides 16 MacBook Pro Laptops, headphones and microphones for the Deer Path Middle School Music Department. All Music Department students benefit from having access to powerful software tools like Smartmusic, Garageband, Vocaroo and MusicScore. These tools allow for complex compositions, improved self-assessment and more improved performance feedback.

### **The Real Game and Career Cruising**

Real Game and Career Cruising is an interactive career exploration program allowing students to explore careers in today's society while in their Home Arts rotation at Deer Path Middle School. Students learn about managing time,

earning and managing money realistically, stress, life's necessities and future opportunities.

### **Garment Printer For Epic T-shirt Project**

This grant will provide a digital garment printer for use in New Media classes at Deer Path Middle School, where students will print designs from computers directly onto t-shirts. The t-shirt project shows that digital creations can have real world applications and rewards the students with unique wearable artwork.

### **Language Arts**

#### **APT Visiting Author Program**

Through promoting interaction with published authors, the Visiting Author program helps bring the creative writing process to life in a meaningful and accessible way for all students in Grades K-8. The Spirit thanks the APT Visiting Author Committee for their commitment to this program.

#### **Monarch & Bluestem Award Books**

Two complete sets of the 2013 Monarch and Bluestem Award books will be provided to each of the elementary schools. These award winning books are always popular with the students and this grant will allow for more accessibility for student check out.

#### **Playaway with Audio Books**

This grant provides playaway audiobooks and the corresponding books for the Cherokee and Sheridan libraries. The playaways support and enhance the existing curriculum by allowing students the opportunity to enjoy books, even if they are not able to read fluently and confidently. The playaways allow students to grow as independent readers.

#### **Elaine Buckardt – Fountas and Pinell Leveled Literacy**

Three complete Fountas and Pinell Red System Leveled Literacy Intervention Programs will be provided to each of the elementary schools. This scientifically



based intervention program is a comprehensive program engaging stories and novels with a focus on comprehension, vocabulary and fluency skills.

### **Reading Camps for Middle School**

This grant supports the purchase of Summer Reading Camps and Effective Reading Interventions, a concentrated intense literacy intervention program. This program will be used in summer school with students in grades 4-8, as well as for middle school students in tiered instruction.

### **Team Read iPads**

iPads and educational reading apps will be used to reinforce learned concepts and to provide independent practice. The iPads will enhance experience for all students during Team Read for students of all reading levels.

### **iPod Shuffles for Listening Centers**

iPod Shuffles, a subscription to [audible.com](http://audible.com) and books for each of the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms in District 67, will be used as an alternative method to further bring about a love of good literature and a love of reading to students.

### **Engaged Learning: An Apple TV and Monitor On a Cart**

An Apple TV and a rolling cart will provide an alternative method for reading specialist teachers to engage students who have diverse learning styles. Visual elements incorporated into reading support groups will assist with building background knowledge and gaining deeper understanding of literary elements.

### **Math**

#### **Math and the Common Core**

This grant provides new materials from EAI Education that will support students in a hands-on, student centered approach to math problem solving as well as games that will help them sharpen their skills in creative and engaging ways. This grant will benefit all elementary school students in District 67.

### **Museum of Thinking: Apple TV and iPads**

iPads and an Apple TV will enable teachers to enrich the 6<sup>th</sup> grade math curriculum through integration of technology in the classroom. The technology will foster the new standards for mathematical practice and encourage students to be leaders in the classroom.

## **Science**

### **Science Lab Demonstration and Hands-On Activities**

New demonstrations and materials, including Roller Coaster Labs, Molecule Kits and Tectonic Demonstration Models, will enhance lessons throughout the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum by engaging students and allowing teachers to add visual aids to the classroom and labs.

### **Carolina Biological Science TWIG & TIG TAG Films**

This grant will provide a year subscription to TWIG and TIG TAG films. The films show scientific and mathematical concepts in action in the real world and highlight key concepts in effective ways. The films will be available for all K-4 science specialists, 5-8 science teachers, as well as K-8 students and parents via home access.

### **Informational Text Readers**

This grant provides informational text readers for all three elementary schools. Incorporating new readers into science curriculum will provide students with yet another opportunity to express themselves through reading and writing during science and language art instruction.

### **Increasing Student & Teacher Interaction Through Technology**

iPad minis and Apple TVs will enhance the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade science curriculum by providing a mobile platform from which classroom activities can be initiated. The science curriculum will be more student-centered and driven by student participation.

## **Social Studies**

### **Cultural Fairs**

Cultural Fairs for sixth graders will revolve around the study of Southwest Asia,

Africa, and Asia. The cultural fairs integrate social studies with fine arts, science, language arts and world language to bring the students a holistic experience. This grant helps provided programs and presenters for the Cultural Fairs.

### **Expanded Showcasing: Social Studies Whiteboard**

Enhanced presentation equipment for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies classroom to augment the delivery of the social studies curriculum and enhance the process through which it is currently delivered.

### **Interactive Globes for Social Studies Classes**

Intelliglobe Interactive World globes will enhance the 6<sup>th</sup> grade social studies curriculum and provide a greater understanding of the geographical regions studied.

### **Holocaust Immersion Week**

8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be studying the Holocaust through an all-encompassing immersion approach. This grant will provide programs, presenters and educational materials for the Immersion Week.

### **Classroom iPad Grant**

iPads, an Apple TV, and apps will transform the curriculum and meet the common core in social studies and language arts. Additionally, self-directed learning with Ipads will allow students ongoing personal learning.

### **Social & Emotional Development**

#### **Lucy Valentine – Capturing Kid’s Hearts**

This grant will help provide professional development for administrators, faculty and staff to build positive, productive, trusting relationships among themselves and with their students. Capturing Kid’s Hearts is the core of a powerful process that allows every member of the school faculty to foster and become part of a high performing learning community.

### **LEAD Parent University**

This grant will provide LEAD with a contribution to help underwrite the cost of speakers for Parent University. We join other organizations and schools in our community in support of this program.

### **Community Wellness Task Force**

This grant will provide a contribution to help underwrite training for social workers, psychologists and health teachers in crisis prevention and intervention. The specific training includes a deeper understanding of the risk factors of teen depression and suicide.

### **Social Thinking Materials**

This grant provides a variety of tools to use with students with social skills deficits in kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Targeted skills include being a good listener, managing one's feelings and working in a group.

### **Technology**

#### **New Media Arts Moving Image Display**

A television with built-in DVD player mounted outside the New Media Arts classroom will allow 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students an opportunity to have their films and animations displayed for the entire school to see.

### **Students x (Apple TVs + iPads) = Transformation and Engagement**

Ipads, Apple TV and apps will transform the curriculum and meet the common core in social studies and language arts. Additionally, self-directed learning with iPads will allow students ongoing personal learning.

### **Wellness**

#### **Norm Erickson - Changing Wellness Through Water**

This grant will provide 4 water bottle fillers for the Deer Path Middle School Campus. This will promote a healthy lifestyle by encouraging students and staff to use water bottles in their daily life.

### **World Language**

### **Tabula Callida – Smartboard in Latin**

This grant will purchase a SMART Board for the 7<sup>th</sup> grade Latin program providing interactive technology and bringing dynamic learning opportunities to all students.

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **Kreischer's Kids Fund – Family Assistance Program**

The Foundation has granted funds, as in years past, to support student activities where family funding is not possible. District 67 personnel administer the fund.

### **Tabletop Transformation**

This grant provides octagon-shaped tables in a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom at Everett, which will encourage students to work collaboratively and facilitate small group discussions. This will lead to the learning of the classroom in a more student directed path in keeping with the Common Core Standards and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning.

***Also, Home Tour is May 2 from 9-3! Four FABULOUS homes will be on the tour! Lunch is available at the LF Club. Please buy Raffle Tickets!***

### **Spirit Wear: Kate Rappel and Kate Rother**

Hopefully, everyone has seen the exciting items available for our "Sharks"!

### **Bandstand: Carrie Cole, Kristin McCain and Tish Houston**

Great pics are on the website!! Any feedback is always welcome!

### **Conference Luncheon: Kelly Huguenard and Kristin Ryan**

Another successful luncheon! Thanks to all who participated!

### **Teacher Liaison: Laura Schlemm**

We are really looking forward to Family Sharing Night!!!! ;)

Shark Bite.....Michelle Curry won the Shark Bite!!!! She was very excited to win the Sweet's Gift Certificate!!! ;)