



APT Meeting Minutes – February 17th 9:15am

Participants: Dr. Michelle Shinn, Mr. Michael Simeck, Tish Houston, Laura Schlemm, Heather Strong, Nancy Meier, Rae Anne Alvarez, Jessica Muller, Hans Matson, Beth Laufenberg, Danielle Sullivan, Sarah Lockhart, Lindsay Nero, Kimberly Carris, Suzanne Sands, Alana Hender, Becky Nagel, Lana Raines, Ashley Yakes, Paige Robbins, Danielle Carter, Laurie Whisler, Kate Rappel, Yvonne Bruce, Amie Marks, Rachel Baker

Guest Speaker: Mr. Michael Simeck, District 67 Superintendent

- Mr. Simeck began by answering the following questions that had been submitted by Sheridan parents prior to the meeting:

Q#1 - Why do Sheridan's student scores (see pages 20 - 21 http://www.lfboe.net/d67public/meetings/January_26_2016/Reports/AAssessment.pdf) continue to be significantly lower than Cherokee and Everett's scores? What plans will be implemented to boost Sheridan's results to be in line with the other elementary schools?

A#1 – Mr. Simeck stated that on average District 67 students are approximately 2 grades levels above the national average in both reading and math. He said this trajectory continues as the students move through LFHS as the average students graduating from LFHS are in the 90th percentile compared to college-going students nationally.

Q#2 - Will the Explore Program continue next year? If yes, what capacity? Would you ever start earlier in younger grades?

A#2 – Mr. Simeck stated that the Explore Program will continue next year similar to the way it is currently run. There are no plans to start the program earlier than the current 3rd grade.

Q#3 - Is there a risk by focusing education on "method" instead of fact acquisition that you are holding our students back? And/ or limiting creativity?

A#3 – Mr. Simeck referred parents to Bloom's Revised Taxonomy (<http://www.cpahslibrary.org/blooms-taxonomy.html>), a classification system used to define and distinguish different levels of human cognition—i.e., thinking, learning, and understanding. Mr. Simeck noted that remember/recalling factual information is at the bottom and creating/designing/constructing is at the top. Education has changed to focus on the higher level of human cognition as compared to the way students were taught 20+ years ago.

Q#4 – Please discuss any possible impact of the current Illinois state funding issues.

A#4 – Mr. Simeck stated that the impact would be approximately \$300,000 for District 67. In Springfield many things gets floated, but often go nowhere and he believes the chances of this proposal passing are extremely remote. However, if it were to happen, the District would still need to fund the Special Education mandates, so other areas of the budget would be affected.

- Mr. Simeck also discussed the main challenges that face the District, which he believes is managing change. Mr. Simeck explained that the District needs to continue to grow and develop, but

managing this effectively while maintaining relationships with District families and being cognizant not to over-load teachers is a challenge. The District has implemented new math, reading/writing and social students programs within the last year, which the students benefited from. However, it has pushed teachers as they have to learn all of these new curriculums during the same year. Ensuring every student grows academically and also progresses socially/emotionally are also challenges that the District continues to pursue.

Principal's Report: Dr. Michelle Shinn

- Report cards will be sent home this Friday, February 19th, and teacher conferences will be held next week.
- After-school Car Line - The City of Lake Forest does not allow parking on Sheridan Road. This means that any cars waiting in the car line along Sheridan Road before school dismissal out are considered "parked." It also creates a driving hazard for cars using Sheridan Road that have to pass a long line of cars by moving into the opposite lane. Please avoid parking/waiting along Sheridan Road by arriving after 3pm to avoid the car line or waiting along Spruce or other side street. If the car line stretches out to Sheridan Road, you will be asked to circle around if you are "parked." Please also help by turning off your car engine as you wait outside Sheridan and we all can help make Sheridan an Idle-Free community.

Gratitude (a.k.a. Super Hero Corner!)

- Family Game Night – Deena Puglisi, Laura Schlemm, Danielle Carter, Sara LaCasse, Tish Houston, Kate Rother
- Fine Arts – Tish Houston and Katie Frekko
- Making Sheridan Beautiful – Brooke Kuehnle and Team

APT Committees Reports

Winter Carnival: Lindsay Nero, Yvonne Bruce, Kimmy Taylor, Kim Strothman

- Sheridan's annual Winter Carnival is this Friday, Feb. 19th, at Sheridan from 5:30pm–7pm. Volunteers are needed (please see Sheridan's APT web site). You can pay by sending an RSVP into school with your child or pay at the door. You don't want to miss this fun event!

Food Service: Kate Rappel, Molly O'Neil

- March is National Nutrition Month. Samples will be handed out at lunch for students to try on three days during March: March 2nd, March 8th, and March 14th. The food samples include: a Moroccan carrot salad; a Tzatziki sauce with cucumbers for dipping; and, sliced mandarin oranges. Thank you to Quest and the APT Food Service Liaisons for providing these options for the students.

Yearbook: Beth Laufenberg, Tracy Barrett, Debbie Jensen

- The last section of yearbook is due to the printers at the beginning of March. The yearbook team continues to finalize pages and will be ready for this deadline. Beth is also working on guidelines for a new yearbook Committee member as this is her last year.

Parent Awareness: Ellen Trager, Eileen Swartout

- LDA's Spring Marché shopping bazaar will be held on April 28th. More info to come!

Meals for Teachers: Becky Nagel, Rachel Baker

- The Meals for Teachers Committee will be provided a Chili dinner the night of Winter Conferences. A volunteer spot link is available on the Sheridan APT web site. Thank you to all the volunteers who make this such a special event for the teachers!

Spirit of 67: Kimberly Carris, Brooke Kuehnle

- The annual Spirit of 67 Home Tour will be held on May 12, 2016. Brooke Rolek is heading the Sheridan house and will be sending out a volunteer spot link for people interested in volunteering. Please help fill these spots ASAP so we know the Sheridan house is covered! Folks can also consider purchasing a Shout Out for their children, favorite teacher, or any type of message/ad in the Home Tour book. This is an important fund raising event for the Spirit of 67 Foundation and all participation is greatly appreciated. Check the following link for different sponsorship opportunities: <http://www.spiritof67foundation.org/home-tour.html>.

Board of Education: Holly Matson, Whitney Keller

- Please see attachment for full Board of Education meeting notes. These are also posted on Sheridan's APT website.

Next APT Meeting: District 67 Annual APT Meeting Wed. March 9th at CROYA (LF Rec Center) 9am