



Sheridan Association of Parents and Teachers

ASSOCIATION OF
PARENTS
& TEACHERS



Support
Cooperation
Communication
Educational Enrichment

APT Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2016 – Sheridan IRC

Participants: Mr. Simeck, Dr. Michelle Shinn, Emily Savage, Brooke Rolek, Kristin Ryan, Suzanne Sands, Sarah Lockhart, Brooke Kuehnle, Elsbeth Redfield, Lindsay Kelly, Becky Nagel, Lana Raines, Whitney Keller, Ellie White, Danielle Sullivan, Amanda Lamberti, Rachel Baker, Laura Schlemm, Ashley Yakes, Mary Gould Moorhead, Kelly Cohen, Kimberly Carris, Megan Engelberg, Elyse Butler, Nancy Meier

Guest Speaker: Mr. Simeck, District 67 Superintendent

- Mr. Simeck welcomed any/all questions pertaining to District 67. Brooke Rolek asked about the reading/writing summer workshop that teachers attended this past summer.
- Mr. Simeck addressed that reading and writing should both be authentic and that the Lucy Calkins program is an individual and personal program to meet the students where they are and then strive to unlock what is on kids minds whether when writing or reading. The goal is to create life long readers and writers.
- Mrs. Schlemm (4th grade Sheridan teacher) commented that all of the teachers were thrilled to attend the workshops and gained invaluable information to better instruct students.

Principal's Report: Dr. Michelle Shinn

- Dr. Shinn commented that the summer reading and writing workshops were thoroughly enjoyed by all administrators and teachers alike, and that all teachers are working extremely hard to adapt to this shift in teaching to better serve all students.
- Dr. Shinn also made note that our students are working very hard all day long during the school day and that after school/evening time should really be about setting good habits when it comes to homework, reading and bedtime.
- Dr. Shinn noted the importance of having the children in school and refraining from removing students for appointments etc. during the school day as the teachers work very hard to create their lesson plans around each individual student. Dr. Shinn also remarked about the importance of working to help keep kids healthy so again they aren't missing all of the specialized planning from the classroom and specials teachers.
- Dr. Shinn welcomed Emily Savage as the new Sheridan APT President and commented that right now Sheridan School is filled with a fabulous group of learners in all grade levels preschool through 4th grade.

APT President Report: Emily Savage

- Emily praised each APT committee for all of their hard work at the beginning of this 2016-2017 school year. She is excited for this upcoming year and again thanked each committee for their work and dedication.

Gratitude:

Leslie Gould – Sheridan house flags and logo assistance

Diane Bailey – Lending a hand in choosing paint colors

Becky Nagel – Assisting in helping the teacher's lounge and staff restrooms become more inviting

All APT Committees – Each committee member working so hard to make the start of the year go so smoothly

APT Committees Reports

Celebration Book Club (CBBC): Kristin Ryan, Rae Anne Alvarez

- Letters went out two weeks ago for summer and September birthdays.
- Rae Anne and Kristin have also been working on the bulletin board which is located in the main hallway of Sheridan School.

Food Service: Kristen Chun, Karen Hornberger

August/September activities:

- Received welcome from food service committee chair Adriana Arpino with specifics on food liaison duties & beginning of school activities. Met with outgoing Sheridan committee members to review the role & responsibilities.
- Updated cafeteria bulletin board for August & September reflecting the theme of Eating Breakfast.
- Called upon parent volunteers for Friday lunch duty coverage using the same online sign up procedure as last year. Happy to report a tremendous response from parents!
- Initial meeting of the food service committee was Monday morning, September 19th. Brainstormed ideas for creative bulletin boards based on monthly themes. Discussed creative ways to support National Nutrition Month in March using theme "Put your best fork forward".

October Committee Plans:

- First sampling/tasting of the year will be on Friday, October 14th. Quest will select an item from the fruit & veggie bar to be offered by parent volunteers during all lunch hours. Adriana Arpino will vet selected item with school nurses and principals for any allergy concerns. Kristen Chun & Karen Hornberger will staff volunteers for the tasting which will be during all lunch periods.
- Next food service committee meeting will be held on Monday November 1.

Parent Awareness: Jessica Muller

- Our first committee meeting with all 4 building reps will be in early October.
- Our successful joint newsletter between Emotional Wellness and Parent Awareness will hopefully be in the works again this year. We will be scheduling a meeting with EW to discuss the calendar for this year.
- Conrad Christensen will be presenting to K-8 parents about the safety measures of social media and technology. Information will be shared regarding what we are teaching kids in District 67 and resources for parenting the social media and technology experiences for today's students.
 - A Q&A will be available at the end of the presentation.
 - Board Room - LFHS WEST CAMPUS
 - Oct 11 (Tuesday) - 9:30-10:30
 - Oct 13 (Thursday) - 7:00-8:00
- Thursday, October 27, 2016, 10:00 - LFCDS will host New York Times best-selling author, educator, and speaker Jessica Lahey. Her talk "The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed" will explore why parents must refrain from stepping in when children experience disappointments and frustrations, so children can learn from life's inevitable mistakes and setbacks and grow up to be successful, resilient, self-reliant adults. The talk begins at 10:00 a.m. in the Green Bay Atrium and is free and open to the public. Please see the Lake Forest Country Day website for more information: lfcds.org.

Spirit of 67: Kimberly Carris, Yvonne Bruce

- Kimberly Carris reminded guests how the Spirit of 67 Foundation is the major fundraising arm for the district at large
- Sheridan School is currently the highest contributors to the Spirit of 67 Foundation
- Kimberly also stressed that any dollar amount is valued and appreciated as all dollars go right back into our schools to better serve our students.
- A Spirit donations can be made at any point in time during a school year.
- Barn Dance date – October 1st
- Online auction will run from September 21st through September 30th – all proceeds go to the Spirit Foundation
- Home Tour – May 4th

Board of Education: Whitney Keller, Nancy Meier

Whitney and Nancy will meet quarterly with Mr. Simeck but don't have those dates yet. We welcome questions to be presented to him through the gmail account sheridanboequestions@gmail.com

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS:

Regular meetings are held in the Board Room at Lake Forest High School West Campus, [300 S. Waukegan Rd.](#) (2nd floor) beginning [at 7:00](#) p.m (unless otherwise noted below). The agenda and any changes to meeting dates or location are posted on the district website, and on the bulletin board in the foyer of the Administration Center prior to each meeting. Agenda items include matters related to education, finance, and operations.

Regular meetings of the District 67 Board of Education are taped and then rebroadcast on LF City

Channel 17 throughout the month on Tuesdays [at 7:00 p.m.](#), and Wednesdays [at 8:00 a.m.](#) You can also view video clips of the meeting, which are posted on the District website. To view the District 67 Board of Education meetings online in their entirety, please visit The City of Lake Forest LFTV YouTube Channel or <http://www.lakeforestschoools.org/board-of-education/district-67-boe/index.aspx>

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

- [Monday, September 27, 2016](#)
- [Tuesday, October 25, 2016](#) (Cherokee School)
- [Tuesday, November 15, 2016](#)
- [Tuesday, December 13, 2016](#)
- [Tuesday, January 24 2017](#)
- [Tuesday, February 28, 2017](#) (Sheridan School)
- [Tuesday, March 21, 2017](#)
- [Tuesday, April 25, 2017](#)
- [Tuesday, May 23, 2017](#)

Back to School Beach Bash: Carolyn Konz, Alissa Bolton, Amanda Lamberti

- Amanda Lamberti presented that the 2016 Back to School Beach bash was a big success.
- The weather was very cooperative and in attendance was approximately 200 people.
- New this year was the addition of a DJ which was a major hit.
-

Directory: Gina Creegan, Megan Engelberg

- Megan reported that everyone has been updated in the directory
- The online directory was updated and running on September 14th

Emotional Wellness: Rae Anne Alvarez, Danielle Carter

- Our first meeting for EWC on 9/15 was an introduction of new teachers and parents to the committee. We discussed the outcomes of last year's EWC surveys covering a variety of social emotional learning benchmarks (think: House assemblies, shared activities and tshirts). Looking ahead, the committee will meet on October 7th for a working "pull out" day to plan this year's EW activities, including Sheridan Exploration Day, scheduled for early December. Please encourage all ATP members to share any names of people we might follow up with to volunteer their professional skills/talents that day. Exploration day was a big hit last year, with so many popular course offerings--our committee will work hard to streamline choices by age and interest/ability levels to maximize the learning opportunities for all.
- Stay tuned for details on EWC activities in the coming month!

Fall Back to School APT Lunch: Ellie White, Kate Rappel, Leilea Glick

- Ellie White presented that the fall back to school lunch for the teachers was a success
- Mrs. Schlemm also commented on how much the teachers appreciated the APT providing the lunch for all to enjoy.

Fine Arts/Visiting Author: Katie Frekko, Danielle Sullivan

- The visiting author has been rescheduled to November 9th for Sheridan School.
- All books will be signed on that day

Kindergarten Coordinators: Sarah Lockhart, Betsy Pasquesi, Danielle Carter

As the Kindergarten Coordinator on the APT Exec Board as well, I (Sarah Lockhart) want to share that while maintaining the individual traditions of each school Sheridan, Cherokee and Everett have aligned many traditions notably sign delivery so that all the children across the district enjoy this on the same day, rather than in the past, often weeks apart.

With specific regards to Sheridan Incoming Kindergarteners:

- T-shirts were ordered mid-summer from Kiddles – the Executive APT covered this expense (for all schools)
- Sign delivery took place on August 19th at Emily Savage’s home. Our tradition is to meet early in the morning with a number of Sheridan families and children – incoming Kindergarteners to older and alumni Sharks – divide up the list and let the kids deliver our welcome packages and signs.
- Signs are delivered to all incoming Kindergarteners as well as new students in other grades to the school. Included in their welcome packages was an informative letter to parents, shark car magnets and water bottles.
- The Sheridan kindergarten play date took place on August 29 directly after the Kindergarten walk-through at the newly renovated West Park and as usual was very well attended.

Note: Future plans for our committee this year include a presence at the Kindergarten Information Night in 2017 to answer questions on behalf of the APT.

Monster Bash: Lindsay Nero, Lindsay Kelly

- Monster Bash will be taking place on Friday, October 21st – 5:30-7:00pm at Sheridan School.
- Lindsay presented that planning is underway and going well. There will be a haunted hallway again this year as it was such a hit last October with all of the children.

New Family Coordinators: Kristin Ryan

- A New Family Coffee was hosted on August 22 at Lake Forest Beach.
- Kristin and team also met with several families separately who could not make the coffee.
- Kristin Ryan did note that Sheridan doesn’t really have a full proof system for new families that come in throughout the school year, so if you hear of any new student in one of your children’s classes, send Kristin Ryan their contact information so she can get in touch.
- Kristin Ryan can be reached at – kristinvryan@me.com

Room Parent Coordinators: Ellie White, Karen Hornberger

- Ellie reported that all classrooms have assigned room parents and things are off to a great start
- Any questions pertaining to Room Parents can be addressed to either Ellie or Karen.
Ellie White – whiteellie79@gmail.com
Karen Hornberger – kphornberger@yahoo.com

Communications Coordinator: Suzanne Sands

Communications Coordinator Report:

As communications coordinator I am here to support everything you are doing as board members.

Please contact me at sandssuzanne@gmail.com for any of the following:

- to change or post something on the Sheridan APT website
- to submit something for the Friday Flyer (electronic weekly newsletter from Dr. Shinn)
- to use the sandwich boards (this requires advanced notice so reach out sooner rather than later)
- to send information via email to our entire parent community or select grade levels
- help creating flyers/signs for events
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Board of Education Member: Suzanne Sands

- Serving our community on the District 67 School Board is an honor and a privilege. All of our monthly board meetings are videotaped and the videos are available on the district website at <http://www.lakeforestschoools.org/board-of-education/district-67-boe/index.aspx>.
- On the website you can also find meeting and committee meeting schedules, minutes, policies and board member contact information. All of our meetings are open to the public. I would also encourage everyone to check out the district Mission, Vision, Milestones and Strategic Plan at <http://www.lakeforestschoools.org/about-us/district-67/district-missionvision/index.aspx>.
- Our district has worked very diligently since adopting the mission and vision in June of 2014 to make sure that these along with the milestones drives decision making throughout the district from the classroom to the boardroom. Last year our board articulated some core values and goals that guided us during the past year. The core values that we use in decision-making are: **Student-centric governance**; is the Board doing what is best for the students? **Vision-centric leadership**; the Board is always looking for ways to accelerate the path to achieving the stated vision. **Fiscal responsibility**; is the Board being good stewards of the tax-payers money? Our goals were to increase engagement between the community and the School District, undertake a more active role in legislative advocacy and awareness, improve processes for administrator compensation and superintendent performance evaluation and begin the development of a Board Operating Procedures manual. Significant progress was made toward each of these goals while we worked together to make sure that our shared core values were at the heart of our collective decision making.
- Please reach out anytime with input, questions, compliments or concerns. Please use ssands@lfschools.net to reach me about issues related to my role on the Board of Education.

Treasurer Report: Amie Marks

- Amie noted that we have a preliminary budget for the year, but will release final numbers when the Executive Committee releases their budget numbers.
- Should any APT committee member need to know the budget sooner for your department or event, feel free to contact Amie.
- Also, turn in any receipts for things already spent. The check request is on our website.
- One reminder is that members can't be reimbursed for tax, but there is also a tax letter online if one should prefer to avoid this cost.

Next APT Meeting: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 – Sheridan IRC