

## **Sheraton APT Meeting - February 20, 2013**

**APT Board Members in attendance:** Allard, Borkowski-Houston, Doheny, Hayes, Kelly, Laufenberg, Lundergan, Ivinjack, Mayer, Ryan, Sands, Schlemm, Scully, Swartout, Raines, Shinn and Mr. Simeck ☺

**Meeting started at 9:38 am**

### **Guest Speakers: Mr. Michael Simeck – Superintendent**

Mr Simeck loves his new job as our Superintendent. The community is unbelievably supportive of our schools and we are very lucky.

*The Principal Search* – There were 70 candidates that were interviewed for this position. All candidates were from Illinois. The person has been selected and the official announcement will be made in the next week or two. The person selected is passionate, one of the best in the industry, has core values and is very kind. The background check for this person was the most extensive that Mr. Simeck has ever seen when interviewing candidates. The interview committee is finalizing details this week. The person will start on July 1<sup>st</sup>. And we will find out if they will be working at Cherokee or Sheridan when the official announcement is made.

*School Board Elections* - Please go out and vote for our new School Board. Early voting starts on March 25<sup>th</sup> and the election is April 9<sup>th</sup>. There are 3 seats up at the High School and 4 seats up at our Elementary Schools. On SUNDAY, MARCH 10<sup>th</sup> all of the candidates will be at the LF Library basement at 1:30pm. This opportunity to meet the candidates and ask questions is sponsored by the League of Women Voters. Please go to this website for information about the election ☺ [www.lfcaucus.com/elections](http://www.lfcaucus.com/elections)

### **Principal's Report-Dr. Shinn**

Kindergarten registration is underway and the informational meeting has been changed to Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. Across the district enrollment is down, but Sheridan has remained steady.

Next year Sheridan is looking at having three 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes. ☺

On March 1<sup>st</sup> a letter will be sent home to all families regarding emergency procedures for our children. If there is an emergency, and there are buses available, all students will be bused to Lake Forest High School WEST CAMPUS where parents can pick them up. If there is an emergency and there are no buses available, our students will walk directly to the high school. More information will be in this letter. Please look for it.

Mrs. Loughrin will not be returning to teach next year. She is going to stay home with her baby. Dr. Shinn is always available for any questions you may have about anything. Please email her your questions and concerns. Thank you!

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

*Hopefully February has been filled with love and joy for you and your families. Today we have Mr. Simeck our Superintendent of schools 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 - "In every community there is work to be done. In every nation there are wounds to heal. In every heart there is the power to do it."**

*~Marianne Williamson*

**Honesty and Integrity have been the focus of the Emotional Wellness curriculum in our schools during January and February.** *For me an important part of living with integrity is stepping up to do the work that needs to be done so that our community can thrive. One of the most amazing things about being in this role is getting to work with so many people who are willing to step up and do the work with enthusiasm and grace. Thank you!*

### **Reflecting and Planning Ahead**

*It is that time of the year when we must begin reflecting on what we have accomplished and planning for next year while continuing to do the work that remains this year. At the District APT level that means it is time for our annual meeting. I would encourage everyone to attend the District 67 Annual APT meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting officers are officially elected, administrators from the District speak and we have a special guest speaker for all to enjoy. At Sheridan, I am asking each Board member to review the job description for your position and provide feedback about how you think it may need to be updated or changed based on your experience. Next month, you will be asked to fill out a statement of intent for next year. In April, we will begin the process of filling Board vacancies for next year. In May, we will have our annual Old Board/New Board luncheon to celebrate this year and welcome new board members.*

### **Meetings & Agendas**

*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 Amy 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. Our next meeting will be April 17<sup>th</sup> in the Board Room at West Campus starting at 9:30. Our guest speaker will be Ms. Puglisi, our Science Teacher.*

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

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

**Tri-District Meeting –Tri-District Meeting (Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>)** *There will be a lot of discussion about creating a vision for our schools to address the educational needs of our students based on what their future is going to look like. They will be talking about where our schools are now and where they need to go. He said a vision should be big, challenging and focused on positive changes that will prepare our students for the world they will living in and leading.*

**School Board Elections** – *Mr. Simeck talked about the major impact that a School Board has on the ability of the School District to function well. He urged everyone to become informed voters in the upcoming election. He put forward the idea that candidates with specific agendas are not ideal for service on a School Board. He said ideal candidates are those who are interested in serving the greater good of the community in this way. (It was noted in the meeting that the League of Women Voters will hold a Candidates Forum on Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm at the Library.)*

**Public Education** – *In response to a question/request Mr. Simeck talked about the perception of public education in the US. He said the idea that public education in our country is failing is not true and is an idea being perpetuated by people who see the money to be made in education and would like to see the system we have undone so they have the opportunity for financial gain. International comparisons are often used to fuel the argument that American schools are failing. These comparisons are not apples to apples. Two major examples of flaws are the varying poverty levels in the countries being compared. If you only look at schools in the US with poverty levels of 10% or less we are at the top. Finland ranks very high but only has a 5% poverty level. Another major issue is that the US educates everyone and tests most if not all students. Much of the rest of the international community sorts children and provides different educational programs based on performance. As a result only a select portion of their population takes the tests being used to compare performance.*

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

*A community newsletter about Districts 67 and 115 is in the works and will likely be sent to all residents in the weeks ahead. The Districts are also in the process of selecting a new website provider and revamping the websites. These communications costs are begin shared by the two districts. The results of the food service survey have been closely analyzed and widely shared. The District has met with Quest and they have been very open to making changes aligned with what parents want. They will be working on reducing processed foods, increasing food quality and balancing those with cost. Parents did not express a willingness to pay significantly more for lunch. They will also be working on ways to make the lines more efficient in a effort to maximize students' time for eating and socializing.*

#### **Leslie Fisher – Board of Education**

*Leslie talked about the fact that there will be 4 new members joining the Board and only 3 remaining after the upcoming election. She then reflected on all the Board has accomplished during her first two years of service. They hired a new Superintendent, they dealt with a major controversy, and they successfully negotiated a new contract with our teachers. She noted that we are in the process of going through lots of changes with a new teacher evaluation process and the implementation of the Common Core Curriculum Standards. She feels that education is in the process of changing in very deep and possibly long-lasting ways and that our District is responding to those changes.*

#### **Diana Kreiling - Nominating Committee Report**

*Nominees for APT Officers for 2013-15:*

*Allison Cekay, President of APT Executive Board*

*Cathy Ramsay, Treasurer of APT Executive Board  
Sushama Krishnaswamy, Communications Secretary of the APT Executive Board  
Christie Theis, President of Deer Path Middle School APT  
Umang Singh, President of Everett Elementary School APT*

*The official election will be held at the District 67 Annual APT meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> at Gorton Community Center. The APT business meeting will be from 9-10 am with guest speaker, Amy Krouse Rosenthal speaking from 10 – 11 am. ALL ARE WELCOME!*

### **From Rebecca Leafman, Emotional Wellness Initiative**

*Flyers were shared for Parents as Partners, A Presentation/Workshop for Parents March 5<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 11 am at Administration Center (West Campus).*

### **February Appreciations**

- ***Liz Duffy and Cherie Setteducate** for all they do to keep things running smoothly at Sheridan everyday.*
- ***Carrie Cole, Kristin McCain, & Tish Houston** for all of the planning and legwork they've done to make Friday's Bandstand a fun party for our Sheridan students and parents.*
- ***Emily Savage and Angie Hatfield** for the work they did helping to organize the APT Book Drive at Sheridan.*
- ***Nancy Allard & Bridgette Doheny** for organizing TIME Zone this month for our Kindergarteners.*
- ***Beth Laufenberg, Nanci Knipfer & Carmen Doering-Clark** for their work on the yearbook as that deadline approaches.*
- ***Camile Mayer & Kristen Chun** for reaching out to students with February Birthdays.*
- ***All of our Room Parents** who continue to organize volunteers for field trips, class parties, TIME Zone and more.*
- *Carmen Doering-Clark for helping keep all of our parents informed and our website updated.*
- ***Liz Scully** for putting together the January minutes quickly so all our parents could stay informed.*

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

Sheridan Bandstand is THIS Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be pizza, ice cream, games and a great DJ! Kids have given their music requests and it is going to rock! If you volunteered, you will receive an email letting you know your volunteer position. And a map of the Bandstand will be emailed as well. Have fun!

### **TIME ZONE – Bridgette Doheny and Nancy Allard**

The Kindergartners just had a great time at Time Zone in Kindertown ☺ Right now TIME ZONE is temporarily at West Campus. TIME ZONE will return to DPM as soon as construction of The

Cube (a new IT center) is completed. 3/14-3/15 the 4<sup>th</sup> graders will have Time Zone and 5/14 to 5/15 the 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will have Time Zone. Parent Volunteers are always needed! Thanks!

**Conference Luncheon – Kristin Ryan and Kelly Huguenard**

An email has been sent for volunteers to bring items for the Teachers Conference Luncheon on Thursday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>. Please take a look at see what you would like to bring. Items should be dropped off by 11am. The teacher's LOVE it so thank you for your help!

**New Family Coordinator – Amy Kelly and Amy Lazzaretto**

This position has taken a new and very exciting twist! Starting next year there will be a New Family Executive APT Board position! Together the APT Exec Board and each school will work together to welcome new families to Lake Forest and to our schools. There will be welcome letters, gift bags, new family coffees and more to welcome them to our community. Please consider this position for 2013-2014!

**Open Lands and Rec Center – Danielle Sullivan and Kristin Ryan**

Summer Camp information will be mailed out soon!

**Board Of Education-Alana Hender and Heather Kotlarz**

Please send any questions you may have to Alana and Heather. The BOE meetings are great and very informative. Mr Simeck is great!

**Fine Arts and Visiting Author-Michele Belzer and Kimberly Carris**

The fine arts presentation on February 19<sup>th</sup> was awesome and all the kids loved it! Thank you for these fabulous authors, dancers and artists that are children are exposed too!

**Spirit Wear-Kate Rappel and Kate Rother**

Spirit Wear sale continues! And there will be order forms at the Bandstand! There are a few new items: spring jackets, athletic shorts and cute knee high socks that are all the rage! All school wear will be on sale at the annual meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>. And we are looking into Sheridan Shark wear being on sale and ready to go at the Walk Thru in September. Stay tuned!

**Community Service-Angie Hatfield and Emily Savage**

Congratulations to Mrs. Schlemm's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class! They donated 1,311 books and get a pizza party! Great job!

**Food Service-Laurie Whisler and Michele Belzer**

A nutritionist from Lake Forest Hospital is going to speak with each grade individually on Monday, March 11th in Wellness. Quest is going to offer new and interesting items on the fruit and veggies bar the week after the nutritionist visits.

Sheridan is going to have the students do a coloring contest. Everyone who wants to participate will draw what a favorite healthy meal means for their family. National Nutrition Month this year is about "Eating right - your way". The students who turn in a drawing will have

it posted in school. Each grade will have on child randomly selected to design their own meal. Then the whole district will be served that child's lunch for one day! Their name will be listed on that day as "Joe's favorite meal", for example.

### **Parent Awareness-Eileen Swartout and Brooke Garrigan**

Website: Parent Awareness has been asked by district administration to partner on a survey for APT board members regarding their thoughts for use and improvements to the Parent Resource Corner e-newsletter and website content. APT board members should have the survey in their email in-box from their building president. Please provide us with your feedback. Thanks!

### Promote: For 7/8 and High School Parents

*"Behind the Orange Curtain", Wednesday, February 27th at 7 p.m.*

*Rhoades Auditorium of Rosalind Franklin University (one mile north of the Lake Bluff Border)*

LEAD, in conjunction with local corporate partners, will be offering a special screening of the award-winning film, "Behind the Orange Curtain." This is a stirring documentary that delves into the staggering problem of teenage prescription drug abuse. The Executive Producer of the film, Jamison Monroe, will be present with us for the screening and facilitated discussion. This is a very unique opportunity that has been offered to us and I hope you will attend and help us spread the word.

*Love & Logic for Parents of Teens: Top 10 Tips - Wednesday, March 13 at 7 p.m.*

*Lake Forest High School David Miller Theatre*

Does it ever seem that raising teens is tougher than ever? Wouldn't it be great if your teen left home ready and excited about making positive contributions to society? Our ever changing times require a new approach to parenting teens. Love & Logic expert, Gretchen Woolridge & Jean Odwazny, LCSW and CROYA Youth Advocate will share advice and practical tips to help you prepare your teen to face today's challenges!

### **For 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents - JumpStart on 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:**

JumpStart on 5<sup>th</sup> Grade is planned for Tuesday, May 14 at DPM. The Parent Awareness team is preparing for this parent to parent panel to provide incoming 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents information from current 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents' perspective.

### **Yearbook-Beth Laufenberg, Nanci Knipfer and Carmen Doering-Clark**

The class page deadline is February 28! Congrats to Linda Scholly for finishing her yearbook page first! The last one done gets to buy Linda a little treat! 7 days left everyone! If you need any help with your classes yearbook page, please email any of the lovely ladies mentioned above ☺

### **Spirit of 67-Bridgette Doheny and Michelle Curry**

The Spirit of 67 is very busy! A big thank you to the Spirit for the visiting authors and acrobats that entertained our kids this month and last. The Grants Committee has been extremely busy reading over all the grants there were submitted...49 in total! That is the most ever submitted! The Grants will be awarded and announced on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. More information will follow on this great event. All are welcome!

**HOME TOUR – THURSDAY MAY 2<sup>nd</sup> from 9am to 3pm**

Save the date! Four lovely homes have been secured for this great event and lunch will be at The Lake Forest Club. Be a Spirit Sponsor! Includes one tour ticket, one luncheon ticket, 3 raffle tickets, and special recognition in the Program for \$250. The first 10 reservations received prior to 3/1 will get a free ¼ page Shout Out in the Program Book!

Tickets available now at: [www.spiritof67foundation.org](http://www.spiritof67foundation.org)

Membership for Sheridan families is at 38%. Spirit is working on figuring out the best way to get participation and membership higher at Sheridan and across the district. Please consider joining THE SPIRIT! Thank you!

**Teacher Liason-Laura Schlemm**

Margo Newtown says THANK YOU for the visiting authors....it was outstanding!

Our art teacher Cathy Tkachuck would like to let you know that the 4<sup>th</sup> grade art show grand opening is on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-7pm at Gallery 300 at West Campus. All art will be displayed from March 4<sup>th</sup> until April 5<sup>th</sup> 😊

Lake Forest Schools have been invited by the Deerpath Art League to show their art! One piece will even be selected by the Mayor to be displayed. More info to follow.

Please label all snowpants!

**Shark Bite**-this month went to Meredith Hayes! Enjoy your Caputo Gift Card!!!! 😊

**Next APT Meeting with Guest Speaker Ms. Puglesi, Sheridan Science Teacher  
Wednesday, April 17th  
9:30 at West Campus!**

😊