



Sheridan School APT

Minutes from 11/28/2012

Call to order by Suzanne Sands at 9:35 am.

Board Members in attendance: Allard, Houston, Curry, darling, Glyman, Hender, Ivinjack, Kelly, Kramer, Kotlarz, Laufenberg, Matson, Robinson, Ryan, Sands, Schlemm, Scully, Swartout, Whisler, Nagel and Shinn

Delicious bagels where provided by Suzanne Sands! ☺

Guest Speaker – Bridgette Booker, Associate Principal at Everett and Director of Programming for Brainstormers

Brainstormers started 8 years ago as summer school and musicals. But the program has grown to be very successful. Brainstormers offers home school based classes. Teachers can submit topics. The most popular Brainstormer classes are Drum Club/Mallet Sharks Speech and Drama and Chess Club. They have a great partnership with Citadel too.

Sometimes if enrollment is low for a class, they combine the elementary schools, which is great. And usually a bus is available to bus the kids to programs between Sheridan and Cherokee. DPM has a new Italian class that is very popular and 22 kids are in the musical this year.

Bridgette often uses the list serve to send email blasts out for upcoming Brainstormer events. They are exploring some new class ideas for this Winter – Jewelry making and Digital Animation. At the meeting there was interest in a Lego/Robotics building class too.

All of the information about Brainstormers can be found on the District website. Look for all these great classes and we hope your kids have fun at some of the fun programs offered!

President's Report – Suzanne Sands

Hope everyone had a lovely Thanksgiving Holiday. Just a few more weeks of school and Winter Break will be upon us. Today we will be hearing about the Brainstormers Program from Bridget Booker. I want to thank everyone who is here today for making the time to attend this meeting.

KEEP READING . . . We've got lots to share!

Community Quote of the Month

CARING (Showing interest in the well being of yourself and others.) is the November and December focus for Emotional Wellness district wide. There are so many ways that children can participate in the act of caring for themselves and others. I would encourage everyone to make an effort to emphasize this at home in the weeks ahead.

“Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community.”

~Anthony J. D'Angelo

Communication: Website & Email

Email addresses have been shared. If you ever have any thoughts or suggestions about how we could further improve communication please let Carmen or myself know. Keep those pictures coming for our Scrapbook page.

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 January 23rd in the Board Room at West Campus starting at 9:30. **Our guest speaker will be Ms. Puglisi. She will be talking about Science at Sheridan.**

Important Surveys

You should have gotten an email from Mr. Simeck about the upcoming principal search that the District will be undertaking. It is important that everyone at Sheridan participate in the [Principal Attributes Survey](#) by Friday, December 7th. The new principal will be assigned either to Sheridan or Cherokee.

There will also be a comprehensive food service survey conducted district wide following Thanksgiving. It is important that EVERYONE take a few minutes to participate in this survey so the district can get a large enough sample to make the results valid. The surveys for the elementary buildings and DPM will be different so if you have children at both levels you are encouraged to complete both surveys. Links to all the surveys are available on the Sheridan APT website, the school website and the district website.

DISCUSSION TOPIC: Parent Coffees and Cocktail Parties

Are they well attended? Do people enjoy them? Are there any suggestions for improvement or changes you think we should make to this tradition?

Winter Sing

Bring a blanket and join us **Friday, December 14th** in the Gym at Sheridan. Ms. Schweitz will lead us all in song. There will be performances by the Sheridan Strings and the Mallet Sharks. There are two shows. 9:30 – 10:30 for pre-K, K, 2nd, and 4th grades & 1:30 – 2:30 for pre-K, 1st, and 3rd grades. Remember additional parking is available behind the school.

The Turkey Project: Thank you to all the families that participated. I hope this gave you a chance to have some positive conversations with your children about our community. Our turkey will be on display through November and we will post a photo on the website as well.

LEADers Luncheon

I was invited to and attended the LEADers Luncheon on November 13th put on by LEAD and the Speak UP! Coalition. At the luncheon some of the results from the latest Illinois Youth Survey were shared. I learned that according to the survey our community continues to have a significant underage drinking problem. If you are interested in learning more about this issue you can find more information on the lead website and you can attend Speak UP! Coalition meetings the first Thursday of each month at 9 am at West Campus.

Speak UP! Coalition believes that another possibly more urgent issue in terms of timing is the possibility of Medical Marijuana becoming legal in Illinois and the potential negative implications for our community. Based on the current bills being proposed our community would have the potential to be the location for up to 2 medical marijuana dispensaries as well as 2 cultivation areas. If local legislation is not in place restricting this prior to the state legislation passing we won't be able to take action after the law is passed based on the current language in the bills restricting local ordinances after the fact. The SpeakUP! Coalition has presented information to both Lake Forest and Lake Bluff city councils. Again more information is available on the lead and Speak UP websites.

LEAD website: <http://www.leadingefforts.org/>

Speak UP! Coalition website: <http://www.speakupflb.com/>

November Appreciations

- The **Swift Family** for opening their home for the 4th Grade Parent Party.
- The **Nagel Family** for opening their home for the Kindergarten Parent Party.
- The **Matkov/Whisler Family** for opening their home for the 3rd Grade Parent Party.

- **Nancy Allard & Bridgette Doheny** for kicking off TIME Zone this month with the First Grade Pilgrims program.
- All of our Room Parents who have been organizing volunteers for field trips, Halloween celebrations, TIME Zone and more.
- **Michele Belzer & Kimberly Carris** for facilitating the Charlotte's Web Fine Arts presentation in October.
- **Emily Savage & Angie Hatfield** for organizing the HUGS food drive at Sheridan with the help of **Mrs. Volpe, her first grade class and some 4th graders.**
- All of our families that generously donated to the HUGS food drive this year.
- All of our students who participated in the 2nd Annual Sheridan Turkey Project.
- **Kristin Ryan & Kelly Huguenard** for organizing a Conference Luncheon for our teachers on November 19th as well as all of the parent volunteers who contributed to the luncheon.
- **Camile Mayer & Kristen Chun** for reaching out to students with November birthdays and doing a Holiday flyer as well.
- **Carmen Doering-Clark** for helping keep all of our parents informed and our website updated.
- **Liz Scully** for putting together the October minutes quickly so all our parents could stay informed.

DPM Security Breach FYI

A Message from the Principal

November 12, 2012

Dear DPM Parent:

Last Thursday, one of our Deer Path teachers reported a missing credit card to the Lake Forest Police Department. Friday, upon review of our hallway video surveillance recordings, we observed that Wednesday afternoon a 35-40 year-old male entered the back of the school and did not check in at the office. This same individual entered two classrooms, where no staff or students were present, including the teacher's classroom. As with all matters of safety, we are taking this occurrence very seriously and are working closely with the Lake Forest Police Department.

Before school this morning, we met with the Deer Path staff to review and assess this event. We are very concerned that this took place during the course of a school day and as a result are reviewing procedures district-wide. While this review is taking place, DPM visitors (during school hours) will only be allowed to enter the West Campus through the main door at the front of the building.

This occurrence underscores the importance of our collective focus on strictly enforcing all our safety and security procedures each and every day. Please be sure you check in at the school office and wear a visitor's badge every time you visit the school.

We thank you for your partnership and the Lake Forest Police Department for their professional assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any suggestions or questions.

Tom Cardamone
Principal

Principal's Report – Dr Shinn

During the Winter months we may explore indoor recess. We tried this a few years ago and the kids really enjoyed the choices and the change. Some of the choices for indoor recess would be: the IRC, the Gym and the Art room. Of course, outdoor recess is always an option for the kids. In order to make the indoor recess run smoothly, we would need some parent volunteers for the half hour time slot. Indoor recess is being discussed for January and February 2013.

Dr. Shinn also touched upon the principal restructuring at Sheridan and Cherokee next year. They are starting an open National Principal search and a survey is available on our website for parents to fill out. The survey needs to be filled out by DEC 7TH!!! The effective start date of a new principal starting will be July 1st, 2013.

Dr. Shin also presented the ISAT testing results from 3rd and 4th grade classes last year. Please see the chart below. The trend is positive for Sheridan School kids. Although the test is going to be changed in two years. If you have any questions regarding the ISAT testing, please contact Dr. Shinn. Thank you!

Reading	% Meets (2012/2011)	% Exceeds (2012/2011)
3rd	28.3 (39.7)	69.8 (52.9)
4th	35.3 (51.7)	54.8 (46.6)

Math	% Meets (2012/2011)	% Exceeds (2012/2011)
3rd	24.5 (26.9)	71.7 (68.7)
4th	37.1 (58.6)	61.3 (39.7)

Science	% Meets (2012/2011)	% Exceeds (2012/2011)
4th	50 (58.6)	45.2 (36.2)

Committee Reports are up next – so keep scrolling down.

Committee Reports

Secretary – Amy Kelly and Liz Scully

Lake Forest Library is having their annual Tree Trimming Party this Tuesday, December 4th from 10am-6pm in the Children's Library. Kids can make tons of different kinds of ornaments. It is so fun! ☺

Conference Lunch – Kristan Ryan and Kelly Huguenard

Thank you so much for all of the luncheon donations! The luncheon was a complete success!

LF Rec Center/Open Lands – Danielle Sullivan and Kristen Ryan

The Lake Forest Recreation Center has just mailed out the Winter brochure and the registration date starts on December 11th. Here are some Happenings in December:

Dec 8th – Santa Visits

Dec 12th – Santa Calling

Dec 14th – Spotlight “Grinch” presentation in CROYA at 630pm

Dec 15th – Extrav-A-Dance-A at 4pm in the Gymnasium

Dec 14th-Dec 16th – Stirling Hall Art Sale

The Polar Express is sold out and the waitlist is closed.

And there is still time to register for some sections of Rec Center Basketball.

Board of Education-Alana Hender and Heather Kotlarz

Alana and Heather have attended three meetings since our last APT meeting. October and November's BOE meeting and the BOE liaison meeting with Mr. Simeck.

In the October meeting the BOE discussed the following topics.

The 30 day enrollment figures have been tallied. Last year D67 enrollment was 2034 students. This year, enrollment has dropped to 1940 students.

Rebecca Leafman reported on the state of the Emotional Wellness Program. The ongoing tools being used include 'social, emotional, character development.' She explained how the program is a true partnership between School, Family and Community. Two eight-grade students described their time spent at the Youth Summit. They promise to meet regularly to continue working on the student issues affecting our community.

Joe Malin reported a summary on the Illinois Youth Survey. This survey was given to sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. This survey is also given to students at the high school. Some topics covered in the survey include: alcohol use, health, feelings and family support. He cited two examples of results. One result showed the use of alcohol by D67 students in comparison to all of Lake County. The survey shows low rates of alcohol consumption by D67. The second example had to do with reports of bullying. The bullying rates are lower in D67 in comparison to the rest of Lake County. In eighth grade, the rate of bullying was only slightly lower than that of Lake County. Mr. Malin

shared with the Board many programs available to deal with these issues, including: LEAD, Croya, Emotional Wellness Initiative, and drug and alcohol prevention programs.

Julie Cooley reported on the Student Development Vision Statement. The D67 would like to see 100% positive school climate reported by the students. Currently, the survey shows an increase in positive school climate, especially in terms of school safety. In grades 5-8 the reports of bullying have decreased, from 44 reports last year, to 28 reports this year.

Also talked about why we have early dismissal on Mondays. It is the best day for productivity and for our teachers to collaborate!

In the November 27th BOE Meeting, they discussed the following topics.

Mention of Chicago Tribune article, regarding BOE allegations and misrepresentations. Generally, the article is missing critical facts. Including the fact that the interest rate on loan is of financial benefit to the Board. Payments are current in this the fourth of five year repayment schedule. Also, Lake Forest Bank & Trust submitted the most cost effective offer of nine proposals submitted to the District. The story comingled over 18 years of information from multiple school boards, a local bank, the Caucus, local citizens, etc. into one sensationalized report. Both Districts' Finance Committees, consisting of Board and community representatives, consistently review all aspects of the District's finances. The two districts also work with other financial institutions for other investments. Julia Wold characterized the article as having numerous mis-documentations, and as an inept review of all aspects of the Board's finances.

Four District employees recently returned from a trip to China. They visited 10 different provinces, at the expense of Chinese government, advocating for Chinese language. Mr. Malin, Director of Personnel Services, shared images from this amazing trip. Others who participated were Carolyn Crummis, Dr. Shinn, and Mr. Simeck.

Dr. Shinn shared some observations. Kids in china just like kids in LF. They have a lot of support for their education from their families. A great share of their work while in China was about relationship with us as educators. Some noted contrasts: the mix of old and new/history and modernity, role of government very different, trying to move towards decentralization, focus on socio-emotional issues; whereas we are working towards centralization with Common Core.

China is important! Emerging and developing, China sees our importance, wanted to learn how we educate students, see American education as leader in many respects. There are 4 times more Americans studying in China currently than just four years ago. China wants to promote experiential thinking; one of our strengths. How to innovate in

a conforming culture is a challenge. China has the largest growing middle class; major growth and opportunity. For our students it is also an extraordinary opportunity to be a part of this rapidly growing part of the world.

Elementary Principal position is now open/posted. Board has not designated which building the new principal will serve. Probably July 1st start date, decision made in early spring.

Reports:

21st Century Learning and Technology - Dr. Henrikson and Mrs. Epcke 2020 vision, where we want students to be by 2020 (began three years ago). Two initiatives: Common Core and the new teacher evaluation plan (chose the Danielson framework, which has great emphasis on student involvement). Judy Epcke, Instructional Technology Director. Our kids are global citizens, have information at their fingertips, work to make technology a seamless part of learning in the district. Technology Team also includes Laura Montgomery, Amy Lamberti and Bridget Booker.

Two most impactful initiatives: First, iPads in the K-4 classrooms. iPads are creation devices. Bridget Booker shared video of example of iPads in the classroom. Second, the One to One initiative at DPM with Netbooks. Grace Gescheidle, a 5th grader, shared her thoughts on the Netbooks: great learning tool, good access to websites, access more information, easy to communicate with teachers; drawback that Netbooks can be slow. Jack Armstrong, an 8th grader, also shared his feelings about Netbooks: helpful with Edmodo for assignments, helpful for teacher-student connection, safe and productive way to do research. Also shared negatives such as the fact that they can be unreliable. If they are not working kids are not connected and cannot participate. Survey done on Netbooks, some results: Used most often in Language Arts and Social Studies, students overall like them, teachers report those students who may not participate in a classroom will participate more during online chat, greater access to Internet sites for projects and research

Spirit of 67 – Bridgette Doheny and Michelle Curry **Membership percentages**

Here's the big picture from the month of OCTOBER -

District-Wide is 33.1%

Cherokee is 37.2

Everett is 43.2

Sheridan is 31.8

DPM is 32.1

Our goal for the district is 50%.

Luncheon success - Thanks to all who attended this annual event - lots of fun, delicious food and an opportunity to support the SPIRIT of 67. Over 240 supporters attended this sold-out event, which raised over \$49,000. The money raised from this event will fund grants supporting academics, the arts and technology for all of our elementary and middle school students.

Spirit of 67 Car Magnets - Please let us know if you have not received your super cute car decal - ALL members should have received one by now.

Grants - And finally, what we all love to talk about - new and exciting ways to support our kiddos! All grants will be due on January 24th. Our teachers have been hard at work developing many cool ideas for next year's implementation. Remember, you are also eligible to write a grant. If you see a need OR have a wish, why not see if you can make it a reality for your child's school? All of the required grant materials are on line. If you have any questions, please let us know.

Holiday Cookie Boxes – Michelle Belzer and Wendy Darling

It has been a long-standing tradition of Sheridan School and the APT to recognize our hard-working and dedicated teachers and staff by giving them cookie boxes during the holiday season. It is now time for APT Board members and room parents to sustain this tradition by contributing **three dozen of your favorite homemade cookies or treats**. We will need enough baked goods to fill about 65 boxes for teachers and staff members. Baked goods may include nuts. If you don't have time to bake, boxed candy or bakery items are welcome.

Please drop them off at Michele Belzer's home, 1598 N. Western Avenue, on Tuesday afternoon, December 18th or **Wednesday, December 19th before 10.00 am.**

We will assemble and deliver the cookie boxes on Wednesday, December 19th, and are seeking volunteers from 11.00-12.00 to assemble the boxes at Michele's home.

Please contact Wendy Darling at darlinglf@gmail.com or Michele Belzer at michele.belzer@comcast.net with any questions.

Lake Forest Caucus – Beth Laufenberg

www.lfcaucus.com Please go to their website to see what District 67 School Board Candidates and District 115 School Board Candidates that the Lake Forest Caucus has endorsed. There are a lot of wonderful and familiar faces. Please go vote on April 9, 2013!! The website has tons of great information regarding these full time volunteers!

Emotional Wellness – Micaiah Robinson

There was not an Emotional Wellness meeting this month. Teachers have signs up in their rooms encouraging and reminding kids to BE POSITIVE! ☺

Time Zone – Nancy Allard

The first graders had Time Zone earlier this month and it was great. The time zone facility is moving to the IRC at DPM. The 3rd grade Time Zone, Native Americans, will be January 24th and we are in need of volunteers. Please let the Time Zone coordinators know if you are available to volunteer for 3rd grade. Thanks!

Parent Awareness – Eileen Swartout and Brooke Garrigan

LEAD now has a video center so parents are able to watch the podcast of any seminars that they may have missed. Please go to the LEAD website and check it out 😊

Teacher's Report – Laura Schlemm

Thanks for the fabulous luncheon! The teachers loved it!

And the **SHARK BITE** goes too...Nancy Allard! Who received an Einstein's gift card!