

## **Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 11/17/2015**

Meeting Commenced at 9:01 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

### **Attendees**

Kim Carden, Ruth Winick, Nancy Meier, Judi Olenick, Mike Borkowski, Kim Campbell, Elizabeth Lombardo, Sushama Krishnaswamy, Lisa Potash, Christine Goshgarian, Teri Albus, Tiffany Wiesner, Susan Lewin, Amy Gray, Kimberly Carris, Mary Kay Hanlon, Liz Olsen, Anna Theodore, Julie Pasinato, Umang Singh, Lydia Conopiotis, Amy Lamberti, Amy Lazzaretto, Renee Devore, Paul Suminski, Tom Cardamone, Michael Kroll, Jennifer Karras

### **President – Call to Order**

#### **Guest Speaker –**

##### **Dr. Elizabeth Lombardo**

- Dr. Lombardo is a clinical psychologist and physical therapist. Elizabeth is a nationally renowned media contributor featured on the TODAY Show, CNN, Steve Harvey and Dr. Oz among others. She is a regular columnist for Better Homes and Gardens and the author of several books including her most recent title, *Better than Perfect: 7 Strategies to Crush Your Inner Critic and Create a Life You Love*.
- Dr. Lombardo spoke about failure.  
Three tips to help parents let their children fail:
  1. Separate the outcome from your overall worth.
  2. It's not failure it's data.
  3. Pick your praise to help your children.

### **Administrator Reports**

#### **Tom Cardamone, Principal 5/6 and Michael Kroll, Assistant Principal 5/6**

- Emily Correa put together presentations for the DPM students last week including topics on bullying and treating each other kindly. Some LFHS students and staff also presented.

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- Reminder that parent teacher conferences are next week. Report cards go home this Friday, the 20<sup>th</sup>. This will probably be the last set of paper report cards that go home. Partnering with info snap to view report cards online soon. NWEA results also coming home with report cards and PARCC results from the spring will also be distributed soon.

### **Renee DeVore, Principal 7/8 and Paul Suminski, Assistant Principal 7/8**

- Monday, Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10am, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade language arts team will hold a realistic fiction celebration in the Cube at DPM East. The celebration will go until 11:30 with snacks and coffee will be provided. Six 7<sup>th</sup> grade students were selected and will be reading their stories.

### **Teacher Liaison - Amy Lamberti**

#### Announcements:

- @ 10 AM on Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> - "Celebration Reading" : Realistic Fiction Unit of Study is celebrating the student writing success The event starts in and around the Cube. Authors have submitted to read in small group clusters while teachers will prompt small group discussions on craft & theme. Students will choose groups, anthologies will be "on sale" (proceeds to go to Ragdale Foundation)-- cool, coffee house vibe is what we are going for. At 10:45, all 7<sup>th</sup> graders and invited guests will move to the auditorium where we will listen to Ken Smith as he speaks to the students about his published writing career. Then, and this is the coolest part, 6 students who submitted work for consideration will read his/her story to the full audience (in dramatic style!)
- Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> - EWC 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Game Night & Salute to Veterans. The night will be dedicated to honoring and assisting our Veterans. In lieu of an admission fee, we are asking that families bring specific items to donate to the Veterans at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center. The donations will be collected at the door and delivered by DPM student representatives to the VA hospital during the week of February 14, as part of the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. We are also partnering with Honor Flight Chicago in hopes of raising enough money to sponsor the flight of a local veteran to Washington D.C. Join us for an evening of family, fun, and gratitude to our service men and women.

This night is sure to be a hit for everyone in the family! Included in the

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### Evening:

- DJ "Riel" Lozano!
  - Open Gym (Volleyball, Hockey, Basketball, Tumbling, etc.)
  - Board Games
  - Face Painting / Henna Tattoos
  - Valentine's for Veterans Card Making Station
  - Popcorn Machine
  - Bake Sale
  - Break Out Sessions for Parents
  - Raffles!
- 
- 7th Grade Springfield Trip April 16-17, 2016. There is still space available. Registration information can be found under the news section on the DPM-West website. Parents can also contact Natalie Bolgrien [nbolgrien@lfschools.net](mailto:nbolgrien@lfschools.net) or Dave Pierce [dpierce@lfschools.net](mailto:dpierce@lfschools.net) with questions.
  - Thank you so much for providing the lovely treats for the teachers. Also, it was fun to get a birthday note from the APT. We teachers appreciate all that you do for us!
  - Please remind parents that Power School has a wealth of information that teachers provide IF they click on any icons for messages, open and read the task descriptions, if it is "greyed out" it means does not count, it is not counted into final grade, it is a formative assessment or assignment etc They may not be able to see these things if only checking through their phones.
  - Please ask if supplies for their children can be replenished; for example pencils, lined paper, colored pencils. Thanks much as this helps the kids be prepared for class.
  - Please remind parents who pick up their children by car behind DPM after school to keep to the right if they are waiting in the exit lanes between the parking areas. If they form two lanes of waiting, they block those who are trying to leave. Keep right if you are waiting for your child, then go around to the left when you are ready to exit. There has been mounting frustration on the part of some parents who can't go around when they are ready to leave. ALWAYS be observant of children who decide to dart out into cars!
  - The Students Involved in Technology conference is coming February 20th to Deerpath middle school. Registration is now open. There is a \$25 fee for registering your child (gr 3-12) to be in attendance or as a presenter. We are

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also looking for volunteers to supervise the hallways and presentation rooms. All information can be found on [www.sitconference.org](http://www.sitconference.org) website.

- During Ms. Zoul's ELO time students have been designing and planning a garden for the back porch of DPME. We'd love to have parent volunteers for making this process smoother and to think bigger. Please reach out for more information with [azoul@lfschools.net](mailto:azoul@lfschools.net)

### Officer Reports

#### **President – Jennifer Karras**

- DPM APT is putting together a board bio book. Information about the board book was emailed to all board members this week. Jennifer would also like board members to include a head shot photograph. Please submit all to her by Nov 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Further information coming about a January book club to discuss “The Gift of Failure”
- Further information is coming about developing a communications process.
- Please take a look on the DPM APT website on your board member roles. If you would like to change/amend any info, please email to Jennifer.

#### **Vice President / Communications – Anna McEvoy**

No report this month.

#### **Secretary – Kim Carden**

Approval of October minutes – first motion by Susan Lewin, second motion by Kim Campbell. All approved.

Here is a link to the November community news flyers -

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B-Qp5m19bimDSHEXUVJRT01jRnc>

#### **Treasurer – Lindsay Seaman**

No report this month.

### Committee Reports

#### **Art Fair – Holly Sheridan, Connie Hollingsworth, Desiree Witte, Tiffany Wiesner**

We will be promoting the 2016 Art Fair starting in December. Sandwich boards will be on display December 14-18 and posters will be placed throughout the school. We

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plan to provide hardcopy information/registration packets to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade homeroom teachers, since awareness of the Art Fair is generally low for students new to DPM.

### **Board of Education Liaison – Teri Albus, Christine Goshgarian**

The Board of Education section of the website was reviewed to illustrate where to find the Board of Education meeting packets, which include agendas and documentation for the upcoming meetings

<http://www.lakeforestschoools.org/board-of-education/district-67-boe/index.aspx>

This section also includes videos of past meetings and archived meeting information.

We also overviewed the most productive way to direct parent questions regarding school initiatives (*see attached handout*). Reps were reminded this meeting is for district level concerns; individual student or teacher concerns will not be discussed at these meetings. Specific building level questions should be taken to the school principal – refer to handout for further clarification. This process helps address parental questions and concerns most effectively.

### **Questions from Representatives**

*Not really a question, more of a concern. With regards to math, own experience and talking with other parents, lots of kids in the 5th grade bridges program are having problems. Because there are no books, there is very little that parents can do to help support their child. Is it possible for Bridges to provide something for parents to help them support their child or for there to be a presentation on the math program to parents similar to what they are proposing for the Writing Workshop? Since the new math is so different from what we grew up with, there seems to be a need for more parent support.*

We would need a little more information on what “having problems” means to best address this question. There are resources on the Math Learning Center’s website. Additionally, the district has held parent nights the past couple of years at the elementary schools and is planning a series of curriculum conversations for this year. If a student is having difficulty with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade program, or any program, it should be discussed with the child’s teacher.

Mr. Simeck overviewed the math course sequencing (see attached chart which can

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also be found on district website under math

<http://www.lakeforestschools.org/district-departments/curriculum/lf67-curriculum/index.aspx> ) and noted that the majority of our students are in the grey band on the chart. The district has built in ladders or supports to help students move levels if appropriate, but the key is ensuring students are placed in the correct courses to support their individual learning.

*Can you give us some background on why the change in the elementary writing workshop to the Lucy Calkins? Was our district suffering before? A parent observed that her son 3 years ago was told not to worry about correct spelling that they eventually learn it and just to spell phonetically (1st grade) and then in 2nd grade told don't worry about writing legibly b/c they will type everything soon anyways and now in 4th grade they are writing by hand for an hour??? Are we expecting them to all become authors now?*

Workshop is a very well established instructional model that offers students the ownership and choice, mixed with explicit teaching, to teach them as true readers and writers. Lucy Calkins' Units of Study provide very well articulated learning progressions in both writing and reading. Students do write by hand, but are also using chrome books.

*Can you give some feedback to parents who see a lot of talk around helping the kids on the bottom 25% and top 25% but not so much is the middle-lower 25%. Their child is capable of so much better performance but doesn't appear to be getting any extra help or attention.*

The workshop model differentiates itself. Students are working in their authentic writing, or in authentic texts that are at their levels. A significant amount of professional development time is being devoted to analyzing student work in order to focus on identifying what students need — ALL students. This is a priority for our district and highlighted in our strategic plan.

*We heard a lot of talk about the Mindset book last year and through the summer but nothing lately. Was that a flash in the pan or is it being used?*

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In the majority of the classrooms there is a visual reference to mindset — bulletin boards, quotes hanging, language being used with students and staff. Dr. Dweck addressed our staff at the opening of school and we held a community night at the beginning of this year. It continues to be a focus of our staff and is becoming part of our culture.

The district is planning a series of parent conversations for this school year. Topics could include the curriculum (including writing and math), meeting the needs of all students, innovative learning spaces and how they support learning, etc. The reps were asked for topic ideas as we plan these events.

Our next meeting is Monday, January 25 at 9:00am at the District Administration Center.

### **Care and Concern – Kim Robb, Kim Gambit**

No report this month.

### **Class of 2016 Activities – Susan Lewin, Sally McDonald, Shawn Ward, Tiffany Wiesner**

Community Service Day (CSD) was held on Friday, October 23, 2015, and it was a huge success. Thank you to all of the organizations that participated, the teacher chaperones, the parent volunteer chaperones, the Rotary club, and Renee, Paul and the office staff at DPM. Thanks also to the students who represented DPM and Lake Forest so well. We got feedback from various organizations praising the students work ethic, attitude and behavior.

8<sup>th</sup> grade photo project- We have extended our deadline to submit photos (Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade) until November 30<sup>th</sup>. They can either drop them off in the bin in the DPM-W office, or mail/drop off to Shawn Ward at 547 Meadowood Drive.

We created an electronic survey for the students to complete to provide us information about their interest in participating in various aspects of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade activities throughout the rest of the year including community service (tracking hours), talent show (performing, producing, ushering) and the dance (theme, food, etc.). We hope to have a meeting in the next couple weeks with the students interested in helping on the dance committee. The dance committee will create

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ideas for the dance themes that will then be voted on by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class. We hope to have a dance theme chosen by shortly before or after Winter Break.

### **Community Service - Heather Richmond, Beth Laufenberg**

Thank you for supporting the HUGS Food Drive that ended yesterday. We will share results as soon as we have them!

### **There are still volunteer opportunities to help this week:**

Sort Food: Tuesday - Thursday, November 17-19 3-5:30 at Gorton Community Center, 400 E. Illinois Road, Lake Forest.

Space is limited, so please contact Lake County cares at 847-234- 8876 or send an email to [info@lakecountycares.org](mailto:info@lakecountycares.org) with the subject "Food Drive" to sign up to sort food. It is important to sign up in advance so that all volunteers can be accommodated.

Load Trucks: Friday, November 20 3-5:30 at the parking lot of the Gorton Community Center, Lake Forest.

Deliver Food: Saturday, November 21 9AM Gorton Community Center, Lake Forest

### **CROYA - Kristin O'Neil**

No report this month.

### **Culture Fair Grade 5 - Christiana Walsh**

Our first 5th grade culture fair was held on Thursday, October 29th and featured Egypt. The kids were treated to a presentation in the morning by 2 actors who included stories of Egyptian gods and goddesses - the Egyptian Cinderella, Osiris and Isis, and a Pharaoh whose children stole from his pyramid - along with music played on ancient Egyptian instruments. In the afternoon, kids visited 5 different stations run by parent volunteers and teachers. These stations included playing an ancient Egyptian game of senet - a cross between trouble and chutes and ladders, playing bingo based on Egyptian facts, making their name in hieroglyphics and then putting them on papyrus, making clay amulets and making "fruity pharaohs" which illustrated the beginning steps of mummification. We had such an outpouring of volunteers for this event that we almost had to turn volunteers away! It is great to



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see how committed parents are to their children's school experience. The 5th grade culture fairs are made possible through a grant from the Spirit of 67. Without the grant, parents would be contacted to cover the cost of the culture fairs. Our next culture fair will focus on Greece and be held in March.

### **Culture Fair Grade 6 – Diana Webb, Kimberly Carris**

The first 6<sup>th</sup> grade culture fair will be Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The students are taking a field trip to Medieval Times. This has always been the 6<sup>th</sup> grade trip but it was dropped the past few years. Now that the curriculum is Middle Ages around the world all year, it works well again.

The other 2 culture fairs are TBD but we will be working with Mrs. Makoul and Mrs. Gunderson to plan those for after the first of the year. We will be having a meeting in the next couple of weeks.

### **Directory / Membership – Judi Olenick, Anna McEvoy**

Summary of Activities Since Last Exec Board Meeting:

Please indicate as many specifics as possible, including dates, details of meetings (e.g. attendees/discussion), events (attendees/positive or negative feedback), and any other issues that arose.

#### **DIRECTORY:**

Print Directory:

- There was a glitch with the directory distribution labels created using MSA report – 147 families received one less directory than they should have. We labeled and distributed the additional directories.

Meeting with Brittany Tjardes on November 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss changes to the InfoSnap registration process to improve directory and membership for 2016-17 school year.

- 
- Add a box for Families to indicate how their name should appear on the APT Membership List
- 
- Add new category under student status – “new to returning family”
- This year we almost missed the new kindergarteners in the returning families because those students were also listed as returning.

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### CLASS LISTS/FACULTY & STAFF ROSTERS:

Jenn is working with schools to standardize the process by which class lists and faculty & staff rosters are created and submitted. This will alleviate the busy work of re-typing all the information and help standardize the format for all school secretaries.

### MEMBERSHIP:

#### MSA

- Work with Jay to determine how to load membership data from InfoSnap into MSA eliminate needing to re-enter all the data manually.
- Discuss with Brittany (11/11) the possibility of sharing information with MSA
- Also explore with Brittany the possibility of receiving a report of all new members who join during the year to save down loading a full Infosnap report.

### PROCESS FOR MEMBERSHIP AFTER EARLY SEPTEMBER

- Need to put in place processes for handling new APT memberships once directories/memberships are finalized for directory distribution.
- Developed a mid year new members letter which is saved on directory/membership shared google drive. Plus drafted new e mail to welcome new APT members who join mid year.
- Need to remember to check District 67 Webstore receipts, paypal and InfoSnap system to check for new memberships on a bi- weekly basis.

### REFUNDS

All refunds will be made by check or via paypal in the coming weeks as re-imburement via Infosnap is cost prohibitive.

- Need to make sure families who made a duplicate payment are sent an e mail to confirm re-imburement and that only one membership per family is required in future years.

### Summary of Coming Months (December 2015) - Plans:

Identify 2-3 individuals to join the Executive APT level for directory and membership so they can learn the processes during this coming year to ensure a smooth handoff for the 2016-2017 school year.

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### **Emotional Wellness – Micaiah Robinson, Umang Singh, Elizabeth Lombardo, Sushama Krishnaswamy**

See Parent Awareness report.

### **Fifth Grade Welcome – Christiana Walsh, Liz Olsen**

No report this month.

### **Fine Arts – Mike Borkowski**

No report this month.

### **Food Service – Laura Whisler**

Quest Food Services is going to be sampling ground turkey taco meat with crumbled corn taco shells during the lunch periods on Monday, December 7th. Parent volunteers are needed to staff the sampling table. Use the VolunteerSpot link <http://vols.pt/LgoQa1> to sign up for a spot.

### **LFHS Liaison – Melinda Hill, Christie Theis, Lynn Bertram, Jill D’Alessandro**

No report this month.

### **New Families – Lynn Lawler, Marty Vander Velde, Jennifer Lazarus, Heidi Smith**

No report this month.

### **Parent Awareness – Umang Singh, Alyssa Sinclair **Parent Awareness/Emotional Wellness Joint Meeting.****

Since the October Meeting, our committee has been part of collaborative initiatives in the area of communication and working more closely/aligning with Emotional Wellness.

Alyssa and Umang (along with Liz Olsen and Teri Albus) participated in the kickoff meeting of the Board's Communication Working Group, a meeting organized by Jennifer and Anna, on Tues., 10/27. This meeting resulted in the development of a DPME and DPMW Facebook page as well as a template for a "hot topic" Parent Newsletter that we shared with our Exec PA Leads Jorie and Diana.

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On Thursday, November 5, the Emotional Wellness and Parent Awareness Committees had a joint meeting with Emilie Correa (District Emotional Wellness Coordinator), Anne Whipple (Communications) and Janice Patterson (Communications).

Topics that were discussed included:

- \*current Emotional Wellness initiatives in District 67
- \*possible communications channels for keeping parents informed

The group discussed avenues of communications including:

- \*email blasts for upcoming events
- \*use of Edmodo to reach both students and parents
- \*quarterly newsletter for Emotional Wellness topics and events

The group also assessed different ways that important parent information is communicated currently:

- \*Edmodo
- \*Friday Flyers
- \*Email blasts to notify parents of current events

Executive Leads are currently working with Anne and Janice to produce a quarterly newsletter for December release to focus on issues of technology use. The potential title of the quarterly publication may be: "67 E-Pulse: Emotional Wellness Parent Awareness Newsletter."

### **Parent Teacher Liaison – Katie Frekko, Debra Meredith**

No report this month.

### **Room Parent Coordinators – Lydia Conopeotis (5), Karena Garriques (6), Judi Olenick (7), Sushama Krishnaswamy (8)**

No report this month.

### **School Supplies – Kathy Ivinjack 5/6, Tiffany Wiesner 7/8**

No report this month.

### **Spiritwear – Kristina Frede, Liz Olsen**

New designs and colors made this a banner year for Spiritwear! DPM students and

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staff orders have been delivered, and any back-ordered items came directly to Kiddles for pick-up. It was a pleasure to work with Kiddles again this year, and their suppliers were able to offer many varieties and relatively low prices. The Fall ordering season for Spiritwear is a once-a-year activity. There are a few DPM and elementary school items for sale at Kiddles — always great Holiday presents.

### **Spirit of 67 Liaison – Amy Kelly, Amy Lazzaretto**

#### **Fall Events**

Our fall events were a huge success raising just shy of **\$47,000** that can be used to fund grants. Thank you to everyone who **Kicked Up Your Boots for Education** at the Barn Dance Benefit at the home of Jeff and Joan Lynch. It was a fantastic evening! Also, a big thanks to everyone who **Raised Your Hand for Education** by participating in the online auction. We are grateful to our Fall FUNdraising Events' Sponsors: at properties sponsored the super fun Chicken Drop; Fisher Financial Partners was our invitation sponsor; Forest & Bluff Magazine was our media sponsor. A special thanks also to PostNet, the Shanty and Sunset Foods for providing their services at a discount and for in-kind donations to the event. Finally, we must express our deepest gratitude to our Partners in Education Goshgarian Orthodontics, Lake Forest Pediatric Dentistry and ULINE as well as our President's Circle Partner, The Grainger Foundation for their ongoing support of our mission. The funds raised at these events will be used help the Spirit of 67 Foundation continue to have a lasting impact on every student in every school, every day.

### **Staff Appreciation – Lynne Kennedy, Sushama Krishnaswamy, Ruth Winick, Janet Burt, Ami Vora, Maureen Fitzgerald, Kristen Lee**

October Welcome Fall Event was well-received by staff on both sides of the campus. It was a pumpkin and apple themed event – muffins, apple cider, caramel apples, dipped apple slices etc. Many thanks to ALL the volunteers who donated items to make this event successful. Thanks also to the room parents who helped rally volunteers.

Next event is conference dinner on Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> and we still need volunteers to bake desserts. Shortly after that on Dec 15<sup>th</sup> is another new event – a cookie walk. We will need volunteers to bake for that too. We are going to utilize volunteer spot and room parents to solicit volunteers.

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### **SLS Student Leadership and Spirit (Formerly Student Council and Effort)- Ingrid Biela, Kim Campbell, Amy Gray, Micaiah Robinson**

Recap of previous Events:

- Heavenly Hats event raised \$246. net. Students paid \$1.00 to wear a hat. Funds go to support people who are going through cancer treatments.
- Fall Ball event raised \$563. net. Students paid \$8.00 to participate. Funds go to support Charity Ball.org which provided 22 soccer balls for needy children.
- Elections for Officers were held and committees are in formation process.

Future Activities:

- Association House of Chicago Fundraiser. SLS students will donate \$10. to provide needy children Christmas gifts. The gifts will be hand picked and hand delivered by the students on December 4<sup>th</sup> to the Association House.
- SLS is committed to assisting the HUGS group by bringing in stuffing mix (5<sup>th</sup> Grade) and canned yams (6<sup>th</sup> Grade) for Thanksgiving dinners for the needy. Last year this served 550 family s for their holiday meal.
- SLS is in the process of forming various committees based upon future activities and school based need. Some of the committees are:

Field Trip

STEAM

Recess Equipment

Anti-Bullying

Lunch Tables/Cafeteria

Classroom Furniture Options

Multi Media

Public Service Announcements