

## **Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 11/15/16**

Meeting Commenced at 9:02am  
Meeting Adjourned at 11:00am

### **Attendees**

Kim Carden, Anna McEvoy, Jennifer Karras, Mary Kay Hanlon, Heather Richmond, Heather Clements, Alyssa Sinclair, Julie Schwan, Judi Olenick, Amy Kelly, Lynn Bertram, Kim Campbell, Sarah Priest, Jennifer Lazarus, Sushama Krishnaswamy, Anna Theodore, Kristen Lee, Heather Strong, Tish Houston, Christine Goshgarian, Diana Webb, Kimberly Carris, Anne Whipple, Mike Field, Renee DeVore, Tom Cardamone, Michael Kroll, Michael Simeck

### **President – Call to Order**

#### **Guest Speaker – Mr. Michael Simeck**

Mr. Simeck spoke about the water in the schools, PSAT testing and student social/emotional well being.

### **Administrator Reports**

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

- Tom announced an upcoming BOC concert for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders on December 8<sup>th</sup> in the auditorium.
- Tom praised the Mark Wood event 2 weeks ago.
- Report cards are coming out Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>
- Tom thanked the APT for the Halloween conference dinners and Thanksgiving treats
- Tom praised the Veterans Day presentation by 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Mr. Diakoumakis
- ELO is making some changes in grades 5/6. Will have ELO days and starts day before winter break.
- Please save the date of February 10<sup>th</sup> for the Faculty Talent Show fundraiser at 4pm and 7pm in the DPM auditorium.

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### **Renee DeVore, Principal 7/8 and Mike Field, Assistant Principal 7/8**

- The Lego Robotics competition will have 10 DPM students participating on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Country Day School in LF.
- Renee noted to 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents that teachers are sending in placement data and giving recommendations for high school
- A letter was posted on Edmodo from Renee following the election. Some students not feeling safe.

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

No report this month.

## Officer Reports

### **President – Jennifer Karras**

- Jennifer acknowledged November board member birthdays.
- No DPM APT board meeting in December. The January meeting will celebrate the children at DPM who do wonderful things nominated by the principals.
- Jennifer spoke about a recent issue of Time Magazine on adolescent girls prone to anxiety and depression.

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

- Anna proposed another screening of “Screenagers”. Another board member said that LEAD would do another showing.

### **Secretary – Kim Carden**

Approval of October minutes – first motion by Heather Richmond; 2<sup>nd</sup> motion by Mary Kay Hanlon, all approved.

### **Treasurer – Lindsay Seaman**

No report this month.

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### **Programs – Julie Schwan**

Book Discussion with Tom and Renee is set for Weds Nov 30 @ 1pm in the Cube. We will be discussing the book "How to Raise an Adult: Break Free of the Overparenting Trap and Prepare Your Kid for Success" by Julie Lythcott-Haims. Everyone should have received the evite a few weeks ago.

All spots are full for our DPM parent/student volunteer shift at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville – we have a block of 34 spaces reserved for Sat Dec 17 from 2-4pm. If anyone's plans change, please delete your family's sign up so we can fill the spot.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Art Fair – Mary Kay Hanlon, Danielle Sullivan, Tara Eggers, Aida Gust**

No report this month.

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

#### **D67 Liaison Notes November 10, 2016**

- What is being done to improve the visibility of the arts in our district? Much of the district focus is on STEM. Other surrounding communities like Winnetka focus on STEAM (A stands for the Arts). By putting so much focus on Science, Math and Technology, many feel we could be doing more for the Arts, which have taken a back seat. Northbrook requires all elementary students to pick an instrument and they are taught to play the instrument through Suzuki. What improvement can be made to the current Arts program to improve it? We are doing our best to build bright, knowledgeable children and the Arts should be a bigger priority. Most of us have to go outside of school for music and arts programs to supplement the school's very basic programming. For a District with our resources and knowledge base of parents, our Arts programming is comparable to an inner city school.

**We are a district that has a tradition of supporting the arts -**

- **At DPM – BOC is embedded in the day – which is quite unusual. Many middle**

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**schools have this experience only offered before or after school.**

- **Teachers work to integrate with classroom teachers around content that's going in classrooms.**
- **All students experience Art, Music, Wellness on a weekly basis – Grades 1-4 have at least 45 min a week of Art, 60 min of Music and daily Wellness.**
- **Grades 5-8 (Deer Path) and LFHS have robust music and arts offerings and options for our students.**
- Reading seems to be a top priority for the District. How can we improve the spelling program, so it is more in line with the reading goals? How can a child read at their grade level if they can't spell or understanding basic vocabulary words for their grade level. Since the spelling program has changed dramatically two years ago and basically is non-existent -- my children have become terrible spellers. It's not just rote memorization being a concern, but actually understanding the context of words and being able to use them in sentences. For example, by third grade my child should know how to spell a word like "homework," which they use frequently. If spelling isn't a priority how can you be assured they can understand the directions for standardized tests too? Spelling needs a closer look, because the current program is failing our students.
- **We are working to best embed spelling, vocabulary and grammar into the new curriculum.**
- **Vocabulary is taught through authentic literature opportunities and through content specific instruction.**
- **Mr. Simeck referred to research from *Education Week* regarding vocabulary. Language learning at its most effective is active and engaging if you want to foster long-term memory and comprehension.**

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- **Spelling is mostly taught using *Word Their Way* – assessments are done three times a year to show growth across different spelling stages. Teachers assess students in various on-going ways, which may look like a spelling test, or through their reading and writing. Additionally, word lists of high frequency words were developed last year and are being utilized K-4.**
- 2B) Why are vocabulary and spelling not a priority? You are wanting kids to love reading, however to do this they need to know vocabulary words!! There has been a slope in these areas for the last two years. **We do have these concepts as a priority – the methods of teaching these concepts have evolved and improved over the years. See notes above**

2C) Why are we taking away some of the basics like handwriting, spelling, vocabulary? I want a good answer on how taking this away is actually going to benefit my children. It's been two years and I can't see the benefits!! I'm very frustrated by this as a parent, and educator.

- **See notes above regarding spelling and vocabulary**
- **Handwriting is taught explicitly at the beginning of Kindergarten using *Handwriting Without Tears*.**
- **Teachers continue to work as needed on this through the other grade levels.**
  - 3) Is there a good reason why teachers can't do math minute facts? These can only help our children in multiple ways.
- **Much research shows that math fact tests cause more harm than good. There is a great deal of anxiety associated with math fact tests, which we try to avoid.**
- **Additionally, our math fact fluency is not just focused on memorization but on fluency through efficiency, accuracy & flexibility.** 4) Why are book reports not being done? This is going to hurt our kids if they do not know

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how to do these.

- **Through our new curriculum the focus is on the work of being a reader and writer and doing tasks that match that focus.**
- **Often when students complete a task like a book report it is purely to do that “task” – but not about the learning of how to be a more expert reader of text.** 5) I would like to see a survey to parents on several things: a teacher evaluation at mid and end of year. A survey to see how parents feel about our curriculum and lack of certain things. **We will be conducting a Culture and Climate Survey with all parents this**

**spring. We encourage all to participate. If a parent has individual, specific feedback about a teacher or program they should talk to their building principal.**

### DPM

1) Can you speak to the new HS how is it working for students, teachers & parents?

**Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. We recently held two parent feedback sessions and have met with staff and students. The later start times, availability of course selection options, resources and support, and the new food service have all been noted as positive changes. We will continue to monitor and make adjustments, as this is the first year of a significant change. Mr. Simeck reviewed the daily schedule with the group.**

2) There were some Patch articles regarding the collapse of the North Chicago School District. If that were to happen how would it impact our district?

**Last spring, the reorganization of North Chicago’s Charter School system and the restructuring of the district’s funding helped to stabilize North Chicago public schools. State funding and state legislation continue to play a significant role in this and other school districts’ financial well-being. We will continue to monitor changes to the state budget, funding formula and its impact on school**

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**districts throughout Illinois.**

**Next Meeting – February 9, 2017 – 10:00am**

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

No report this month.

**Class of 2017 Activities – Diana Webb, Christine Goshgarian, Teri Albus, Alana Hender**

Community Service Day (CSD) was held on Friday, October 21, 2016, 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.

Community service hours are being tracked by one of our parent volunteers. The goal for that the class of 2017 gives back 2,017 hours back to the community.

The Lake Forest Leader is working on a follow-up story highlighting CSD

60% of the students who voted, voted to have the dance party on the Spirit of Chicago. 40% voted to keep the dance at DPM. The dance will be kept at DPM as Renee was looking for a higher percentage in order to move the venue for 2017.

We sent a survey to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class asking for theme ideas and who wants to be part of the planning committee.

The tentative plan is to meet with the planning team on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> during homeroom.

**Community Service - Heather Richmond, Christiana Walsh**

No report this month.

**CROYA – Laura Whisler**

-CROYA's annual Poinsettia Sale ends next Thursday, November 17th. All proceeds benefit CROYA youth programs and youth scholarships. If you'd like to buy a

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poinsettia, please contact CROYA.

-CROYA is open every day after school from 3:30-5:30 for 7th and 8th graders. They hold their middle school meetings on Tuesdays after school.

-CROYA will be open over winter break! They will be planning programs for those 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th graders who are around for the Holidays. They will have more information on their December Calendar.

### **Culture Fair Grade 5 – Cynthia McCullough, Heather Strong**

No report this month.

### **Culture Fair Grade 6 – Kristin O’Neil, Umang Singh**

No report this month.

### **Directory / Membership – Judi Olenick**

No report this month.

### **Emotional Wellness – Micaiah Robinson, Umang Singh, Elizabeth Lombardo, Alyssa Sinclair, Heather Clements**

67 E-Pulse Newsletter

The first 67E-Pulse Newsletter went out on Oct 24th. We will plan for another one to go out in December or January. Anyone is welcome to submit articles and topics to Emilie at ecorrea@lfschools.net.

Did You Know...

The EWC is planning a Speaker Series for Parents? Please help us by filling out this short survey on what topics interest you, and what time of day would work best.

D67 is working on a 3-5 year plan to implement Social Emotional Learning (SEL) standards for all students!

Officer Christianson held Internet Safety presentations for the parent community. If you missed it, no worries, click here to view the recorded session.

Emotional Wellness publishes a monthly bathroom newsletter, "The Stall Street



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Journal"? [Click here](#) for the September and October editions!

Unsafe behavior, students being mistreated, or other concerns can be reported anonymously online: Go to the DPM homepage and click "INCIDENT REPORT"

We strive to make DPM the best place it can be! We need your help in this effort. The D67 E-Pulse back issues are available on the Emotional Wellness page on the district website

### **JUMP START**

We will plan for another committee meeting with all our school Reps for the month of Jan/Feb to discuss panel and preparation for 5th grade Jump Start

### **SPEAKER SERIES & MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER**

At DPM's half day workshop last month discussed having a speaker series for parents throughout the year as well as a motivational speaker come meet with the students at DPM.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT AT DPM is scheduled for Friday January 20th. EW Committee will be meeting soon to discuss details and volunteers.

Detail of Current Month Activities (and prior months if not previously reported):  
Screenagers - Wednesday, November 9, 7:00 p.m. at The John and Nancy Hughes Theater at Gorton Community Center.

The award winning documentary, Screenagers takes a deeply personal approach as it probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and internet addiction. Through poignant, and unexpectedly funny stories, along with surprising insights from authors, psychologists, and brain scientists, Screenagers reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance.

If your kids scroll through life with rapid-fire thumbs and a six-second attention span, then this is for you! Latest research from the Kaiser Family Foundation shows

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that the average kid spends 6.5 hours a day looking at screens. No matter the age of your kids, this topic is relevant.

The screening is free, and no RSVP's are required. Seating is limited, and is first-come, first-served. For more information about the screening, and to view a trailer of the film, visit <http://www.leadingefforts.org/screenagers>.

### **Fifth Grade Welcome – Tish Houston, Heather Strong**

No report this month.

### **Fine Arts – Mike Borkowski**

No report this month.

### **Food Service – Irene Okada**

No report this month.

### **LFHS Liaison – Lynne Kennedy, Kim Campbell, Lynn Bertram**

No report this month.

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

No report this month.

### **Parent Awareness – Umang Singh, Alyssa Sinclair**

See EW report.

### **Parent Teacher Liaison – Katie Frekko, Beth Laufenberg**

No report this month.

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

No report this month.

### **School Supplies – TBD 5/6, Jennifer Karras 7/8**

No report this month.

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### **Spiritwear – Liz Olsen**

No report this month.

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

#### NEW DOROTHY CHANTLER FUND GRANTS

In honor of our founding president, Dorothy Chantler, a fund has been created as a means to address time sensitive and important opportunities that arise outside of the annual grant cycle. Anyone may apply for a grant from this fund, but the requests must be under \$1,500 and must be time sensitive. All other grant requests should be submitted through the regular process. Each request must be reviewed and supported by the building principal and will then be evaluated by the Grants Committee to ensure alignment with the Spirit of 67 Foundation mission. The application will be available on the grants page of our website soon.

### **Staff Appreciation – Lynne Kennedy, Sushama Krishnaswamy, Sophia Koliatsis, Lisa Lamb, Sarah Long, Maureen Fitzgerald, Kristen Lee, Laura Adams, Anna Theodore, Julie Benda Helms**

Halloween themed conference dinner on October 27<sup>th</sup> - food from Maria's. Not the easiest business to work with, They were dilatory in providing invoices etc. But the food is good!

Upcoming events:

11/21 Thanksgiving Treats buffet – Still in need of some baked goods. Sign up will be passed around during the meeting. Online sign up on Facebook and in Friday Flier.

12/12 Hot Chocolate Bar and Cookie walk – more to come on that. We will send out a sign up online right after Thanksgiving break.

1/9 New Year's Resolution Buffet – healthy yogurt, granola etc. Will be looking for donations there too.

When you see the links to sign up on Facebook etc. Please "like" and share so we can reach as wide an audience as possible. Thanks for all your support!

### **Student Leadership & Spirit 5/6 – Micaiah Robinson, Wendy Flynn**

No report this month.

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**Student Leadership & Spirit 7/8 - Amy Gray, Kimberly Carris**  
No report this month.