

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/19/16

Meeting Commenced at 9:05a.m.
Meeting Adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

Attendees

Amy Kelly, Anna McEvoy, Jennifer Lazarus, Sushama Krishnaswamy, Lynne Kennedy, Heather Richmond, Diana Webb, Sally McDonald, Shawn Ward, Tiffany Wiesner, Susan Lewin, Christine Goshgarian, Teri Albus, Kim Campbell, Alyssa Sinclair, Amy Gray, Liz Gescheidle, Tom Cardamone, Renee DeVore, Kim Carden, Lindsay Seaman and Kimberly Carris

President – Call to Order

Guest Speakers –

Stucrew (7/8th grade combined Student Council and EFFORT): Grace Geischeidle, Sarah Bires, Sam Marquardt

- Events they organize: Fall Fest, Spirit Week, Red Ribbon Week and fundraisers
- Currently planning events: basketball tournament, Family Game Night , dances
- Goals: increase attendance at Stucrew events and create 8th grade legacy gift
- Stucrew awarded Service Excellence Award by Jennifer Karras.

Administrator Reports

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

- Fifth grader Manha Mirza won the AATF 2015 Essay Contest.
- The 5th and 6th graders have a music show this Wednesday and Thursday.
- There will be end of the semester drama shows.
- The 5th and 6th graders will rotate their art related classes next week. The rest of the schedule will stay the same.
- Family Game Night will be this Friday, 1/22/16. Officer Christensen and Elizabeth Lombardo will also be speaking at the event.

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- The spelling bee is on 1/27/16.
- Art Fair collection is the week of 1/25/16.
- Speech and drama festival is on 1/23/16 at DPM.
- On 2/5/16, there will be a Half Way Party. Need more volunteer parents. See Amy Gray or Kim Campbell.
- Student IDs will be checked if they ride the bus. Please have your students bring their IDs with them.
- Conferences are Feb 25th and 26th. Conference forms coming home early February.
- DPM student and teacher reps from 6th grade will speak at elementary schools about the 4 languages offered at DPM.

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

- 8th graders are now registering for high school
- 8th graders will be graduating May 23rd
- In lieu of Beach Day, 8th graders will have Chicago Day, which will be held the same day this year as the dance. All students are required to attend school that day.
- The second round of ELO is starting. There is 7 weeks of ELO vs 9 weeks.
- The Haskins Center redesign is starting.
- Renee and Tom will be leading a discussion on February 23rd at 11:30 a.m. in the Cube about a book called "The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed" by Jessica Lahey.
- The Holocaust immersion week is before spring break this year.

Teacher Liaison - Amy Lamberti

- FAMILY GAME NIGHT Friday, Jan. 22nd 5:00 - 7:30 PM
 - Parent Break-out Sessions:
 - Internet Safety with Officer Christensen
 - How Letting Your Child Fail Will Help Them Succeed with Dr. Elizabeth Lombardo

Cost? Bring an item to donate to local VA hospitals (list posted on Edmodo) or a cash donation to Honor Flight

Ice cream, pizza, popcorn, bake sales - COME HUNGRY!

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All proceeds raised go to Honor Flight.

Goal: Raise \$600 to sponsor one local veteran this spring!

We will be selling raffle tickets during lunch time next week (Wed-Fri) in case kids won't be able to make it that night! We have over \$1500 in donated prizes from local businesses.

- Home Arts room can use a dishwasher - redoing a kitchen? We'd love a donation of an old dishwasher to Home Arts.
- Another shout out to the amazing food committee that brought food to us. We thank you for your time and yummy treats!

Officer Reports

President – Jennifer Karras

- Announced Family Game Night this Friday.
- Jennifer is working on the bio board book. APT members, please hand in your bio board ASAP.
- Passed out 2 current news articles about “slow parenting” and the risk of cell phones to children. Both articles will be posted on the website.
- There will be a book discussion about “The Gift of Failure: How the Best Parents Learn to Let Go So Their Children Can Succeed” by Jessica Lahey. facilitated by principals Renee DeVore and Tom Cardamone on Feb 23rd, at 11:30am. The discussion will be in the Cube at DPM East. The book is available at LF bookstore. Receive 15% off when you mention DPM APT book club. Kindle version is available through Amazon.

Vice President / Communications – Anna McEvoy

- Please take photos of DPM events and send to Teri Albus, Christine Goshgarian or Anna McEvoy
- Facebook and website comments have been nice so far. Anna welcomes any suggestions.

Secretary – Kim Carden

- Approval of the November minutes – first motion by Heather Richmond, second motion by Lynne Kennedy, all approved.

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- Here is a link to the January news flyers: <https://goo.gl/TFC3F0>.

Treasurer – Lindsay Seaman

- Please get all receipts and check requests to Lindsay.

Committee Reports

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

- Art Fair promo has been going on since the week before winter break, with sandwich board notices and Friday Flyer postings. Hard copies of the registration packet went home with all 5th graders before winter break. An Edmodo blast to all grade levels will be posted this week.
- Collection will take place 1/26 and 27 (5th and 6th) in the Cube and 1/28 and 29 (7th and 8th) in the Haskins Center.
- Judging will take place on Monday, 2/1, and student/faculty voting will take place during homerooms 2/1-2/3.
- This year, student/faculty will vote using Google Form. This will replace the paper ballots used in years past.
- Ribbons will be hung sometime between 2/4 and 2/8.
- The Art Fair Open House will be held from 5-7pm on Thursday, 2/18, in both the Cube and Haskins Center. All families and students are welcome to attend and light refreshments will be served.

Board of Education Liaison – Teri Albus, Christine Goshgarian

Your BOE (Board of Education) Liaisons need your questions! If you've got a question or concern about DPM or the District, that you'd like answered by our Superintendent, now is your chance. Please submit questions/concerns to Teri Albus talbus5@gmail.com or Christine Goshgarian at kini1967@aol.com no later than Wednesday, Jan 20th. All questions should be general district/school related questions (not personal). Submissions are kept confidential.

***The DPM BOE Liaisons meet quarterly with the Superintendent to address the questions/concerns of our school community. Our next meeting is January 25th.

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Care and Concern – Kim Robb, Kim Gambit

No report this month.

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

We created an electronic survey for the 8th graders to complete to express their interest in participating in several 8th grade activities throughout the rest of the year. The different choices included tracking community service hours, helping with the talent show and working on the 8th grade dance. Once we received the responses, we scheduled meetings with those interested in serving on the 8th grade dance committee. We held meetings with those students on December 2, December 9 and December 16 to narrow down possible dance themes and discuss the presentations to be given by the students. On January 5th, an 8th grade assembly was held at which four groups of students presented the final four themes to be voted upon by the 8th grade class. The students did a wonderful job showing their fellow classmates the possible invitation, food and decoration ideas for each theme. Following the assembly, the 8th graders voted electronically to determine the dance theme. We are pleased to announce that the 8th graders have selected Hollywood as the theme for the DPM Class of 2016 Dance Party.

Community Service - Now that the 8th graders have selected the dance theme, we will use the theme to display their community service hours throughout the rest of the year. Please encourage 8th graders to make sure that their hours are recorded through DPM so that we have an accurate count of community service hours.

8th grade photo project - The final deadline to submit photos (Kindergarten/1st grade and 8th grade) is Monday, February 1st. Parents can either drop them off in the bin in the DPM-W office, or mail/drop off to Shawn Ward at 547 Meadowood Drive.

The Talent Show is scheduled for Friday, April 8th.

Community Service - Heather Richmond, Beth Laufenberg

No report this month.

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CROYA - Kristin O'Neil

No report this month.

Culture Fair Grade 5 - Christiana Walsh

No report this month.

Culture Fair Grade 6 - Diana Webb, Kimberly Carris

We met with 6th grade teachers, Mrs. Makoul and Mrs. Gunderson who are coordinating the culture fairs this year, in December to start planning the remaining two fairs.

In the absence of a paid coordinator, we are contacting the speakers and coordinating the activities of the day including the volunteers. The plan is still for 2/3rds to full day of activities.

The dates for the next culture fairs are:

Friday, March 11th - focus on Asian culture

Friday, May 13th - focus on South American/Mayan/Caribbean culture

The May culture fair is a somewhat new category based on the new 6th grade social studies curriculum.

Directory / Membership - Judi Olenick, Anna McEvoy

DIRECTORY:

Print & Online Directory:

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

InfoSnap APT Registration Page

Discussed ways to make process easier for families and Directory & Membership committee.

Will finalize edits to pages before end of February

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Changes will include:

Add a box for Families to indicate how their name should appear on the APT Membership List

This year all kindergarteners will be designated as “new” to district

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.

Drops/Adds:

Discussed best way to track new students and drops as we receive the information from the District. We will be creating folders in the Lfapt67@gmail.com account for these emails.

Discussed timing for deleting families from MSA that have left the district.
-will finalize this month

Discussed timing of when to “graduate students in MSA” and when to shut off directory to current members and re-open for the following school year.
- will finalize this month

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership Update as of 1/11/16

992 families joined in MSA (out of total of 1092 families). This brings membership levels to 91%.

Two additional families joined and not yet in MSA. So overall total 994.

Total revenue to date \$35,540.00 (plus additional \$70 for two additional families).

Breakdown of members: -

847 families - \$35

126 - \$40

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18 - \$45

3 - \$50

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. **This is not currently possible with InfoSnap.**

PROCESS FOR MEMBERSHIP AFTER EARLY SEPTEMBER

Put in place a process for handling new APT memberships once directories/memberships are finalized for directory distribution. **A report is downloaded from InfoSnap bi-weekly (also check for new members via paypal and REVRAK) and new families that have joined the APT these families are then 1). emailed information on how to set up an MSA account (a reminder is sent if necessary). The mid year new members letter is available/saved on the shared Directory/Membership google drive. 2). A directory is delivered to their home. 3). Once they have set up an MSA account they are added as a member and given online access and sent a welcome e mail.**

REFUNDS

All refunds have been processed.

- 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.

Need to do final update of Members List and reconcile with MSA.

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

No report this month.

Fifth Grade Welcome – Christiana Walsh, Liz Olsen

No report this month.

Fine Arts – Mike Borkowski

No report this month.

Food Service – Laura Whisler

There was a free food sampling during lunch at DPM in December of an existing item on the DPM menu: turkey taco meat and tortilla chips. This was well received by the students, who ate all the samples that were prepared with rationing needed for the last lunch period. However, Quest did not notice an increase in sales of the turkey tacos the next time it was offered on the lunch line. Given the cost of sampling food for all the students, Quest is going to limit food sampling to new items for DPM.

March is National Nutrition Month. The theme is “Savor the Flavor of Healthy Eating”. There will be a special menu item available for purchase on March 2nd – a baked cuban sandwich with ham, turkey, swiss cheese, pickles and mustard. On March 8th, there will be a free sample of a morrocan carrot salad – carrots, raisins, mint, and spices. On March 11th as part of an African theme unit the 6th grade will be doing, there will be an African entrée and side dish available for purchase. On March 14th, gyros with tzatziki and a warm pita will be available for purchase. The tzatziki sauce with cucumber slices will be available as a free sample for all students at the same time. Lunchroom volunteers will be needed for both March 8th and March 14th and a link will be available next month.

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

No report this month.

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

2 new families started this term at DPM- 1 family with 5th and 7th graders, and 1 family with a 7th grader. We have delivered a folder and will follow up with any questions.

Parent Awareness – Umang Singh, Alyssa Sinclair

Summary of Current Activities (since the last board meeting):

The first joint newsletter from D67 Emotional Wellness Committee and APT Parent Awareness was sent via email blast to District 67 families on December 9th, 2015.

The newsletter called - 67 E-Pulse – included links to articles for District 67 parents and staff on a variety of topics including screen time for kids, creating a growth mindset in classrooms and emotional wellness as well as upcoming events.

Many thanks to Anne Whipple and Janice Patterson from the District Communications office for their help in launching the newsletter.

Our committees will be meeting again this month to discuss the next newsletter.

We would love your feedback on the newsletter – did you see it, did you read it, did you click on any articles, did you save it to read later, were any of the articles helpful, etc. We would also like to know if there are any hot topics related to Parent Awareness and Emotional Wellness that we could address in the next newsletter.

January 2016:

We will be meeting with our Parent Awareness Executive Representatives this month to start organizing our parent panel for Jump Start to 5th Grade in May.

Wednesday, February 23rd, 9:00 – 1:00, Gorton Community Center

“Paving the Way” - A New Conference on Parenting – sponsored by LEAD

Save the date and stay tuned for more information about a brand new parenting conference being developed by LEAD and the LEAD Clinical Advisory Committee.

Join us for a half day of presentations and workshops all centered around how to help YOU help the kids and teens you love and care for.

Parent Teacher Liaison – Katie Frekko, Debra Meredith

No report this month.

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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

No report this month.

Spirit of 67 Liaison – Amy Kelly, Amy Lazzaretto

Grants

Grant Applications are due Thursday, January 21 by noon. If you would like to apply for a Spirit grant, please read more about the process and complete the application found [HERE](#). All applications are due by **January 21, 2016 at noon**. Please enjoy this video produced by LFHS junior, Kallin Hermann and get inspired. <http://lfhsnewmedia.com/video/play/4zoAXdoJnZfx>.

Get Involved

Our Nominating Committee is gearing up to fill openings that we will have on our Board of Directors for the 2016-17 school year. They will be looking for Corporate Fundraising, Fall Event Co-Chairs, a Home Tour Co-Chair, one Spirit Board Rep each for Everett and Sheridan, a Photographer, Writer/Social Media, Treasurer, Business Manager and Nominating. Be on the look out for news about this in the Friday Flyer, on Facebook and on our new website coming soon. In the weeks ahead we will be posting job descriptions and will also have an online volunteer form available for those interested in serving on our board. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to any member of the Nominating Committee to express an interest: Connie Hollingsworth, Christine Goshgarian, Amy Lazzaretto, Tracy Barrett, Amy Gray and Brooke Garrigan.

Spirit of 67 Foundation Website

We have had to abandon our website due to technical challenges that could not be

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overcome. We currently have all critical information about our organization posted on our page of the District's website at spiritof67foundation.org. In the weeks ahead we will be introducing our new site. Stay Tuned!

Home Tour

The Home Tour Committee is gearing up the 14th Annual Opening Doors for Education Home Tour on May 12, 2016. They are in need of a two additional committee members at this point a DPM House Captain and a Reservations Manager. If you are interested in either position or know someone who might be, please contact one of our Home Tour Co-Chairs:

- Bridgette Doheny at bridgette@doheny.com
- Megan Engelberg at megan.engelberg@yahoo.com
- Emily Savage at emilysav@gmail.com

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

December 14th 2015– hot chocolate bar and cookie walk after school in the Haskins Center. Those who attended really enjoyed it and thought it was a great idea. Not as many attendees as we had hoped but there were plenty of cookies left over for the staff the next day. Thanks to Kristen Lee for leading this event.

January 12th 2016 – yoghurt and juice bar, KIND bars and fruit – healthy start to the New Year breakfast treat for the teachers. Again, plenty of leftovers for those who could not attend. Thanks to Sarah Long for leading this event.

Both these events are something new we tried this year. We would love feed back from the staff as to how they enjoyed the events.

Student Leadership and Spirit (SLS)– Kim Campbell, Amy Gray, Ingrid Biela and Micaiah Robinson

On Friday, February 5th SLS shall be hosting the “Half Way Party” after school. Teachers shall bring board games to play with students. There shall be several raffle prizes and food offered for purchase. Additionally, there will be gym activities including the exciting dodge ball game, Students v. Teachers. There shall be many

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parent chaperones and we shall remind parents to park in the back of the middle school and walk up to pick up their child. The funds raised shall go to Special Olympics.

SLS has obtained a grant through Disney Friends for Change, to coordinate a youth leadership program (We Day) at Deer Path Middle School. There shall be a small group of SLS students to attend a national leadership conference at Rosemont in the coming months with a subsequent presentation to the student body.