

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 2/17/2015

Meeting Commenced at 9:01 a.m.
Meeting Adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Attendees

Renee DeVore, Tom Cardamone, Amy Lamberti, Sushama Krishnaswamy, Stella Kapsalis, Jill D'Alessandro, Mary Manzer, Amy Kelly, Jennifer Karras, Kristen Skiston, Susan Lewin, Tiffany Wiesner, Melanie Thornberry, Rebecca Oline

Vice President – Call to Order

Administrator Reports

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

- PARCC testing for grades 5 and 6 will be 3/9-3/13 in the mornings from 8:30-11:30. Testing will take place in homerooms. An abbreviated schedule will be followed in the afternoon, with students going to all classes for a shorter period of time.
- Tech coaches have been working with the classes and teachers to help them get familiar with the technology required for PARCC testing.

Comment from Amy Lamberti, Tech Coach and Teacher Liaison - We've played games of bingo and let students explore sample tests to teach them about the way the test works. We've discussed the differences between ISAT and PARCC and helped them learn skills that will benefit them while taking the PARCC. Teachers have helped with content. Most kids have it bookmarked on their Chromebook, so ask them to see it and talk to them about it.

- On March 4th at 9am, 1pm and 6pm, there will be Principals' Coffees to give parents an update on the master schedule. The assistant principals and Lauren Fagel will also attend.
- On Feb 6 parent-teacher conference letters were mailed. Even if your child's teacher did not indicate that a conference was needed, you may schedule a

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conference.

- DPM is hosting the Speech and Drama Festival on Saturday, February 21. Morning check-in is at 10am and first speakers will begin at 10:30am. Please direct questions to Mr Arnold or Mrs. Booker.
- Thank you to the APT for our upcoming Fine Arts performance of *Number the Stars*.
- On Thursday, February 20, there will be an 8th Grade BOC Disney Preview Concert and an Art Fair Open House.
- On Tuesday, February 24, there will be a 6th and 7th grade BOC concert.

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

PARCC testing for grades 7 and 8 will be 3/16-3/20 from 8:30-11:30am. Our goal is for students to feel comfortable and confident while taking the test. This is a new test with new technology and it is our pilot year.

Q&A session during meeting:

Q - Are the students stressed about the test? My 7th graders is.

A (Renee) - After last week's Exec APT meeting, Mike Simeck asked the building principals to communicate to the teachers that students should not be made to feel stressed about the PARCC. Some teachers are stressed and that can trickle down to the students. I sent an email to the teachers to emphasize the need to remain calm.

Q - How is it different than ISAT in terms of content?

A - It's very different both in content and technology needed to take the test. It requires higher level thinking (not pick and pluck or regurgitation of facts), students must show how they came to an answer. The content ties to the common core standards. There are short essay/answer prompts and is not all multiple choice like the ISAT. Parents can take a sample test. Parents can remind children that it doesn't affect your placement in high school classes or in the Quest/Explore programs.

Q - Is LFHS taking the PARCC too?

A - Select 9th grade classes will take it.

Q - What am I missing? Isn't change good?

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A - The debate surrounding the PARCC is change in test format, length of time testing occurs, common core content and the technology needed to take the test. The time it's taking away from curriculum is a huge point of debate.

Q - Will the results of this year's test establish a benchmark?

A - Yes. This will be a tool that will build into the process of measuring students' growth.

Q - Isn't there a second round or testing?

A - Yes. In April, but no specific dates yet.

Q - Will students take both the NWEA and PARCC in April?

A - Yes. NWEA is more useful to us - a tool for areas of growth. PARCC is required.

Q - Wasn't the NWEA supposed to be given in the winter?

A - No, just for some students.

Our New Advisory program for DPMW begins next Monday. Most students got their first and second choices. A lot of 8th graders wanted study hall. There will be 2 sessions, 4 weeks each.

Q - Was this implemented because the BOC kids don't get to do related arts rotations?

A - It's kind of a pilot for what could take place next year with our new schedule. Also it's an opportunity for teachers to teach something they have a passion for. Students were surveyed and teachers tried to match students' interests.

- President's Volunteer Service Award - hours must be submitted by March 2nd. Community service hours that 8th graders have done as part of their graduation activities can be used, but there are also special requirements that must be met for this Award.
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- Holocaust Immersion week is last week of March
 - March 23, 8:45-9:30am - presentation by a Holocaust survivor
 - March 24, 2-3pm - presentation by a Holocaust survivor
 - March 27 - fine arts performance of *Anne Frank* for 7th and 8th

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- grades.
- Holocaust Museum - half of the 8th grade class will go Wed and the other half Thurs
- On February 13, parent-teacher conference letters were mailed home. You may schedule a conference with a teacher even if it wasn't requested by the teacher.

Teacher Liaison - Amy Lamberti

Parents, please be aware that if your child's teacher posts a comment on a Powerschool grade (highlighted in blue), you must log in on a computer to see the comment. The comments do not show on a smartphone.

Officer Reports

President - Susan Lewin for Christie Theis

- Last week the APT slate was announced. We will vote on this slate at the March Annual Meeting:
 - Exec APT President - Julie Pasinato
 - Exec APT Treasurer - Tara Janos
 - Everett APT President - Amy Collis
 - DPM APT President - Jennifer Karras
- The Annual Meeting will be held on March 11th at CROYA starting at 9am.
- The APT donated a Lake Forest Bookstore giftcard as a prize to the DPM Spelling Bee winner.
- Christie attended a meeting with Anne Whipple and Mike Simeck to discuss Mission/Vision and the August visit by Carol Dweck, author of *Mindset*.
- We will sponsor the School Supply Drive in May as usual, but APT Community Service will not sponsor other drives this year because the schools are doing enough on their own.
- EFFORT had its first Tweens for Jeans drive
- The Teacher Appreciation Lunch will be postponed until May

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Vice President / Communications – Susan Lewin

No report this month.

Secretary – Tiffany Wiesner

January Minutes approved by majority vote after a motion by Rebecca Oline, seconded by Amy Kelly.

To view news and flyers submitted by various community groups, please click on this Google folder link: <http://goo.gl/kvRsv8>

Treasurer – Lindsay Seaman

No report this month.

Committee Reports

Art Fair – Holly Sheridan, Connie Hollingsworth, Dez Witte, Tiffany Wiesner
January 2015:

- DPME artwork was collected 1/26 and 1/27. All artwork was displayed in the Satellite Center by mid-day 1/27.
- DPMW artwork was collected 1/28 and 1/29. All artwork was displayed in the Haskins Center by mid-day 1/29.
- A breakdown of the number of participants and pieces:

5th grade	9 students	13 entries
6th grade	19 students	47 entries
total 5/6	28 students	60 entries east side
7th grade	24 students	51 entries

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8th grade	16 students	40 entries
total 7/8	40 students	91 entries west side
Total	68 students	151 total entries

- Amy Lamberti created a digital photo “gallery” of all artwork and provided a link to it on YouTube.

February 2015:

- Due to the snow day on 2/2, official judging was delayed until 2/4. Faculty-Student voting took place 2/3 through 2/5 during homeroom periods.
- Judges recommended adding a “Best of Show Honorable Mention” award and picked 2 pieces in the DPME show and 3 pieces in the DPMW show to receive the award. The Art Fair committee decided to add the following new awards:
 - Best of Show Honorable Mention - Judges Award
 - Best of Show Honorable Mention - Faculty/Student Award (the 3 pieces that received the most votes, excluding Best of Show)
 - Honorable Mention (up to 2 per category, depending upon number of entries) - Faculty/Student Award
- All Faculty-Student ballots were tallied by Friday, 2/5.
- The Art Fair committee hung all ribbons on Monday, 2/8. Temporary ribbons were hung for new honorable mention awards.
- The Art Fair Open House will be Thursday, 2/19.

Board of Education Liaison – Jennifer Karras, Maria Allen

January 2014 : BOE meeting was January 27th. The Minutes are attached. The BOE Liaisons meet with Mike Simeck and Anne Whipple on January 26th. Questions from the community were not discussed. We spoke about the district

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mission/vision and strategic plan.

<http://www.lakeforestschools.org/about-us/district-67/district-missionvision/d67-strategic-plan/index.aspx>

Summary of Coming Month (March 2015) - Plans: The Liaisons will have our next quarterly meeting on March 16th. Please have any questions for the district sent to Jennifer Karras or Maria Allen.

Board of Education
APT Report
January 2015

President's Report:

In regards to the district's acceptance of a new mission and goals, Mr. Andersen discussed the importance of planning well but still allowing for creativity in the process. All broad term goals must have buy-in and never be too rigid or take too much time to document. He encouraged the Board of Education representatives to remember that these are not their personal goals rather the educational mission of the District. The BOE plays a vital role in determining the environment of the district.

Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Simeck encouraged all to attend an upcoming presentation by Dr. Mark Reinecke on February 12th at 7:00. It is sponsored by LEAD, and Dr. Wiemer will be representing the District on a panel that night as well.

He is actively sharing the strategic plan at all of the schools and extra parent meetings. It is also online.

The author of Mindset, Dr. Carol Dweck, will be presenting to our district as well as members of the community and staff on August 21st. More details on school wide discussions to follow, but all are encouraged to read this book.

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Policy Committee, Mr. Borkowski:

The policy committee is currently reviewing the social media policy of the district.

Liaison Reports:

NSSSED: While attending the tri-district workshop, a review of the current usage of NSSSED services was done. During the quad-district meeting, a discussion of current policies and usage will take place.

Illinois Association of School Boards/ED-RED: The Supreme Court will hear the state appeal of the pension reform bill in March.

Spirit of 67: The grant process has begun. Lots of grant requests to process by the committee. On January 30th, there will be a Family Game Night.

APT – Jeff Folker attended the recent executive APT meeting and shared highlights from the Policy Committee charter as well as updated all on key issues happening right now for the BOE. He actively listened to the recommendations/suggestions made by the executive APT members and shared their thoughts with the BOE. Next month, Mike Borkowski will attend.

Action Items:

ELA Adoption – approved
PRESS Issue 87 Policy Updates - approved
PRESS 5 year Issue Updates - approved
PRESS Issue 86 – approved

All **Consent Agenda** items approved.

Upcoming Announcements:

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2/11 – Kindergarten Registration
2/13 – Tri District Institute Day
2/16 – President’s Day
Monday, 2/23 – February BOE meeting, 6:00

Care and Concern - Stephanie Klein

No report this month.

Class of 2014 Activities – Jill D’Alessandro, Melinda Hill, Lynne Kennedy, Mary Beth Schmidt

February 2015: We had a wonderful meeting with approximately 75 students who had volunteered to be on our Dance Committee. We brainstormed through many subjects and themes and by a democratic vote, we finally came up with our theme for Grad Dance 2015. It will be Masquerade! Some of the reasons we landed upon this theme include broad approval from the cross section of students we had, and the ease of securing decorations. We plan to incorporate the colors and masks associated with Mardi Gras. The students seemed fired up and planning food and decorations is next on our agenda.

Summary of Coming Month (March 2015) - Plans: Full speed ahead on meeting with the kids to begin planning our menu and decorations. We also plan to gather all parent volunteers in order to outline their role in this event. We’ll need chaperones, set-up and clean-up help and creative parents to pull this all together. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help!

Community Service - Heather Richmond, Beth Laufenberg

No report this month.

Culture Fair Grade 5 – Sushama Krishnaswamy, Stella Kapsalis

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February 2014:

The Greek Culture Fair was originally scheduled for March 13th but was changed to March 6th to accommodate PARCC testing. We let the volunteers know of the change of date. Most volunteers will be needed in the PM to help with Greek Mask Making. In the AM there will be a performance in the auditorium.

Summary of Coming Month (March 2015) - Plans:

Manage volunteers and help run events on March 6th.

Culture Fair Grade 6 – Meredith Hayes, Diana Webb

No report this month.

Directory / Membership – Kate Bryant, Anna McEvoy

No report this month.

Effort – Micaiah Robinson

No report this month.

Emotional Wellness – Micaiah Robinson

No report this month.

Fifth Grade Welcome – Kimberly Carris, Kristin O’Neil, Laura Gordon

No report this month.

Fine Arts – Amy Kelly, Kristin Fitzgerald

No report this month.

Food Service – Laurie Whisler

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January 2014 (anything not reported last month): We did the Monsoon Tasting during all of the students lunch periods in January. 260 students tasted the Chicken Tikka Masala and the Vegetarian Chickpea Masala. 231 students liked it and wanted it to become part of the cafeteria menu. 24 did not like it and 5 “kind of liked it”. At this point it will be added to the regular line and the Teacher’s line. The Chickpea Masala is going to be added to the elementary schools as a vegetarian option. As a heads up, there is a “teacher’s line” in the cafeteria with larger portions and a more sophisticated palate that the students are allowed to go through and purchase. It is not restricted to teachers only.

Summary of Coming Month (March 2015) - Plans: National Nutrition Month is in March and we will be having a table set up with a healthy food display. Those students that stop by the table will have their name entered into a drawing for a DPM water bottle (kindly provided by the APT).

LFHS Liaison – Melanie Thornberry, Kate Bryant

Current Month - Activities: February 2015

- Lake Forest High School APT met on Wednesday, February 4th.
- E-Day was held on Tuesday, February 3rd and was a hit with the students. The day included many fun activities including an Improv Theatre Company to perform for the school as well as scheduling fun break out sessions with the kids.
- Lake Forest High School Booster Club held a successful “Day at the Races” fundraiser on Saturday, February 7th.
- Wednesday, February 18th will be a LFHS Late Start day. School will begin at 9:30am.
- LFHS Talent Show tickets will go on sale Wednesday, February 18th at 7:00 pm. Tickets will be available on-line at LFHS.org. The Talent Show will run Wednesday, March 4th – Saturday, March 7th.

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- Incoming Freshman Curriculum Night is scheduled for Thursday, February 26th from 6:00 – 8:30pm.
- Also, on April 23rd, there will be a new meeting for freshman parents; “The Unofficial Guide for Parents to Lake Forest High School; how to sign your kids in/out, drop off/pick-up, etc...”
- Lake Forest High School Summer Course Guide is posted on the website, several courses are available for incoming freshman, not a huge time commitment, great way to help your child become familiar and comfortable with the high school before the school year begins (I have a hand-out of the Course Guide). Registration dates are January 26 – April 1, 2015.

Coming Month - Plans: March 2015

- Class of 2016 (Juniors) will take the ACT Plus Writing Test on Tuesday, March 3. It will be a day of non-attendance for freshman, sophomore and senior students.
- Student Make-Up Days for weather related closings will be: Friday, March 13 (originally a Teacher Institute Day) Friday, June 5 Monday, June 8 and Wednesday, March 4 was originally scheduled as a late start. March 4 will now be a regular day starting at 7:50 am for all students.
- Incoming Freshman course selection will take place at DPM on Monday, March 6th and Monday, March 9th.

New Families – LeaAnne LaVanway, Carol Shearstone

No report this month.

Parent Awareness – Jorie Alutto, Theresa Speed

No report this month.

Room Parent Coordinators – Camille Mayer (5), Dawn Wheldon (6), Sushama Krishnaswamy (7), Kate Bryant (8)

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No report this month.

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

No report this month.

Spiritwear – Kristina Frede

No report this month.

Spirit of 67 Specialist – Amy Kelly, Natalie Torcolese **Report from Spirit of 67 for FEBRUARY APT Meetings**

THANK YOU to everyone who has made a donation to the SPIRIT for the 2014-15 school year thus far! We appreciate EVERY donation. Annual family donations are the backbone of our fundraising efforts. Our grants committee is currently working diligently to decide which grants will be funded for the 2015-16 school year. In honor of Valentine's Day we are spreading the word that the SPIRIT of 67 Foundation SHOWS OUR LOVE FOR EVERY STUDENT IN EVERY SCHOOL EVERYDAY through our grants. (SHARE Valentine Grants Graphic). We are encouraging all families who haven't donated this year to SHOW their LOVE for our schools by donating today so we continue to fund amazing grants. Forms can be downloaded from our website or donations can be made online via our website. www.spiritof67foundation.org

Family Game Night – Was a big success with over 100 families in attendance. All of the games purchased for the event were donated to our elementary schools afterwards for use in classrooms and during indoor recess. Pictures are available on our Facebook page. We are grateful to our event sponsor, Forest Orthodontic & Pediatric Dentistry, for their generous \$10,000 donation to the Spirit of 67 Foundation. We'd also like to thank Suzy Swirl for providing delicious treats at the event, our many District 67 teachers who participated, our DPM student volunteers and of course all of the families who attended.

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2015 Home Tour – This year’s Home Tour is on Thursday, May 7th from 9 AM to 3 PM. There will be four lovely Lake Forest homes plus a bonus historical residence on this year’s tour. The Home Tour committee is hard at work planning another fabulous event for our community.

- **PROGRAM BOOK ADVERTISING & SHOUT OUTS** They are currently putting together the Home Tour Program Book. There are numerous advertising opportunities available for local businesses, as well as opportunities for parents, grandparents and families to give Shout Outs. Maybe you have a graduating 8th grader or a 4th grader you’d like to acknowledge. We have a flyer with Shout Out information for families. Please note the regular advertising pricing differs from the discounted Shout Out pricing. For more information you can also visit our website or contact Ami Vora at ami.vora@hotmail.com. Please don’t delay, as the deadline for all program book advertising is March 2nd.

- **HOME VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** This event requires lots of volunteers at each home. All volunteers receive a discount on the purchase of a Home Tour ticket. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the appropriate Housing Captain:

- Cherokee - Julie Helms - juliebendahelms@yahoo.com
- Everett - Megan Engelberg - megan.engelberg@yahoo.com
- Sheridan - Kim Moore - kmoore@chicago.com
- DPM - Connie Hollingsworth - connie.hollingsworth@gmail.com

Like us on FACEBOOK – One of the best ways to stay informed about the Spirit of 67 Foundation, our events and our grants, is to like us on Facebook!

Staff Appreciation – Marra Lochiatto, Rebecca Oline, Lynne Kennedy, Julie Slobodnik, Mary Manzer, Kim Gambit, Janet Burt

February 2015:

The Staff Appreciation Committee will be hosting a pizza luncheon for all DPM teachers/staff on Thursday, February 26th at 11:35am in the Haskins Center. Assorted pizzas and Caesar salad will be served from Lou Malnati’s. Baked goods are provided by parent volunteers for this event. Sodas are purchased by the committee.

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Teacher Appreciation – Kim Gambit

No report this month.

Visiting Author – Anna McEvoy, Kate Bryant

No report this month.

Volunteer Coordinator – Dawn Wheldon

No report this month.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany Wiesner