



Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/21/2014

Meeting Commenced at 9:05 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Attendees

Michael Simeck, Conrad Christensen, Renee DeVore, Tom Cardamone, Christie Theis, Susan Lewin, Lindsay Seaman, Tiffany Wiesner, Anna McEvoy, Sandy Steiner, Allison Cekay, Theresa Speed, Sushama Krishnaswamy, Marra Lochiatto, Melanie Thornberry, Germaine Arnson, Rebecca Oline, Mary Manzer, Cathy Ramsay, Diana Wettermann, Eileen Swartout, Maria Allen, Melinda Hill, Stephanie Klein

President, Christie Theis – Call to Order

Christie welcomed everyone and introduced Officer Conrad Christensen, the new Student Resource Officer, and our guest speaker, Superintendent Michael Simeck.

Guest Speaker – Michael Simeck, Superintendent

School closings due to weather

- Buses run on diesel fuel, which gels at 10-15 degrees below zero.
- The decision to close school took into account that although the buses might start, they are not guaranteed to keep running if the fuel gels.
- Also took into account that kids don't always dress appropriately for weather conditions and couldn't have kids stranded on stalled buses or waiting at bus stops for busses that have stalled.

The Smartest Kids in the World, by Amanda Ripley

- This book compares school systems in Poland, Finland, South Korea and the USA. Stories about students in those systems are used to illustrate the differences in school experiences and culture.
- Mr. Simeck wants this to be a new community book read, followed by community meetings to discuss what we want our school system to look like. This is ultimately a school board decision, but he wants the community to help determine what is most valued. Our school system cannot be all things to all students and still do everything well; a focus must be chosen. For example, if we choose a global focus, then our school system may emphasize language and foreign travel. If we choose a STEM, character education,



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- health and fitness, or fine arts focus, then the emphases would be different.
- Once we determine what our community values (5 things is a good number), we can come up with ways to measure it. It is possible to measure “soft” things. For example, the DPM climate surveys have been given 4 years in a row and the data tracking indicates that the students’ sense of well-being is up, while instances of severe bullying is down.
- The plan for District 67 would be different than the plan for District 115.
- The Lake Forest Bookstore will give you a 10% discount if you purchase the book there.
- It’s very important to go to as many community meetings as possible. Input from the community is to be wrapped up before spring break.

Question - Comments/questions about the book should be directed to whom?

Answer - There will be organized meetings to discuss comments and questions, but feel free to email Mr. Simeck too (he replies to his own emails).

Insight

The newest edition of the print newsletter from Districts 67 and 115 should have arrived in everyone’s mailbox.

Conrad Christensen, School Resource Officer

- Physical safety and security of our buildings, students and staff has become an important topic, following two incidents of intruders at DPM and school shootings throughout our nation. Officer Christensen was hired as a result of an application process; he was not assigned. The administration wanted someone who could connect with students and staff. Officer Christensen has introduced himself to students during homerooms and lunch periods.
- Officer Christensen graduated from Lake Forest College in 2001 with a Bachelor’s degree. He worked in Wisconsin as a correctional officer for three years. He joined the LFPD in 2006 and worked as a patrol officer for seven and a half years. He taught a 5th grade Leaders class in the past.
- Officer Christensen’s role is not completely defined yet, but his main focus will be safety and security, as he is a police officer first. He will also supplement the curriculum as teachers see fit. Some LA teachers have already reached out to him to talk to their classes about current books they are reading.

Question - What do you tell the kids when you introduce yourself? Do you tell them



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that you are in the school for a reason?

Answer - My role is safety/security, and to maintain/upgrade safety and security policies and procedures. I am also here to connect with the kids through their curriculum and to be a resource for the students, who are free to talk to him confidentially.

Q - So you do not tell the kids that you are in the school as a response to intruders or school shootings?

A - No.

- Mr. Simeck points out that the new IL concealed carry law requires signage on our school buildings. The new signs and Officer Christensen showed up at the same time, but are unrelated.
- It took a year and a half to get a Student Resource Officer. There was a budgetary component to consider, as the LFPD's resources are limited.
- One advantage of having a Resource Officer is dealing with kids who struggle. The same kids who struggle outside of school also struggle inside school. The Resource Officer know what's going on in the community and in the schools and is able to help get these kids through adolescence safely.
- Officer Christensen's hours will vary as building principals will determine. He will probably spend most of his time at DPM, but his hours will not be predictable or set.
- Having a Resource Officer in the schools will also help with drills, etc.

Question - Will Officer Christensen have office hours so that kids can come to him?

Answer - Yes, I just got a desk and share a space at the bottom of the stairs near the DPM cafeteria. My door will always be open and I will try to be available during lunch times.

Q - How do you keep up with best practices?

A - Training classes regarding police response to lockdowns, etc. Yearly training.

Q - Can you address the topic of good choices with respect to technology for our students?

A - Yes. The DPME Tech teacher has already reached out. Since it is the end of the semester, I won't be able to talk to all the kids this semester but I will next semester. I will talk about cyber safety, cyber bullying, and texting while driving to classes on Friday.



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Comment from Renee - His position is not disciplinary. He would only get involved with that if there was a criminal act.

Q - Was the DPM intruder ever identified?

A (Officer Christensen) - I am familiar with the incident and I believe we had a suspect, but were not able to make an arrest.

Q - What was his motive? Cause harm?

A - Theft.

Q - What time did the intruder enter the school?

A (Tom) - Around 3:40, as students were leaving. We are much more vigilant now and require everyone who enters the building to sign in and wear a badge. In fact, a teacher approached Officer Christensen before knowing he was the new Resource Officer.

- Officer Christensen will be in “plain clothes,” which requires that his badge and gun be displayed.
- Safety and security require a certain culture in the school building. The most effective cultural things are when students tell adults about things that happen and visitors are not allowed into the building by students. A culture of “politeness” encourages kids to open the doors to an adult who is standing outside.
- One potential facility change that we are looking into is having double doors on the buildings because it is less likely that kids will let people in.

Administrator Reports

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

- This is the end of the first semester. Last week were the drama performances and this week (Wed and Thurs) are the music shows.
- The grade 5-8 Spelling Bee is next week.
- Next Monday, semester Encore classes will switch.
- Mr. and Mrs. Carney (Wellness teachers) had a baby boy named Will. Mr. Carney will be back soon and Mrs. Carney will be back after spring break.

Question - With spring conferences approaching, was there any feedback about the fall “speed conferencing?”

Answer - Only 14 people took the survey about fall conferences. There is not much



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data and the reviews were mixed. Spring conferences will not be the same format anyway; it is more of a team format or will be held as requested by parents.

Q - Could you keep the speed conferencing format but double the time for math and LA?

A - We want equal time given to all core subjects. We do not want to give the impression that some subjects are more important than others. But we are exploring other options.

Comment from Renee - A parent can always request more time with a teacher or request a different/additional conference time.

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

- Athletics - 8th grade girls basketball was 1st in their conference, volleyball tryouts are today and tomorrow, track starts after spring break.
- The state of IL mandates that all 8th grade students spend one week studying the Holocaust. Last year the teachers did more of an immersion program and that was very successful. They looked at genocide other than Holocaust, etc. This year the program will be during the week of April 21st. 8th graders will have a completely different schedule that week, but will still continue with standards (e.g. math class). Parents are always welcome to come listen to the speakers. We are thinking of videotaping the speeches this year too. More info to come.
- The EW Initiative has not gone away, although Rebecca Leafman has left the District. Others are taking over parts of the Initiative. The open position will post in spring and be filled next fall.
- Parents need to be aware that there are some phone apps and technology out there that kids are using and they can be dangerous (e.g. Snapchat, ask.fm). Parents need to be vigilant. There is a fine line between giving independence and also keeping track of what kids are doing. Not telling you what to do, just a reminder.

A question/answer/comment session followed:

Comment (Allison Cekay) - We are working on a parental technology warning so parents can review different apps, etc. Heed warnings from principals. If anyone has insight as to what we can add to it, email Allison or Parent Awareness reps.

Question - Is there any initiative to work technology into curriculum?



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Answer - Some is already part of the health curriculum (bullying, etc.)

Answer (Conrad) - I'm not going into specifics, but will be talking about general rules concerning internet safety for kids.

Answer (Renee) - There is more going on than we administrators know about. There is always new stuff. Parents are an important link and are more aware of what's going on in kids' lives.

Comment - Can the District send out a couple of emails to parents that address this specifically? Parental Responsibility and Technology, apps to beware of, etc.?

Renee - Any site/app can be used in a bad way. We need to educate kids about consequences and effects. It needs to be discussed in 6th grade too. It needs to be added to the curriculum.

Comment - Kids need to think about how much time they are spending online too. They need to learn how to control tech without having it control them. Sometimes it's not an issue of how well you are using technology, but how much.

Comment - Kids also need to be reminded about courtesy. Constant comments on social networking sites make others aware of what they are missing (parties, etc).

Comment - Steve Dembo should come back. He was very relatable to kids and parents. What he has to say is probably even different now, since technology changes so quickly. Christie Theis - Yes, he's on the list of speakers that we would like to have back at DPM.

Comment - I get the idea that something has happened. Is there a way to get info to parents so it's not third, fourth hand, while still preserving the privacy of the student(s)?

A (Renee) - No details can be given. Parents need to be ahead of the game and have lines of communication open. Something has happened, we have to respect people's privacy, these are good kids, and the parents handled the situation well. Whenever we administrators have to talk with kids, we always recommend that they not discuss it with others so that it can stay private.

Megan - 8th grade graduation

Community Service hours - their gift (7.5 hours each - already have 2 done).

Anything after 7th grade counts

Planning party for dance



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6/2 graduation

Teacher Liaison - Laura Montgomery

No report this month.

Officer Reports

President - Christie Theis

- There is a new CROYA rep
- Spelling Bee next week
- Spiritwear - Kiddles generous
- Art Fair entries due next week

Vice President / Communications - Susan Lewin

If your committee uses the APT sandwich boards to advertise an event, please remove your posters from sandwich boards when you are done.

Secretary - Tiffany Wiesner

November Minutes approved by motion from Lindsay Seaman, seconded by Maria Allen. Majority approved.

Treasurer - Lindsay Seaman

Please take a look at your budget and send feedback to Christie and Lindsay.

Committee Reports

Art Fair - Heather Milligan, Lisa Lekberg, Lexie Knox, Cecily Lynch

we are right on schedule and organized for the Art Fair.

East Collection days are January 27th and 28th; West are 29th and 30th. We will be displaying the artwork that week as well.

Judging will be on Monday February 3rd; Student/Faculty judging on February 3rd, 4th and 5th.

Ribbons will be hung and winners' posters displayed the week of February 10th.



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Board of Education Liaison – Jennifer Karras, Maria Allen

Brief Summary of Current Month – Activities:

Superintendent's Report:

- Mr. Simeck offered congratulations to Andy Henrikson who has accepted the position of Superintendent of the Mundelein school district and will begin his responsibilities there in July. He will stay with District 67 until then.
- The Mandarin program is a popular program that was created with the encouragement of parents and grew very quickly, resulting in some unintended consequences. We are trying to address parent concerns and plan for the future. We have put together the LASIK Committee for this purpose as well as a Cherokee School advisory committee. LASIK was advertised to the public to find interested volunteers. Every person who said they wanted to be on it is. The Committee is going through a very thoughtful process, and anticipates implementation of a plan to take place next year.

Public Participation:

- One parent attended who was concerned about the Mandarin program segregating our community, and approximately 7 parents spoke in support of the Mandarin program.

Education Committee:

- Goal of committee is to make recommendations, vet and provide guidance – not make decisions
- Discussed LASIK and the Rockville trip
- Will discuss Illinois report card in February

LASIK (Language Acquisition & Social Interaction Committee) Update:

- Andy Henrikson said that District 67 hired a facilitator, Dale Truding from the Arlington Heights School District, to organize and facilitate the LASIK Committee meetings. Dale and Lauren Fagel discussed the decision-making model below:
 - They are using the Stanford Decision Model that has five steps and included the dates of completion for each: Understand (8/12/13), Ideate (8/12/13, 9/16/13), Observe (9/16/13, 10/21/13), Prototype (11/11/13, 12/9/13) and Test (12/9/13).
 - Next Steps
 - 1-2 prototypes emerged as a result of the committee work. Our educational professionals will review these prototypes over the next few months. They will



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share the results with Mike Simeck who will present a recommendation to the Board of Ed, and then Mike will make a recommendation to the board in February 2014. February 2014-August 2014 will be the planning and preparation phase.

- They looked at all world languages, not just Mandarin.

Finance Operations Committee:

- Board adopted a 2013 tax levy – with the agreement that further discussion will take place at the next few meetings
- Meeting was held with District 67's auditors to discuss current financial procedures and the potential outcomes of a tax levy
- All procedures are being followed regarding spending in the district. No one approves their own expense and all cases are dual or triple checked before approval.
- Meeting consisted of the auditors, all members of the Board of Education, Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, community representatives, finance and operations staff as well as education staff. This is the first time such a comprehensive group was assembled to discuss the finances. It provided the opportunity for a circular dialogue that was extremely beneficial.
- Current budget allows for 1.1 million in capital expenditures over the next five years. This includes life safety upgrades required by the state of Illinois, ongoing asbestos tile removal, and asphalt paving. This does not include any discretionary spending projects.
- Possible education enhancements would be the increase of reading and math specialists and coaches, permanent substitute teachers and special education support staff. New spaces like the Cube also create greater interest and enthusiasm for learning. All enhancements would be implemented to increase achievement and growth for all kids.
- An increase of 2% would provide an extra \$600,000 per year to our budget. This increase would allow the district to realize some of the discretionary spending goals.
- Auditors will be present at the January meeting to further discuss the tax levy.

China Trip:

- Six teachers, three administrators and a Board of Education representative recently went to China to deepen their cultural understanding, broaden their perspective of the world, and build relationships with the Chinese schools.
- Teachers from District 67 and 115 attended
- They visited two schools a day and had many opportunities to meet with administrators, teachers and students. In addition to watching actual classrooms in



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action, they also had opportunities to dialogue with other participants. There were 381 American participants from 13 states represented.

- Many similarities between our educational systems exist such as: all want the best for students, teaching WHOLE child, allowing choices based on interests, creating opportunities for all children, professional development, teacher mentor programs.
- Many differences exist as well: class sizes were much higher in China with 40 or 50 students per class, high school has a required entry exam, education is only required through age 15, classes heavily tracked, special education schools are separate

Mission Statement for District 67:

- Shani Harmon from the Transformation Team was approved by all members of the Board of Education to facilitate the development of the district's mission/vision. District 115 recently approved the Transformation Team to develop their mission/vision and plan. She will help both districts develop a strategic plan for the next seven to ten years.
- Phase 1 is to explore the best thinking within the district. Phase 2 is to engage the community.
- The vision will be parallel to District 115 yet still independent.
- The vision and strategic plan will be presented by the end of March

Brief Summary of Coming Month - Plans:

January 27, 2014 - quarterly meeting to be held with all school representatives, Superintendent Simeck and Anne Whipple. Prior to meeting, questions will be solicited at APT meetings and via school newsletters.

January Board of Education meeting - January 28, 2014

Culture Fair Grade 6 - Mari Simeck, Tiffany Notz, Mary Manzer **Current Month - Activities:**

The Southwest Asia (Middle East) Culture Fair was held on December 13 for all sixth grade students. The children visited three speakers each in the morning and afternoon, listening to facts about life in this region.

The sessions were: Understanding Islam, Army Life in the Middle East, The Hajj Pilgrimage, Americans Living in Egypt, Music of the Region and the students were able to sample some food at the food station as well.



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Parent volunteers assisted the speakers and teachers as the students rotated through each lesson.

Coming Month - Plans:

Planning for the African Culture Fair will begin this week. Parent volunteers will again be solicited to help make the day go smoothly.

The African Culture Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, February 12th.

Issues:

none- the day was a success

Culture Fair Grade 5 – Kristin O’Neill, Sarah Marshall

No report this month.

Community Liaison – Beth Laufenberg

Community Wellness Task Force, CROYA, Gorton, LF Rec Center, LF/LB LDA, Open Lands

January 15, 2014 Report to APT Executive Board

Community Wellness Task Force: No Report Submitted.

CROYA: CROYA Middle School is going to the movies on January 24th. Movie is TBD still.

CROYA Student Store is up and running. The students have been filling out applications to run the store during after school hours and will be going through mini-interviews.

Gorton: P.A.S.T.A. presents: Alice in Wonderland

Performing Arts Summer Theatre Academy is a four-week musical theatre summer camp that seeks to develop young actors in all aspects of the theatre arts.

June 16- July 11, 2014

Monday – Friday 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Performances: Saturday, July 12 and Sunday, July 13 at 10:00AM and 1:00 PM

To register, go to www.gortoncenter.org or call 847-234-6060.

Lake Forest Recreation:

Frost Fest, free event Saturday Jan 18 from 1-3 in West Park, games, hot cocoa &



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bonfire.

Camp Preview Day, Sat. February 8 from 9-12 DPM Cafeteria, meet staff, ask questions, early registration incentives.

Free Event Open to Public- Ice Skating Races, Exhibition & Barrel Jumping Competition Sunday, Feb 23 from 1-3 Lake Forest College Ice Arena.

Fitness Center January Special, \$0 Enrollment Fee, 13th Month FREE, 1 hour personal training, 2 Free Guest Passes, Family Friendly, NO restricted hours. Offer ends January 31, 2014.

LF/LB Learning Disabilities Association:

LDA is hosting a speaker, Sue Hans, from NSSD, for art two of Understanding the IEP process. There will be two times to choose from: Tuesday, February 11, from 9-11 a.m. at the West campus, Seminar Room B. The second chance to hear this presentation will be Tuesday, February 18, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Lake Bluff Elementary. If there are any questions, please have them directed to me at brmoore02@msn.com.

Lake Forest OPEN LANDS: No Report Submitted.

Directory / Membership – Kate Bryant, Michelle Curry

No report this month.

Emotional Wellness – Cindy Anderson, Micaiah Robinson

No report this month.

Fifth Grade Welcome – Mary Brennan, Theresa Speed

No report this month.

Fine Arts – Amy Kelly, Kristin Fitzgerald

No report this month.

Food Service – Melinda Hill

Something new happening at DPM in January is that we will be offering PANINIS for



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the students! They really like them when we offer them on the Faculty Line but it's hard for us to keep up there, making them to order. So, we're going to try to make Panini sandwiches for the kids on Jan. 23rd. We will start to prepare them before the students arrive to eat, so they won't have to wait. We're excited and we think the students will enjoy them too!

We have also been able to get 2 new Reduced Fat, 51% whole grain cookies. The two new cookies are "Carnival" which could be easiest described as having mini m&m's in it - but I don't believe they are "real" m&m's and again, the cookie is reduced fat/whole grain. The second new cookie is the "Chocolate Brownie" which is a best described by it's name. :-)

We've also added a few Gluten Free Snack Items; Popchips & Plentils each in a variety of flavors.

And lastly, we've partnered with a vendor who can supply us with Locally Grown Produce! Of course, in the winter months that produce is coming to us as a frozen product but I still like the idea of using the locals. So, in December we began offering "Locally Grown" a couple of times per month. Next Wednesday, Jan. 15th, we will be having the Locally Grown Butternut Squash at DPM.

Question from last month - Why are some Nutrikids descriptions of food purchased in the cafeteria seem misleading? e.g. Rice Krispie Treats = Cereal Bar
Answer - First, the nutritional content of a Rice Krispie Treat isn't that far off the nutritional content of a Nutrigrain bar. Second, the cashiers only have 36 keys on their registers so descriptions must cover more than one item (e.g. "burger" can mean veggie burger or hamburger).

March is National Nutrition Month in March and the theme is "Enjoy the Taste of Eating Healthy." We will be working on an "Eat This, Not That" display for the cafeteria, incorporating items already offered. For example, eat baked chips, not fried, and drink an Izze soda, not an Orange Crush. Wellness teachers will help roll out the event.

Class of 2014 Activities – Anne Skinner, Martha Avery, Megan Morris, Penelope Boardman

Current Month - Activities: The Talent Show last November raised close to \$1,000.



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That is remarkable because all DPM students had opportunity to see the show during the school day. Students genuinely supported the activity. Following a lull in activities for the Winter break, extended by indecent weather, we are planning a full several weeks of activities, including installing the visual tracking display for community service hours. The students selected a space theme—shoot for the stars. We will also hold a meeting with students to develop themes for the dance. The themes will be presented to the entire grade and the students will vote for their favourite.

Coming Month - Plans:

As the dance theme is selected and student committees formed, we will be forming the parent dance committee in earnest. We will need parents for everything from decorations, set-up, take-down, chaperones and all points between.

Issues:

Some 52 families have not paid graduation activities fees. This presents a considerable budget deficit.

Form the parent activities committee for the class of 2015.

At the meeting, Megan Morris commented as follows:

Community Service hours (7.5 hours for each student) is their gift to the community. Each student has already done at least 2 hours. Anything done since last June (end of 7th grade) counts.

Graduation will be June 2nd.

LFHS Liaison - Melanie Thornberry

LFHS APT Meeting Wednesday, January 8, 2014 – 9:00 am Room 113 East Campus

Superintendent: Mike Simeck

1. Mike discussed the decision to close school Monday and Tuesday. He stated the safety of the students and staff are the most important aspect of the decision. Part of the decision was that the bus company could not guarantee the buses would stay in working order during the extreme cold. The high school classrooms were all in working order for class today.

Thursday, April 17, will be a half-day of attendance (previously an Institute Day with no student attendance). Students will attend school in the morning, and the



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afternoon will be devoted to school improvement.

Friday, June 6, will now be the last day of student attendance (grades 1-7) unless additional emergency days are required.

2. Parent forums will be announced to discuss the various proposals for the block schedule. The administration is looking for input.
3. An outside consultant has been examining the Special Education programs.
4. Amy Tsarwhas noted the Liaison meeting would be on Monday, Jan. 13 at 9:30. The Common Core and the District Mission Vision will be discussed with Mike Simeck, Barry Rogers, and Lauren Fagel.
5. Mike noted we are preparing students for "Their future, not our past."

Communications: Anne Whipple

1. Anne noted Mission Vision is determining what success looks like and how to measure this success. There will be opportunities for input as this project progresses.
2. The Instant Alert System was used to announce the school closings. If you had problems with the system, please notify Anne.
3. The new website use is increasing. The feedback received is being used to make improvements.
4. The signs on the schools with the gun and a line through them, are provided by and required by the state to denote the concealed carry gun law is not allowed in schools.

Parent Awareness/LEAD: Robin Ford and Kris Condon

1. Robin introduced Kris to discuss a program being presented by Parent Awareness, LEAD and CROYA. The program is Learning the Real Story of Medical Marijuana in Illinois. The program is **Jan. 28 at 7:00 pm at Lake Forest High School-Raymond Moore Auditorium Hosted by: LFHS APT Parent Awareness**
2. Kris noted the program is designed to inform the public about the legislation providing for medical marijuana.
3. One aspect of the legislation is that 18 year olds can get a prescription without parental consent.
4. There are still no stores authorized to distribute marijuana. The legislation still hasn't provided the logistics for implementing this law.



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5. It must be stressed the negative long-term effects marijuana has on developing brains.
6. Marijuana is considered a “gateway” drug leading to other drug use.
7. Stephanie noted many kids might think it is safe if it can be prescribed for medical purposes.
8. Schools can prevent students from bringing marijuana or using on campus, but it can't prevent students coming to school high if they have a valid prescription.
9. The Legislation supported this bill claiming to be compassionate for those needing it for medical purposes, yet most realize it was a political move.
10. A question was asked as to if the curriculum addressing the negative effects of marijuana would be changed to stress that it still is a dangerous drug. Kerry Littel and Anne Whipple noted they would pass the concern along.

LFHS Turnabout Dance Scheduled for Saturday, January 25, 2014

Talent Show: Patti Poth for Karen Levin

1. Student applications for Pit Band, MCs, Act captains and members, and Senior Acts are available. Do to time constraints and complexities with the new website, the high school website will redirect users to the old talent show website which will be used again this year. The web address is www.lfhstalentshow.com.
2. Judges are needed for the talent show auditions. Please provide possible names to Karen Levin. Judges cannot be affiliated with the high school, nor have any students currently enrolled at the high school or receive compensation from parents/students for lessons.
3. Auditions are Feb. 8 and 9. Rehearsals will start Feb. 10.
4. **Ticket sales will begin online Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.**
5. **Performances are March 5 after school and March 6-8 at 7 p.m.**

Boosters: Susan McMahon

1. **The Boosters will be sponsoring their first social fundraiser on Feb. 7.** The invitations should arrive in the next day or two. The event is called A Night At the Races. There will be video racing and a silent auction. The night is intended to celebrate athletics at the high school.

Prom: Janine Longoria



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1. The committee is working with the district to make sure all the information and ticket sales can be provided on the new website.
2. Invitations will still provide a lot of information, but some information will be moved to the website.
3. Safe Prom solicitations will be sent this month.

LFHS Block Scheduling Meeting - Wednesday, January 15, 2014 – 9:00 am Room 113 East Camp

LFHS Parent Meeting:

Thursday, January 23rd 1:00 PM

Monday, January 27th 7:00 PM

Teachers vote prior to 2/11/2014 – Two Thirds Positive Vote Needed by Teachers to proceed. February 11th School Board Meeting Vote 2/11/2014 Implement 2014

New Families – LeaAnne LaVanway, Janita Reehl

No report this month.

Parent Awareness – Jorie Alutto, Theresa Speed

Text-A-Tip Launched

The Community Wellness Task Force of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff launched a 24/7 anonymous text system called Text-A-Tip on Jan 20.

The system will allow community members to send a text message to a dedicated number and receive an immediate response by a local licensed/certified mental health professional. Persons wishing to share a concern about himself or herself or someone else will be able to do so, and receive help, while maintaining anonymity. Our community receives a unique ID which routes messages, in real-time, to our respondents. All messages are sent through a cloaking server located in Canada that keeps the communication completely anonymous.

The system goes live on Monday, January 20, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Anyone wishing to use the system will simply text the phrase “847HELP” to 274637.

For more information, visit leadingefforts.org



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What's Next for Me? Changing Times, Changing Bodies

January 25, February 22, March 15 or April 26 from 9 a.m. – noon

Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital

Taught by a nurse for Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital, this class will provide accurate and concise information and assist parents in guiding their daughter through puberty and beyond. It will explore the physical, emotional, physiological and social aspects of what's normal and how to adjust to these variances in their lives.

This class is for pre-adolescent girls (9 to 12 years of age) and their mother or adult support person. Registration is required. Register at lfh.org. The fee is \$30 per couple and includes breakfast.

LB/LF Drug & Alcohol Panel: What Every Parent Should Know

February 13 6:30 pm

DPM Auditorium

A diverse panel of local health professionals, law enforcement, and parents will discuss the effects that teen alcohol use can have on decision-making. Presenters will educate and share personal stories on how destructive teen alcohol use can be and the devastating consequence that can occur.

Hollywood Exposed

March 11th

Time and place TBD (Look in coming Friday Flyer newsletters or we will know at Feb APT meetings)

Tina Marie Griffin speaks to teenagers all over the country with a mission to reveal the deadly consequences of the glamorization of drug & alcohol abuse, sex, and self-destructive behaviors portrayed in entertainment. Tina Marie will educate and encourage people to live to their fullest potential by making positive media choices, thereby building higher self-esteem and moral character.

She will speak at DPM during the school day, and for high school students at night on the 12th. The presentation for parents is March 11th.

Hot Parenting Topics

As your Parent Awareness Representatives, we'd like to help provide the resources you need to do your job as parents. So each month we are asking you for 'Hot Parenting Topics' that you would like help with.



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Examples of Hot Parenting Topics could include homework help, balancing it all, media use, etc.

Are there any 'Hot Parenting Topics' that you would like us to bring forward today? If you think of other ideas, please contact Theresa and Jorie at any time. Thanks!

Brief Summary of Coming Month - Plans:

The Pressure's On! Helping our Kids Cope

New date: April 9th at 7:00 p.m.

CROYA

Panel Discussion will discuss the overwhelming pressure that our kids face today and will provide parents with strategies and resources to constructively address issues as they arise. They will draw on the results of this year's Youth Summit, where 100 eighth graders spent the day discussing today's pressures and how it affects them. Intended for Middle School parents.

All other events on the Middle School Series have been canceled for 2014

Room Parent Coordinators – Michelle Curry (5), Jan MacDougal (6), Maria Allen (7), Catherine Yehle (8)

No report this month.

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

No report this month.

Social – Sushama Krishnaswamy, Marra Lochiatto, Germaine Arnson, Rebecca Oline, Lynne Kennedy, Julie Slobodnik

Current Month - Activities:

The Social Committee hosted a breakfast for the DPM teachers, administrators, and staff on Wednesday, January 15th, 2014. Einstein bagels and cream cheese were purchased for the event. Approximately 14 volunteers provided containers of fresh fruit to accompany the bagels. Tables in both the 5/6 and 7/8 teacher lounges were decorated with paper goods as well.

Coming Month - Plans:

The Social Committee will be hosting a pizza lunch for the DPM staff on Thursday,



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February 27th from 11:35am to 1:00pm.

Spiritwear – Liz Olsen

Spiritwear items left over from the holiday sales are now available for purchase at Kiddles.

STEM – Jenny Zinser

No report this month.

Spirit of 67 Specialist – Lynne Kennedy, Natalie Torcolese

Current Month - Activities:

- Our membership donations are still up versus this time last year – \$114,000 versus \$103,000 in 2013. DPM's participation is 44.5% with 350 of 787 families contributing. District-wide we are at 43.1% -- the highest it has ever been at this point in the school year. Our goal is 50% -- if we could get at least 20 families from each school to join, we could meet that goal. Look for a big it's "Grant Season" campaign to help us get those last few families.
- If you're not sure you contributed, our donors are listed on bulletin boards at the school as well as the Spirit website.
- Grant applications are due this Thursday.
- As a reminder, Home Tour will no longer be the first Thursday of May but the second week. So mark your calendars now for Thursday, May 8th 2014.

Student Council 5/6 – Camille Prindle, Natalie Torcolese

No report this month.

Student Council 7/8 – Sandy Steiner

Here/s a quick 7/8 StuCo update based upon an Executive Board meeting on 1/15/14:

- December Dance was a success with about 70-75 kids.
- Between money collected from Hat Day, Candy Grams and the Dance, 7/8 StuCo is ~\$200 in the black.
- The Executive Board created an Edmodo poll for 7/8 students to get feedback on



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the water bottle filling stations based up Spirit Committee request as they consider another spirit grant request for more stations.

- Currently brainstorming other 'change' ideas to implement this year.
- Organizing an activity/week to combat the 'winter blue' (similar to what was done for iSATs last year).
- Next StuCo member meeting is Thursday, January 23rd at 7:45 a.m.

Effort – Jolene Watkins, Micaiah Robinson

No report this month.

Teacher Appreciation – Cecily Lynch

No report this month.

Volunteer Coordinator – Dawn Wheldon

No report this month.

Visiting Author – Anna McEvoy, Carolann Stickler

No report this month.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tiffany Wiesner