

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

Meeting Commenced at 9:05 a.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Attendees

Michael Simeck, Anne Whipple, Renee DeVore, Tom Cardamone, Paul Suminski, Michael Kroll, Emilie Correa, Christie Theis, Susan Lewin, Lindsay Seaman, Tiffany Wiesner, Jennifer Karras, Maria Allen, Stephanie Klein, Diana Webb, Sushama Krishnaswamy, Stella Kapsalis, Beth Laufenberg, Heather Richmond, Micaiah Robinson, Amy Kelly, Laura Whisler, Mary Beth Schmidt, Jill D'Alessandro, Lynne Kennedy, Dawn Wheldon, Rebecca Oline, Mary Manzer, Kristen Skiston, Ingrid Prieditis, Michelle Yousuf, Laureen Grieve, Melinda Hill, Camille Prindle, Eileen Swartout, Christina Frede

President Call to Order - Christie Theis

Guest Speakers –

DPM Student Council Officers

- James, President of 7/8 StuCo - Working on a Spirit grant application for improvements to the hard surface playground area at DPM. Have done research about drainage, etc. StuCo is planning to hold a March madness tournament in late Feb or early March.
- Will, President of 5/6 StuCo - Introduced his fellow officers:
 - Pierce - Working on a Spirit grant application for new drinking fountains/water bottle fillers in the gyms.
 - Kitty - Instead of Caps for Kids, this year's fundraiser will be Heavenly Hats, which is a charity started by boy who had cancer and was self-conscious about his hair loss. For \$1, you will be able to purchase a hat and you can wear it the rest of the day at school.
 - Danielle - Working on welcoming new students by decorating lockers, inviting them to walk uptown, sitting with them at lunch, etc.
 - Will - Last year's Halfway Party was awesome, but this year's Halfway

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

Party is going to be even better! There will be the usual raffles, and giftcards, but this year there will be a dodgeball tournament! All students will get a chance to play and the best team will play against the teachers and WEB leaders in the main event.

Michael Simeck, District 67/115 Superintendent

Last year our focus was on the D67/115 Mission/Vision. The follow up to that is the Strategic Plan, which has 6 major ten-year Milestones.. Today I am focusing on the "big 3," which are **Achievement, Instruction and Assessment**.

(The following was projected on the board room's overhead screen. Mr. Simeck's comments about the slides are in italics.)

ACHIEVEMENT - District 67 is nationally recognized for achieving significant academic, social, and emotional growth for every student.

- Strategic Initiatives
 - Develop a guaranteed and viable curriculum to ensure that all students have access to and master essential content and skills.
 - Provide ongoing, job-embedded professional development to all staff members in the areas directly tied to the curriculum.
 - Conduct and analyze annual survey results to measure student social/emotional sense of well-being.
 - Offer a variety of extracurricular opportunities for students to connect with peers and adults based on common interests.

There is a Climate Survey coming up. Everyone should have received the email about it last week and the link to the surveys will go out this week. All students, staff and parents may participate.

- *Our district has dedicated significant resources to emotional wellness and we have staff in every building for this purpose, headed by Dr. Ingrid Weimer.*
- *Students want the opportunity to expand on their answers. Feeling emotionally safe is different from feeling physically safe. In general, our students feel physically safe in our buildings. The times when they do*

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

not feel emotionally safe are our concern and we want kids to have the opportunity to express this.

A guaranteed and viable curric is one that builds upon the students' knowledge through the grade levels.

The "job-embedded" part of professional development is important and this is when the early release and late starts are needed, although they may not be popular with parents. Teaching can be one of most isolated professions in the world, which works if you're phenomenal and well-read, etc.

We will maintain our extracurricular choices for students. We are fortunate because ours is not one of the 75% of schools that spend more than they take in, so we are able to offer a wide range of extracurriculars.

INSTRUCTION - Instruction is highly differentiated and inquiry-based, driven by students' needs, interests, and passions.

- Strategic Initiatives
 - Develop a guaranteed and viable curriculum to ensure that all students have access to and master essential content and skills.
 - Develop a reading and writing workshop model that ensures teachers design instruction that meets student's unique learning needs.
 - Design and implement inquiry-based units of study across all disciplines and grade levels that serve as the basis for differentiated instruction and student innovation.

The important thing here is connecting kids to things they are really interested in and offering choice in what and how they learn.

The traditional approach has been that the teacher delivers the curriculum to the students in the classroom, the students do homework, and the teacher continues adding information to the curriculum.

Now we think of the teacher as more of a coach/facilitator. The content delivery needs will steadily decline because kids can get content from everywhere.

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

The worst way for kids to learn is to give them unique problems/challenges to complete at home alone. It's better to work on the hardest problems with others.

Regardless of individual IQs, the teams that work the best and have the highest group IQ are the same teams that have the highest group EQ. The strongest team members can read the emotions of others in the group and there is shared conversation time, with no one team members dominating or doing all of the work.

Instead of a teacher delivering content, a student might watch a video for content. This way the student can adjust content delivery to his/her own needs (watch once or many times, call friend, etc.)

inquiry-based units of study are becoming more common. For example, one of the elementary schools had a unit of study about trees that included learning about the emerald ash borer problem and how it affects our city. Representatives from the city program came to the school and actually cut down an infected tree while the kids watched. This also gave the kids the opportunity to learn about using equipment safely.

ASSESSMENT - Multidimensional assessments are used to identify and measure holistic growth for every student.

- Strategic Initiatives
 - Develop a guaranteed and viable curriculum to ensure that all students have access to and master essential content and skills.
 - Create common assessments in reading, writing, and math across all grade levels to ensure consistent access to and mastery of rigorous content and skills.
 - Document formative and summative assessments in Rubicon Atlas across all disciplines to ensure a range of opportunities of students to demonstrate mastery of essential content and skills.

There are 16 habits of mind and how to communicate those on a report card is a challenge.

How do we create an individual and personal curric for every student? Technology will take us there, but how do we develop and how do we assess and report this?

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

Common assessments means that instead of a teacher creating his/her own tests for students, team of teachers will write their subject curriculum together and then decide how kids should demonstrate what they've learned. This team will then write the assessment themselves and give it to the students. The team will also grade together, which is powerful professional development.

The way to drive student achievement is forced collaboration of staff

The new Governor has tremendous latitude in state-wide academic assessment and there was no mention of PARCC in his new plan. But even if we are unsure of this state-wide assessment, we can use formative assessment as much as we want.

- *The efficacy of final exams is being scrutinized. Students actually learn a lot more when they are given a test first because then they focus on what they got wrong. However, this will mean that the teacher will have to adjust because students will have different degrees of knowledge. There should not be a punishment for getting something wrong on pretest.*

On August 20th and 21st, Carol Dweck will speak to our community. A big thanks to LEAD for getting her here because she doesn't accept invitations from school districts.

- In her book, Carol Dweck describes fixed vs. growth mindsets. Our teachers should not view students in a fixed way. Kids change over time - think about the kid who looked "checked out" on the graduation stage in high school, but ten years later owns his own successful business!
- The lead up to and the follow up from this event is what interests me.

Anne Whipple, District 67/115 Director of Communications

- Information about the Strategic Plan is available on our website under "About Us." The LFHS Strategic Plan is also accessible from the website.
- The most helpful thing parents can do is to complete the upcoming survey and tell all of their friends to do it. We want to get the biggest database possible. The analysis of the survey data will also allow us to compare our community to others.
- Students in grade 3-8 will do the survey in class.

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

- There are both quantitative and open ended questions.
- You will receive one link for each school your children are in. If you have multiple children in a school, you will receive one link for that school. If you feel strongly about completing a survey for each grade level of your children (even if they are in the same school), you may take the survey more than once.
- The survey should take 15-20 min survey, so please allow time.

Question (Jennifer Karras) - What about a person's natural inclination or propensity for a certain subject. How do you reconcile this with the ability to develop a skill in an area?

Answer (Mike) - That would be great question for Carol. In my opinion, a person can develop in lots of different ways.

Comment (Heather Richmond) - Keep your foot on gas pedal. I'm happy with the way things are going and where administration is taking our District.

Comment (Mike) - We are able to accomplish what we do because of the great leaders in our administration, enthusiasm and leadership

Administrator Reports

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

- DPM held its first Family Game Night in December and it was a very successful evening. 80 games were collected and donated to Lurie Children's Hospital. Thanks to the APT for its support and partnership in putting on this event.
- Last week DPM held its Geography Bee and 6th grader Dillon Hollingsworth was the winner.
- The DPM Spelling Bee begins next week on 1/27.
- This Wednesday and Thursday are the general music shows for grades 5 and 6. If you don't know what time your child will perform, please contact the Music teacher, Jean Hersey. The shows will be held in the multipurpose gym. You will want to arrive by 2:15 because it can get crowded.
- This morning we had a building leadership meeting and discussed Deer Path Dash. This was a new event last year and it was an excellent team building activity for the whole school. Field Day will be held on the last full day of

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

student attendance. There will be some grade level/homeroom activities, as usual, but we will also provide some time for students to choose various activities offered by the teachers. We will conclude with the Deer Path Dash obstacle course.

- Your students will be taking the School Climate Survey next week. Please try not to schedule appointments during these times so that we can have the largest number of participants possible:
 - 5th grade - next Monday during homeroom
 - 6th grade - next Wednesday during advisory
- Our StuCo kids are great representatives, as you saw here today during their presentation.
- The recent social media issue has been addressed. Some students had created an Instagram account called “DPM Couples” and posted pictures of boys and girls as couples. We talked to all students during their homeroom periods last Monday and followed up with parents in the Friday Flyer, providing links to resources meant to help parents learn how to talk to their kids about social media issues.
 - Comment from Renee - We did speak personally to those students who started Instagram accounts. They do need to understand how something innocent can spiral into something more serious. We feel our approach was very proactive and preventative rather than reactive. Parents, please keep a watchful eye on your kids’ social media accounts.

Comment (Ingrid) - Students have a legal right to privacy in school. If someone takes a photo of a student at school and then publishes it, there could be legal repercussions.

Comment (Renee) - We don't always get our info first hand and right away. A great way to get information to us is to fill out the anonymous incident report, which all principals, social workers and psychologists receive. Please remind children to do this.

Comment - Could the school give a stronger message to parents?

Comment (Renee) - Officer Christianson could address the issue.

Comment (Micaiah) - It is possible to put restrictions on your kids' smartphones so they cannot have any access to social media.

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

Comment (Mary) - My son has an Instagram account and I asked him to see it. Many of these accounts that students are creating have "DPM" in the name. There is a new one out there now.

Comment (Renee) - Yes, I just found out about this new account this morning. We cannot deal with every social media issue, but we can report the account as inappropriate. If it affects a student at school, we can deal with it.

Comment - This is a parent issues. It's up to parent to police these social media accounts.

Comment - We need to focus on teaching kids about the risks and not policing because that will drive it further underground.

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

- The Holocaust immersion week will be 3/23-27 (the week before Spring Break). Visits to the Holocaust museum are on the 25th and 26th.
- There will be a fine arts performance of the Diary of Anne Frank on 3/27 for 7th and 8th graders. Parents are welcome to attend.
- The Advisory program will be different for the third trimester. Teachers have signed up to offer various sessions (e.g. yoga, weiq, scrapbooking, math, knitting, Stem, strategy through boardgames, nutrition, etc). Students will get a list with descriptions of the classes. On 1/28 students will sign up for their top 8 classes and should get 2 of them. There will be two 4-week sessions of each. This has been a big undertaking because we have to create courses through Powerschool, etc.
- Despite the days off school, 8th grade graduation will stay on 6/1 and the dance will be on 5/29.
- PARCC testing will be March 9-13. Please plan ahead when making appointments for your children. We would like students to be in school for testing and to have as little disruption as possible. This is a new test and is a very different format from the ISAT. The goal for us is not to see how amazing the kids do; the goal is for our students to feel comfortable and confident when taking the test.
- In May, the 7th grade take field trip to Six Flags. This is relevant to their unit on rollercoasters and there will be a project attached to the trip.

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

- The LFHS orientation for 8th graders falls during the BOC Disney trip. Students going on that trip will have their own orientation in March.

Question (Laureen) - How are things proceeding with the new DPM schedule?

Answer - We have had to rethink things a bit because we realized we could not get all 7 attributes into the new schedule as we had hoped. Our main objective for the short term is to provide more choice, especially to the BOC students and in terms of intervention. After we get that part of the schedule done, we will work over the next 3-4 years to focus on curriculum, etc. Our goal is to present our new schedule to the BOE at its February meeting.

Teacher Liaison - Amy Lamberti

- **Summary of Activities Since Last DPM APT Board Meeting (December 2015):**
 1. Mr. and Mrs. Rahman are the yearbook teachers for DPM. They would like to know if the APT could assign a photographer or create a system where parents can share their pictures of sporting events etc with yearbook?
 2. Teachers want to thank the APT for the most outstanding meals they've provided through this school year. It really is a gesture that is so appreciated and enjoyed by our staff.
 3. The 6th grade social studies team wants to sincerely thank the APT for their tremendous support with the Culture Fair. The partnership is outstanding and so appreciated.
- **Summary of Coming Month (January / February 2015) - Plans:**
 1. Half Way party will be offering on the East side - Feb. 6 which will be hosted after-school on behalf of the Student Council.

Officer Reports

President - Christie Theis

Care and Concern

Toffee was delivered during the holiday season from DPM to families on our Care and Concern list. It was greatly appreciated.

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

Emotional Wellness

Deer Path held its first ever Family Game Night. The event was a huge success and about 50 families participated. 80 games were collected and I will be dropping off all of the games at Lurie Children's Hospital in the upcoming month. The evening was open to children of all ages, as long as a sibling attends DPM. The evening was advertised during the month of December via Friday Flyer and posters displayed throughout the school. The evening consisted of special speaker sessions, board games, athletic games, treats, a bouncy house, and popcorn.

Art Fair

Collection and judging dates were determined. The art fair committee completely reinvented the sign up and added new categories to allow for more entries. Registration packets were sent home before the holidays.

EFFORT

Candy Grams were created. Student had the opportunity to purchase a candy gram for \$1 to send to a friend during school hours. Money from the candy grams helps fund the 7/8 dance.

Summary of Coming Month (January 2015) Plans:

Culture Fair

The next Culture fair will take place next month in February. The region studied is going to be Africa. We are in the process of securing volunteers and aiding with support for the day.

Student Council

The 7/8 student council has been working towards writing a spirit grant to enhance the outdoor playground area. A blacktop design is an idea they have to liven up the area. They are considering presenting a survey to students for a new mascot as the old Braves mascot has been removed. One idea is to showcase a "brave lion." Additionally, our 5/6 Stu Co. members will be presenting to the board on 1/20 and will have Mike Simeck's attention.

Art Fair

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

Collection of art projects will take place the last week of January. There will be a two day collection for 5/6 pieces on 1/26/27 and a two day collection for 7/8 pieces on 1/28/29.

C2015

A meeting date of 2/18 has been set with Renee. Currently, the committee is in the process of collecting delinquent fees from families who have not yet paid. A new to do list also includes sketching out ideas for the dance video in addition to brainstorming about decorations for the dance. Students have completed the community service requirements and are being told to continue to log hours. The front entryway shows a visual representation of the hours completed by ways of colorful footsteps. Footsteps will continually be added as the year goes on.

Spirit Wear

Several parents were unhappy with sizing of DPM logo merchandise. Next year a different vendor may be considered. However, students and parents loved the new designs and colors.

Misc.

And incident regarding Instagram and “coupling” pages was addressed by the staff and APT at DPM. Sites are being monitored and parents have been alerted to the problem.

Security concerns regarding the 5/6 side of the building were addressed. A video was sent regarding questions and it was determined that this is mostly a school board issue and not a principal issue. Questions have been referred to Ingrid Weimer and Allan Albus.

Candy Grams had some negative outcomes in December. Several “joke” candy grams were delivered to girls from boys. This issue will be addressed from Renee. In response, next year the messages will be read before being delivered.

Although the idea of creating a new mascot is great, it was determined that this should be proposed before the school board as a first step and that a survey to 100% of the student body should be attained.

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

New Students have had somewhat of a difficult time assimilating into school. Tom, Renee and I suggested engaging EFFORT and/or Stu. Co. reps to take more ownership of this for the 2015/2016 school year. Ideas on how to pair students with other students were brainstormed.

Several complaints about Culture Fair were voiced by parents who felt that the most recent events were disorganized and that students were not engaged. This has been noted by Tom and he will discuss this feedback with the director, Martha Avery. For next year, there will most likely be changes made to the program. The cost is also a problem.

Questions of appropriateness of school books has been brought up. There seems to be much concern from parents about gruesome or scary information being presented in LA reading materials that make student uncomfortable.

School Pak lists will be taken a closer look at. Parents felt that many items were in excess and never used. Additionally, the folders and size of docketts did not hit the mark for many students.

Vice President / Communications – Susan Lewin ***Summary of Coming Month (January 2015) - Plans:***

If your committee is using the shared APT/Spirit sandwich boards, please remember to remove your poster promptly after your last reserved day. We have a full calendar with many committees using the boards, sometimes simultaneously, and it is best not to put someone in the position of having to remove/discard another committee's poster when they are placing their own for their reserved dates. Thank you for helping us to maintain a neat appearance and avoiding confusion on the part of our fellow APT and Spirit committees.

Secretary – Tiffany Wiesner

November Minutes unanimously approved following motion by Christie Theis, seconded by Maria Allen.

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

Treasurer – Lindsay Seaman

No report this month.

Committee Reports

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

Art Fair Committee Meeting

Monday, November 17, 2014

Attending:

Holly Sheridan
Tiffany Wiesner
Dez Witte

Items Discussed:

Connie has secured Re-Invent as the judges for the art fair

Poster for sandwich boards and for to hang around the school are completed. Will get it enlarged to fit sandwich boards and possibly laminated.

Promoting art fair:

In addition to what was discussed at the last meeting (see below), we also included:

- talking to Amy Lamberti about creating a video promotion that can be linked to the Friday Flyer
- put small posters up in each homeroom and at the entry doors to school

(these were the promotion ideas discussed and decided on last meeting)

- distribute registration packet to students on or around Tuesday, December 16
- create online access to the registration packet as well
- 6-8 posters put up around the school (cube, lobby, Haskins, cafeteria)
- sandwich boards - scheduled for Dec 15-19 and again Jan 20-23
- Friday flyer announcements starting Dec 5 and continuing weekly until Jan 23

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

- Edmodo blasts - one in Dec and one in Jan

Art Fair Reception

- we did get confirmation from Tom Cardamone to host a reception for students and families on February 19, 5-7 in both Satellite Center and Haskins Center
- this reception will be in lieu of the end of the year awards ceremony
- we are looking into providing a decorated cookie (i.e. paint palette) with a tag/ribbon attached for each art fair student at the reception in addition to other snacks for all the guests
- will give an edmodo blast for reception information around Feb 9 and put it in Friday Flyer on both Feb 6 and Feb 13.

Upcoming (December) Projects:

- committee is meeting at DPM on Monday, Dec 8 at 7:45 am to put posters up around the school and in each homeroom.
- Will confirm a video promo with Amy Lamberti
- Distribution of Registration Packet (Dec 16)

12/1/2014 - Holly and Tiffany met with Amy Lamberti and student volunteers to discuss Art Fair promo video.

12/8/2014 - Hung posters and flyers throughout school.

1/11/2015 - Took inventory of Art Fair bins. Determined ribbons to order for next two years.

1/12/2015 - Placed order with Hodges Badges for ribbons. Updated Entry logs, Judges ballot and table signs for 2015. Confirmed with previous committee member the process for Faculty-Student voting.

Board of Education Liaison – Jennifer Karras, Maria Allen

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

December 2014:

Attended BOE meeting on December 15, 2014 (See Attached Notes)

Summary of Coming Month (January 2015) - Plans:

Plan to attend BOE meeting on January 27, 2015.

LF District 67 Board of Education Meeting December 15, 2014

PRESIDENT'S REPORT-

Bill Andersen presented a thank you to the profession of teaching, dedicating it to both his great-aunt Maxine Nolt, a public school teacher and Margaret Mickelson, his first grade teacher.

- First profession for women. 1954 Brown vs. Education- teachers were again on the front line.
- Schools are drawn to be competitive on a global scale, it is our teachers who are called to do the day to day work in implementing the support of this goal.
- Who should these teachers be? Expectations are high- need them to be moral leaders, innovative and give our kids confidence to fail.
- Core value and mission and vision- teaching is the lifeblood of our path. Teaching is an art as well as a science.
- Time to reflect- thank you to our teachers...

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Mike Simeck reinforced the role of strategic planning
1/20/15 National Student Climate Survey will be initiated. Survey aids in understanding needs and improvement. Immediate feedback on how school environment is perceived. Concrete data- encourages collaborative dialogue. Report within two weeks. NFCC provides norming information. Administered every year and includes staff climate survey as well. Students, staff and family/parent feedback are included in this comprehensive report. Standard questions (nationwide) are asked and are comprehensive.

REPORTS

Assessment Report- Lauren Fagel presented results of 2014 ISAT.

- 4th grade is significantly higher than other grades. Drop between 7th and 8th grade

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

is also significant. Added reading specialist in 7/8 side- New rigor in Common Core for 8th could be a reason.

- Didn't see this in math.
 - Average students meeting and exceeding is 85; most other competitive districts are increasing. We have work to do. The goal is to have every student regardless of level has access to same rigorous instruction.
 - Lincolnshire and Hinsdale- what have they put in place to revise curriculum? Lincolnshire has adopted the Units of Study from Columbia College. They don't use Bridges. Too early to see Bridges results.
 - Growth score of 100 is positive. We are 105 for LA and 108 in Math. Lake Bluff has huge gains in math and adopted Bridges 2 years ago. Lake Bluff also has more minutes devoted to math (75 in elementary; 60 in middle school)
- NWEA MAP scores for 2012-2013
- Happy to see increase in both LA and math. Comment regarding our goal to have our kids grow every year.
 - Reminder of strategic initiative & achievement milestone: "District 67 is nationally recognized for achieving significant academic, social, and emotional growth for every student."

ELA Adoption

Lucy Calkins (from the Reading and Writing Project, Units of Study) is the industry standard. We have sent staff to NY @ Columbia for training. (sidenote: LFHS has already been using this model) This is an evolution and next step in our language arts program. Lauren Fagel gave a report- ensuring all educators are moving in the right, same direction. Creating balanced literacy, discuss workshop model (mini lesson, teacher led then more engaged student time working on their own projects). We can extend more students this way. Teachers are coaches to their next milestone.

- Workshop model encourages student ownership- structured choice. It is naturally differentiated student to student. Gives teachers tools but also some autonomy to differentiate for their own students.
- Implement writing workshop next year and then reading workshop the following year. Both accomplished well in same year would be too aggressive
- "This is the gold standard. This is not the easy route. Our kids will definitely benefit."
- "Volume matters". Teachers' repertoire needs to expand. This is loads of work

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

for our educators.

- Need to build in professional development in order to move forward. Some workshops with experts from NY will also come visit to train our staff.
- Focus on non-fiction text. New language used in classrooms (“readers” and “writers” vs. “boys” and “girls” or “students”)
- Policy is a recommendation and will not be voted upon.

BOARD COMMITTEES

Board Education- Leslie Fisher reported that next meeting 2/19/15

Board Finance and Operations- Rick Schuler gave an extensive report. Reps from Miller Cooper also attended the recent meeting. Revenue was \$40M; expenses were \$39.3M. Property tax revenue remains highest source of finding at %75. Long term debt position is \$12.4M- amortization will take place in 2019-2020. Auditors are also reviewing our control systems- looking into deficiencies- material weakness or its governance. None found were significant- mostly regarding student fund expenditures. Not considered systemic or material. Our systems are among the best of high performing districts.

A report was also given regarding the RFP for online registration (fall 2014). The recommendation was for the company named “InfoSnap”. This includes the ability registration and pay fees online. Favorable endorsements from current client districts.

Policy Committee- Mike Borkowski stated Next meeting on 1/8/15

Compensation Committee- Rob Lemke stated that the committee has not met.

ACTION ITEMS

Adoption of 2014 Tax Levy in Nov. No hearing is required. Passed

Approval of School Resource Officer. Agreement between City of LF, 67 and 115. 67% is paid by our two districts for 2 officers. This is a fair price and relatively common in like districts. Passed

Approval of Online Registration. New time-saving method especially for new families. LB, Kildeer, etc use it and are pleased. Passed

Approval of Banking Services Agreement. Lake Forest Bank & Trust is again recommended due to our competitive rates. There are no conflicts. Passed.

Approval of Human Resources Items. Passed

Next Meeting 1/27/15, 7pm

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

Care and Concern - Stephanie Klein

Summary of Activities Since Last DPM APT Board Meeting:

December 2014: Delivered homemade toffee to the two families currently in need, along with a handwritten note from the DPM APT with holiday wishes. These families continue to be very appreciative of their DPM community.

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

Summary of Activities Since Last DPM APT Board Meeting: We hope you’ve noticed the Community Service display that we’ve assembled in the front lobby! Please look for it the next time you’re at DPM West. With the help of an amazing group of students, we’ve begun to display their various service hours as footprints all over the walls. It’s a take-off of Dr Seuss and his book Oh The Places We’ll Go.

December 2014: Two things our committee worked hard to complete in December were the collection of delinquent 8th grade grad fees, and monitoring/displaying the goal of 2015 service hours. Kids have exceeded their goal - just need them to keep logging their hours on the website!

Summary of Coming Month (January 2015) - Plans: Time to begin planning for our Graduation ceremony and our big dance in May! We have secured the DJ and have our budget in place ready for the students to help us with the details. In a similar fashion to the way we gathered a group of students to assist us with the Community Service display, we will gather students to form a Grad dance committee. We meet with them on Tuesdays during homeroom, providing bagels as a little incentive, and the kids can brainstorm to make these occasions truly reflect their personalities.

Community Service - Heather Richmond, Beth Laufenberg

Summary of Activities Since Last DPM APT Board Meeting:

- For Valentine’s Day, Everett Girl Scouts will distribute some of the candy collected at the schools at A Safe Place, a women’s shelter – which sadly fills

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

up in the few days after the Super Bowl.

- With the help of district 67 families 537 Thanksgiving meal bags were filled & delivered in November to local food pantries. At the time of the drive, DPM students discussed hunger in Lake County and compared their typical Thanksgiving meal with the meal provided by the food pantries. Many thanks to DPM families for supporting a very successful food drive.

Summary of Coming Month (January 2015) - Plans:

- At the end of the school year, the Community Service team will be conducting a School Supply drive. The drive will again include a classroom discussion of the reason for the collection & the intended use of the materials – in order to illustrate the need & impact of the activity for the students.

Culture Fair Grade 5 – Sushama Krishnaswamy, Stella Kapsalis

Summary of Activities Since Last DPM APT Board Meeting:

November 2014:

- 5th Grade Egyptian Culture Fair took place on Nov 18th. AM and PM events. In the AM presenters came to the auditorium and brought Egyptian tales to life through artful storytelling and music. Plenty of audience participation and the kids seemed actively engaged.
- In the PM, the kids rotated through different stations, dress, jewelry games etc. which were set up in the gym and in the Satellite center. These stations were primarily staffed by parent volunteers.
- We had plenty of volunteers and Marta Avery worked hard to create an interesting day for the kids.
- Lake Forester sent a reporter to cover the Culture Fair.

Summary of Coming Month (January 2015) - Plans:

- Finalizing volunteer list for Greek Culture Fair – maybe a date change from 13th March to 6th March. Waiting to hear from Martha Avery on that.
- Will probably need to secure additional volunteers for Greek Mask Making through room parents.

Culture Fair Grade 6 – Meredith Hayes, Diana Webb

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

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 – Laura Whisler

November 2014 (anything not reported last month):

The cafeteria was open for parents during curriculum night for sampling. While this was well received, next year we are going to try to notify parents in advance that this service will be available to hopefully increase participation.

December 2014:

There have been some permanent additions of some new menu items that were introduced in December- hummus with veggies, parfaits and snack wraps.

Summary of Coming Month (January 2015) - Plans: Quest is having a special food tasting in the cafeteria of their new Indian Food line. “Monsoon Tasting” will be this

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

Thursday for all lunch periods. Parent volunteers will be in the cafeteria passing out samples.

LFHS Liaison – Melanie Thornberry, Kate Bryant ***Current Month - Activities: January 2015***

- Wednesday, January 7th LFHS APT meeting canceled due to school closing for weather.
- LFHS first semester finals took place on Tuesday, January 13th - Thursday, January 15th.
- Auditions for the Spring Musical, Sweeney Todd, will take place on January 20th & 22nd.
- RESCHEDULED Freshman Parent Meeting is Thursday, January 22

Freshman parents, kick off 2015 by attending “Looking Ahead to Sophomore Year”
Thursday, January 22, 2015 10:00am - 11:30am David Miller Theater (DMT)

- LFHS Turnabout Dance is scheduled for Saturday, January 24th.
- LHS Summer School Classes and Registration dates will be January 26 – April 1, 2015. A list of available classes may be found online at LFHS.org
- Talent Show Try-Outs will be held on Saturday 31st and Sunday February 1st

Coming Month - Plans: February 2015

- E-Day Scheduled for February 3rd. The day will include many fun activities including an Improv Theatre Company to perform for the school as well as scheduling fun break out sessions with the kids.
- LFHS Winter play, “Antigone”, performances are scheduled for February 5th – 7th. Tickets are available online at LFHS.org

New Families – LeaAnne LaVanway, Carol Shearstone No report this month.

Parent Awareness – Jorie Alutto, Theresa Speed No report this month.

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

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

No report this month.

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

November 2014 (anything not reported last month):

Met with School-Pak owners on November 20th (attendees were Terri & Gene Schulist, Susan Lewin (Exec), Tiffany Wiesner (DPM), Umang Singh (Everett). From our side, order and delivery processes all went very smoothly again this year. They shared that they are rolling out a new website and have several new items like lunch boxes/water bottles etc. In discussing some of the feedback we had this year, such as the lack of a zippered docket for 7th graders (teachers requested a 3-ring binder which is not practical for all the material/notebooks/etc. that needs to travel with the student throughout the day), they suggested we have add-ons that families can choose to add to their grade level pack. As usual, Terri & Gene were very helpful – it is a pleasure to work with such a service-oriented company!

December 2014:

Summary of Coming Month (January 2015) - Plans: Will meet with Janice Patterson to plan this year's ordering process. Signed commitment form.

Spiritwear – Kristina Frede

No report this month.

Spirit of 67 Specialist – Amy Kelly, Natalie Torcolese

[APT Report from Spirit for DEC .pdf](#)

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

Summary of Activities Since Last DPM APT Board Meeting:

November 2014 - Staff Appreciation hosted a Staff Conference Dinner on Monday, November 24th from 5:15pm – 6:45pm in the Haskins Center. Spinach lasagna, pasta, sauces, and Caesar salad was served. Catering was provided by Lou Malnati's. Sodas were purchased by APT and approximately 20 parent volunteers

Deer Path Middle School APT Meeting Minutes for 1/20/2015

provided baked goods for this event. Leftover desserts were placed in the 7/8 teachers' lounge for the next day.

Summary of Coming Month (February 2015) - Plans:

The Staff Appreciation Committee will be hosting a pizza lunch for the DPM staff on Thursday, February 26th from 11:35am to 1:00pm in the Haskins Center.

Visiting Author - Anna McEvoy, Kate Bryant

No report this month.

Volunteer Coordinator - Dawn Wheldon

No report this month.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany Wiesner