



Cherokee APT Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2018
Cherokee School

Attendees:

Julie Sakici, Kim Walters, Lacy Fidler, Jeff McHugh, Liz Arenson, Colleen Berto, Tara Eggers, Karen Feeney, Julie Benda Helms, Carolyn Hutchinson, Ann Kiesling, Margareta Komlenac, Kate Lamontagne, Kristen Lee, Lisa Lersch, Katie McClelland, Cathy Montanari, Maria Moore, Brinda Nair, Amy Pasquesi, Kelly Pasquesi, Jane Slover, Kristin Vallaly, Monica Yaun, Nisha York

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

President's Report: Julie Sakici

Thank you to everyone who attended the Annual Meeting in March. Cherokee had a strong showing. Your support means a lot! The guest speaker Dr. Mark Reinecke was enlightening and we have voted in our new Cherokee APT President, Carolyn Hutchinson! Carolyn is working now to fill next year's board.

Please mark your calendars for our year end celebration brunch to be held at Julie Benda Helm's home May 16th at 9:30.

We need to update board Job Descriptions. Please work with Kim to get yours updated and send in your Year End report if you're done.

Turn in your receipts asap to Erica Iles if you're holding on to any!

Cherokee Playground - The Board of Ed has approved the playground replacement and the Spirit of 67 Foundation has granted the equipment. Woo hoo! Thank you to everyone who worked to achieve this goal, including Mr. McHugh and his Playground team and Maria Moore and Ann Kiesling who helped write the grant and thank you to the Spirit and Board of Education!

Thank you's:

- The Staff Appreciation teams, Special Events (parties) teams and Communications teams met with counterparts from the other schools in March to collaborate.
- Winterfest was a lot of fun. Thanks Lisa FlorJancic and Jessica Federighi!
- The yearbook team submitted the yearbook: Kelly Pasquesi, Monica Yaun, Gillian Goodfriend
- National Nutrition Month is a wrap, great job Lisa Olson & Katie McCarney
- The APT bulletin board has been updated by Karen Feeney
- The staff enjoyed the lasagna meal during conferences: Kate Hanson, Annie Kavanagh
- Celebration Book Club letters are going out monthly: Katy Manley
- BofEd reps have attended meetings: Amy Pasquesi, Cara Ruzila
- Our events team is planning an awesome Staff Appreciation week: Margareta Komlenac, Daphne Johnson
- Our room parents are busy sending reminders: Kristen Lee
- Kindergarten parents will be welcomed at a coffee tomorrow: Tara Eggers, Ann Kiesling, Julie Wade
- The spring volunteer survey is getting prepped by Kim Pfahl
- New families have been welcomed by Annie K and Kate H
- Staff will be fed again on Family Sharing Night: Annie and Kate
- The LDA's Spring Marche fundraiser is this month: Kristin Vallaly
- and so is our breakfast for moms: Maria Moore, Jane Slover.
- And...the fourth grade party team is gearing up: Lindsey Ragsdale, Danielle Knighton, Tara Eggers
- And! the 5th grade jump start panel planning is underway & recruitment of help for Family Fun Night: Janette Forman, Kelly Baranko
- If the weather ever breaks, planters will be updated: Lindsey Anderson
- Our Spirit friends are busy prepping for the Home Tour May 10th. Buy your tickets today!

What's Next?:

New Parent Kindergarten Coffee on April 19th @ 9:30, Tara Egger's home

Family Sharing Night: April 19th 6:30-7:15 pm

LF-LB LDA Spring Marche luncheon: April 26 at LF Club

Muffins with Mom: April 27th from 7:15 AM -7:45 AM

Staff Appreciation Week: April 30-May 4

Spiritwear Day - May 4

Jump Start to 5th Grade Parent Panel at DPM - 9-11:30 am at The Cube, May 8

Cherokee Family Fun Night - May 9, 5:30-6:30 pm

Spirit of 67 Home Tour: May 10th

Box Tops submission deadline: May 11th

4th grade Music show, May 18 (lunch in classrooms May 17, 18)

Celebration Book Club order submission deadline: May 18th

Spiritwear Day - June 1

Field Day - June 1st, 12:45-2:30

Fourth Grade Celebration - June 4, 11:00-1:30

Yearbooks distributed on the last day of school: June 5th!

Community Happenings:

Visit the Executive APT website at: <https://lfapt67.weebly.com/community.html> to view the latest community events. Thank you to Marty Vander Velde for updating this website and to Umang Singh for compiling the list of events.

Teacher Liaison Report: Liz Arenson

Survey sent to staff regarding ways to use extra APT money - new microwave first, new chairs in break room and electronic die cut.

Family Fun Night. Looking for parent volunteers. And still making decision on which charity to donate to. Please RSVP so we know how much ice cream to order!!

Vice President's/Secretary Report: Kim Walters

The minutes from February 2018 were presented and no changes or corrections were made. A motion to approve the February 2018 minutes was made by Kristin Vallaly and seconded by Kristen Lee and passed unanimously.

Please turn in year end reports as soon as your committee finishes its projects. Also, job descriptions and Year End Reports need to be wrapped up except for those Committees still working on projects.

Treasurer's Report: Erica Iles

Remember to turn in receipts. It's the end of the year and we can relocate funds not used to other committees who are still completing their projects. Please let me know if you are not receiving any payments.

Principal's Report: Jeff McHugh

Mr. McHugh discussed activities taking place this spring with staff...building the schedule for next year with focus on what's best for kids, budget, and placement of students. If there is information you think is important for staff to know, please let him know.

He received feedback that the Parent University was helpful, about 30 people attended. They hope to do more parent education earlier in the year next year. This may help with increasing attendance.

He reported that many awesome grants were received from the Spirit of 67, a great AV system for the gym, more books for the classroom, Fine Arts and Visiting Scientist programs to name a few. And...the Playground was approved! Mr. McHugh reviewed how the students had input to the decision process of what kind of playground equipment should be chosen. The overwhelming choice was #2. He then discussed the process that the entire student body, staff, and parents went through to write and get the grant approved. So many thanks to everyone who played a role in this process! The playground will be installed this summer.

Committee Reports/Announcements:

Board of Ed Liaisons: Amy Pasquesi, Cara Ruzila

February 27, 2018 District 67 Board of Education Meeting Summary (These are not the official minutes of the Board of Education. Board minutes can be found on the [District Website](#))

Board President's Report

Mike Borkowski remembered the lives of the 17 people who were killed in the recent Florida school tragedy. He underscored his understanding of the immense responsibility that we have as leaders of our school district, as parents entrust their children into our care every day. Mike noted that the district continues to put the safety of our students and staff at the top of the priority list. That is evidenced in how we choose to spend our resources, including devoting \$2M last year to upgrading each of our buildings' entryways. He commented that our Administrative Team is reviewing our security protocols, and ensuring all staff is up-to-date on their training. In addition, staff is discussing how to keep students safe if they choose to utilize their 1st amendment right and participate in the upcoming planned National School Walkout on March 14. Some will choose to participate, others will not, but every student must be kept safe. Mike asked for a moment of silence to remember the 17 individuals who lost their lives in the Florida tragedy.

Superintendent's Report

Mike Simeck reported on the National School Board Association (NSBA) Advocacy Conference that he attended with Alice LeVert in Washington DC. Mike discussed the priorities of the NSBA and how they could potentially affect our district. These priorities include the prevention of public school privatization, increasing federal investments in education, healthcare, limiting federal overreach, immigration reform, the implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), child nutrition, and full funding for special education.

Spirit of 67 Foundation

Suzanne Sands reported that the Spirit received 26 grant applications requesting \$419,465. The Grants Committee is meeting regularly to review and carefully evaluate all of the grant requests. The Committee's recommendation will be presented and voted on at the April meeting. The Foundation announced that parent participation has hit the 50% mark. The Home Tour will take place on May 10, 2018. It has been decided that the Home Tour will be held every other year going forward.

North Suburban Special Education District (N SSEED)

Suzanne Sands noted that the Leadership Council approved the Strategic Plan and action steps are being developed for each set of goal area objectives. Council representatives attended the National School Board Association Advocacy Institute and Equity Symposium and found it to be a valuable experience. N SSEED is reporting an approximate \$4.9 million deficit. This deficit has resulted due to the fact that N SSEED enrollment is declining as students return to their home districts. Suzanne encouraged her fellow board member to read the National Council on Disability Report as it helpful in understanding how to best serve students with disabilities

March 20, 2018 District 67 Board of Education Meeting Summary (These are not the official minutes of the Board of Education. Board minutes can be found on the [District Website](#))

Superintendent's Report

Mike Simeck discussed the National School Walkout, individual's rights, and underscored, safety was the district's top priority. He also announced that the National School Climate Survey was being administered district-wide. Parent response rates continue to be low. Mike reported that the Spirit of 67 Home Tour is scheduled for May 10 and Parent University is scheduled for April 12. The district is working with Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development to conduct a program review to address the needs of our highly advanced learners to ensure the best outcomes. Mike noted district-wide spring and summer work includes the installation of new furniture and lighting. Mike noted that school will be held April 2 to account for the February 9 snow day.

Education Committee

Jeff Folker reported that Renee Fitzsimmons updated the Committee on the implementation of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) standards into the District 67 curriculum and provided insight into the SEL resources that the district is going to

recommend for adoption to aid in implementing the standards. Judi Epcke discussed two technology initiatives that are currently being evaluated, a new Learning Management System at DPM, and an iPad pilot in kindergarten and first grade. The district has rewritten the science curriculum to align with Next Generation Science Standards. The current textbooks are out-of-date and there is a strong need for an online resource that allows for greater flexibility and breadth. The district has decided to move forward with Discovery Ed Techbook as the science resource for grades 6-8.

North Suburban Special Education District (NSSED)

Suzanne Sands noted that NSSED has been working to address a potential budget deficit of almost \$5 million, due to a number of districts deciding to essentially take back classrooms. The Council heard an update on Early Childhood Services. The goal for all programs, whether operated by NSSED or by member districts, is to achieve a ratio of typical peers to IEP students of no more than 30 percent of students in a classroom having IEPs. Suzanne reported that NSSED is seeking to hire an Interim Head of Building and Grounds to assist with facility planning, manage inspections, maintenance, and custodial personnel, and coordinate program relocations. NSSED is in the process of determining facility needs for the coming year and will be looking to conduct long-term facility planning as part of the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

Finance and Operations Committee

Tom Ford reported that Jennifer Hermes and Brittany Tjardes presented a detailed review of the current 2017-2018 budget. As of this time, the district is projected to be ahead of budget, however, that can always be revised with an unexpected occurrence. In light of this information, the five-year outlook was reviewed, including fund balance projections, all of which have shown positive improvement versus the original outlook.

Association of Parents and Teachers Executive Board (APT)

Jeff Folker announced that the APT slate of officers was approved at the APT Annual Meeting. He thanked Julie Sakici and the Nominating Committee for their efforts. Dr. Mark Reinecke, Northwestern's Chief of Psychology, was the keynote speaker at the meeting. He discussed his book, *Little Ways to Keep Calm and Carry On*, that highlights ways to manage worry and anxiety.

District 67/APT Board of Education Liaison Meeting Notes 4/16/18

Is the school district renewing the PARC testing program, or are they opting out? Same question for following the Common Core program, is it being modified? If programs are kept what are the financial incentives (or consequences) from the state or federal level for schools to maintain these programs.

PARCC is a state mandated test and is not being eliminated (rather reconfigured) at the elementary level (it was eliminated at the high school level and SAT is the replacement). The state is currently going through an process to replace PARCC testing with another test that will be an adaptive computer based assessment and results will be generated much more quickly. We will follow the guidance of the state when decisions are made. There isn't really an "opt out" of testing for school districts.

The district will continue to teach to the Common Core State Standards they are not being eliminated. There are no direct financial incentives.

There is no nutrition information available online. The school nurses are militant about food brought into the school for classroom parties. There is an expectation they would be equally militant in what is served in the cafeteria. What steps are being taken to ensure food served in cafeteria is allergy free? Could a communication be sent to parents that it is their responsibility to investigate the food served in the cafeteria (assuming the cafeteria posts nutrition information). There was an incident at Everett due to the bread used in a sandwich.

The nurses work with the parents and food service staff to communicate individual student needs. Parents are also encouraged to speak directly with food service staff and of course the nurses. Quest is aware of students who have informed the school of their students allergy concerns – there are a “top 8” allergies that we monitor closely – specific allergies above that must be brought to the school’s attention. Quest use to post nutritional information on line – as much of the food is custom to our district determining specific nutritional information was time consuming – we tracked the use of this data and little to no parents accessed this information. We will check with principals across the district to underscore and evaluate our practices.

At DPM, some of the kids have been pulled into the social worker at the behest of other people's parents. The situations I know of involve relational conflicts and friendship issues (not bullying). Is this common and, if so, shouldn't the parents of any child brought into the social worker be notified before the child is called in?

We do not contact parents when we meet with students to mediate a situation. It is not always at the request of another parent that we would pull in another student, and very rarely would we do this without speaking to both students to seek their permission. It would be the same if we pulled a few students in to mediate an issue. We would ask the students if they wanted to partake in the meeting, and then we would go from there. We would then contact the parents to let them know that we met with the students and the reason why along with the outcome. As far as social work goes, our policy has been if a student sees a social worker more than 3 times, then the social worker contacts parents to seek permission to continue to see the student.

At DPM, what is the plan for principal restructuring for next year?

We are in the process of hiring 2 Assistant Principals. All three administrators will work across all grades levels 5-8. We had around 100 applicants for these positions and the pool of candidates is extremely strong. After a first round of interviews with top candidates, the team is very excited about each of these candidates for different reasons. We anticipate announcing our selections prior to the end of the school year.

At DPM, will 7th and 8th grade still "loop" next year (keep the same teachers for both 7th and 8th grades)?

A number of our students will have the same teachers from 7th to 8th grade next year, while others will have some of the same teachers and some new teachers. This is largely

in part to declining enrollment and the re-assigning of teachers across the campus to different grade levels, as well as teachers who are either retiring or only teach courses at a specific grade level. Our goal, while scheduling, will be to keep the current 7th grade students with as many of their same teachers in 8th grade for next year.

Some parents are still a little confused by standards-based grading at DPM for Language Arts. Now that the district has been through a year of it, maybe a re-cap about how the teachers felt it went and perhaps another summary on how assessments translate into letter grades.

Teachers feel good about the philosophy behind standards-based grading. The easier thing for them to do would be to just do traditional grades, but they believe this provides more specific feedback to the skills and standards. I think parents and students struggle with not focusing on the grade and paying attention to where students are being successful in specific areas of the subject...or not as successful. We are at a transition time as this is new for all. With any new initiative we are always assessing and evaluating.

DPM parents have observed that some of the classes this year were quite large (high 20s) but might have to do with an influx of St. Mary's students this past year. Is there any target class sizes at DPM?

We average 22 students per class. Some classes are higher than others because of the tracked classes and specialized courses that force students into a specific schedule. We can have a class of 12 and then a class of 27-never higher than 27 unless absolutely necessary.

What is the trend with future enrollment and will that have an impact on future funding?

The district enrollment hit an all-time high in 2005-06 with 2,300 students. We are currently at approximately 1,680 students and anticipate dropping to around 1,500 students by 2023-24. Enrollment declines are a good time to improve facilities without a referendum. Our buildings are aging and in need of updating. Trends can fluctuate and enrollment could rebound in the future. We recently updated our vestibules and other improvements are under consideration.

How do you feel self monitor bracelets like those being used at Sheridan for the fourth grade class positively motivate children, especially boys?

This program is designed to help children take ownership of their own behavior – especially as they move to middle school. Children earn the bracelet when they demonstrate they can control their own behavior and earn privileges with responsibility. Teachers work with students to set goals and provide feedback. We have used this program at other schools from time to time and have found it successful for classes that are struggling with self- monitoring.

Thoughts on a child (during flu season) being told that they can only use the bathroom twice per day with a self-monitoring peer chaperone?

One school had an issue with vandalism in the bathroom – one classroom instituted this procedure for a short time – it is no longer in practice. If a child is sick (flu season) and needs to go more often – they need to talk to the teacher or see the school nurse if ill.

Based on test scores, do you think we are placing enough emphasis on spelling? Any plans for improving the spelling and vocabulary curriculum in the future?

We follow best practice for spelling and vocabulary instruction that is age appropriate. We are continuing to refine our grammar and word study practices but there are no major changes anticipated.

Since children have a language selection choice to be made for fifth grade, we wish you would reconsider exposing them to Latin-French-Spanish prior to this language choice somehow. It's hard to have a child try a new language like Latin or Mandarin or French for a whole year when they've had no exposure to the language before.

Three years ago we reduced the language choices at K-4 due to declining enrollment and the outcomes of the LASIK Study where it was established that the goal of the district was to move students towards proficiency in language. Giving students a year in 4th grade of exposure to different languages would not help our students get closer to the goal of proficiency.

Is this upcoming 5th grade class boy heavy across the district? Are there any plans to change curriculum to gear it more towards boys?

Our curriculum is not geared toward girls -- it is geared toward engagement of all students and achievement toward standards. The other buildings do not have the same boy ratio that Sheridan does in the current 4th grade.

LFHS Summer Bridge Courses: Clarification

Bridge Courses are enrichment courses at LFHS that are designed to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to successfully reach their academic goals.

These courses are offered for enrichment only. Students do not receive a grade & the course will not appear on their transcript. Courses will only run with sufficient enrollment.

Mathematics

- Incoming AAA Bridge Course
- Trigonometry Bridge Course
- Algebra 1 Bridge Course
- Computer Coding

World Language

- Spanish Summer Bridge Course for Incoming Freshmen
- Spanish Summer Bridge Course Transition to Honors

English-Literature

- English Summer Bridge Course: Literature Exploration for Incoming Freshmen
- English Summer Bridge Course: Transition to Honors or AP

College Counseling

- Common App and Essay Writing

Science

- Honors Chemistry and AP Environmental Science Bridge Course
- AP Biology Bridge Course
- FUSE: Interest-Driven STEAM Explorations
- Biology Bridge Course
- Physics and AP Physics Bridge Course

Social Studies

- Writing for Social Studies Bridge Course (Analytical & AP Writing Skills)
- Executive Functions 1 & 2 (High School and College Study Skills)
- Preparing for the Research Paper in United States History

Special Interests/Prep Classes

- ACT Test Prep
- Summer Inquiry Project

We have also offered a bridge course at D67 in the area of math as a summer/optional experience.

Bulletin Board: Karen Feeney

Set up a spring themed board in March and will be updating in April to reflect a teacher appreciation theme.

Celebration Book Club: Katy Manley

A list of current donor families to the CBC program was added to the Cherokee APT website to recognize those who have contributed to our IRC this year. This list will be updated periodically throughout the year to reflect new donors.

Communications Coordinator: Lacy Fidler

Brief Summary of Current Month – Activities: Updating websites, Facebook, weekly newsletter and sandwich board - obtained a second sandwich board in black for APT use only. *Brief Summary of Coming Month - Plans:* Continue to work on the above

Meetings: Communication Coordination Meeting

Attendees: Marty Vander Velde, Suzanne Sands, Laura Whisler, Jacey Rhoads and myself (Lacy Fidler) *Discussion:* We met on Feb 28, 2018 at 9:30 AM. We discussed how the school websites are set up. Marty mentioned we should try to streamline the information on the websites and not create duplicate information. *Feedback about events/meetings:* Need to work on streamlining our website

Community Service: Cathy Montanari, Katie McClelland

School Supplies drive the last week of school.

Evening Socials: Kari Kan

Nothing to Report.

Fine Arts/Visiting Author: Colleen Berto, Lindsay Gadbois

No Report

Food Service: Lisa Olson, Katie McCarney

National Nutrition month was in March. Tastings of infused water for the students took place on March 6, 13, 20 during lunch periods. Apple cinnamon, cucumber, and orange were the flavors sampled. "Sugar Rush" presentation was made to all grades explaining amounts of sugars in frequently consumed snacks and how to make healthier food choices.

Kindergarten Coordinator: Tara Eggers, Ann Kiesling

Parent coffee is at Tara Egger's on April 19th. Please encourage families to preregister. So far they've had 20 people RSVP.

LFLB-LDA Liaison: Kristin Vallaly

Spring Marche at Lake Forest Club on April 26th - a luncheon. Cost is \$15 purchase ahead tickets, \$20 at the door. Raffles and lots of vendors, some from our APT Board. Given over \$370k in grants - very small group.

Mandarin Liaison: Nicole Korczak, Carolyn Hutchinson

- Cherokee Mandarin students continued to celebrate the Chinese New Year with individual classroom parties on February 28, highlighting the Lantern Festival. Parent volunteers helped students make traditional rice balls and do other arts and crafts.
- Two 8-week Mandarin brainstormers (one for K-2 and one for 3-4) were completed in mid-March. Students did not have to be enrolled in the Mandarin program to take part in these fun brainstormers focusing on Chinese arts and crafts.
- 2nd and 3rd-grade Mandarin students enjoyed a field trip to the Art Institute on April 6, where they were guided through the museum, focusing especially on the exhibit "Mirroring China's Past: Emperors and their Bronzes".
- On April 16, a Spirit of 67 grant was awarded for a Lion Dance for next year's New Year's celebrations

Membership/Directory: Julie Wade, Shana Ward

Nothing to report.

New Families: Annie Kavanagh, Kate Hanson

No Report

Parent Resources: Kirsten Collister, Kim Pfahl

Kim has put together the online Spring Survey for parents to gather volunteers for next fall. It will go out May 1st to all Cherokee families and will be sent to enrolled kindergarten parents too. The survey will close May 25th.

Planters: Lindsey Anderson

No Report

Publishing: Kate Lamontagne, Lisa Lersch

Kate and I are getting ready to push off our second (and last) publishing project for the year... Both the first graders and second graders will be writing a Memory Book to document their special memories and favorite activities from the year. We are coordinating with teachers right now and should be sending publishing packets home with parent volunteers at the start of May. All typing, editing, and binding will then take place and we plan to have final books in teachers' hands near the last week or two of school in hopes that students can bring them home as end of the year keepsakes. That's it for now!

Room Parent Coordinator: Kristen Lee

Nothing to report.

School Supplies Program: Kristin Vallaly

Nothing to Report

Special Events:

Breakfasts - Mom/Dad: Maria Moore, Jane Slover

Muffins with Mom - Friday, April 27 from 7:15-7:45 am in the gym. Students can bring mom, grandma, aunt, friend, etc to join them. Maria is working on graphics and a sign up will go home with students the week after they return from spring break. Cost is \$10/family (\$5 more per family than we did with Donuts with Dad).

We are purchasing muffins. We will also have fruit, coffee and tea.

It will run very similar to the Donuts with Dad event.

Family Picnic/Field Day: Danielle Knighton, Natasha Schnack

Friday June 1st.

Spookfest: Lisa Morrison, Natasha Schnack, Cyncy Schacher

Nothing to Report

Spookfest - Haunted Hallway: Fanny Carrillo, Maria Moore, Andrea Baldi

Nothing to Report

Winterfest: Lisa FlorJancic, Cara Ruzilla

No Report

4th Grade Celebration: Tara Eggers, Danielle Knighton, Lindsay Ragsdale

Brief Summary of Current Month – Activities:

- Met with 4th grade teachers to finalize celebration date and timeline--Monday, **June 4 at 10am.**
- Sent out flyer to all 4th graders before Spring Break (still collecting payment and pictures)
- Met with committee to finalize budget, food, decorations, swag for students, t-shirts, games and timeline of events.
- Ordered decor and swag.

Brief Summary of Coming Month - Plans:

- Complete front hall bulletin board with 4th grade (kindergarten and present photos)
- Order and collect t-shirts

Spirit of 67 Board Reps: Nisha York, Tara Eggers

Grant Presentation Days

DPM - April 11th

Elementary Schools - April 16th (\$195k came to Cherokee- \$93 for playground)

So many exciting grants will be enhancing our schools next year! Ask your kids to share the good news with you.

Home Tour, May 10th

We have a great variety of houses this year and they are all new to Home Tour. The luncheon will be at the Lake Forest Club with our first-ever sweet table. Tickets for both the event and the cash raffle can be purchased online through May 8th at <https://goo.gl/PR6Ca1>. All donors to the Spirit receive a reduced price on Home Tour tickets. In addition to attending the Home Tour, please consider volunteering time in one of the 4 homes. Home volunteers can purchase a discounted ticket. The shift times are as follows:

Shift 1: 8:45-11am

Shift 2: 10:45-1pm

Shift 3: 12:45-3pm

Please contact staffing captains to sign up:

Everett - Meara Kelley mearakelley@gmail.com

Cherokee - Carolyn Hutchinson carolyngrace@hotmail.com

Sheridan - Brooke Rolek bbrolek@gmail.com

DPM - Amy Collins scollis@sbcglobal.net

Sip & Shop at The Perfect Setting, April 19th, 10am - 5pm

10% of the proceeds that day will be donated to the Spirit, so please stop by!

Sip & Shop at Sara Campbell, May 2nd, 6pm - 8pm

10% off and 10% of sales donated back to the Spirit! Just in time for Mother's day outfits, gifts, and Home Tour dresses!

Districtwide Donor Participation Contest:

Thanks to all of our contributors, we have reached 51.1% donor participation for the first time in Spirit history! The crosstown competition is still on -- please make an annual donation to the Spirit if you have not done so this year at <http://www.spiritof67foundation.org>

Contest Update:

Sheridan	61.5%
Cherokee	57.8%
Everett	53.7%
DPM	47.95

The celebration for the winning school will take place after Home Tour

Thank you to all of our donor families! Your support makes a lasting impact on every student, in every school, every day.

Spirit Wear: Jenna Long

No Report

Staff Appreciation- Meals: Annie Kavanagh, Kate Hanson

SPRING CONFERENCES:

36 Staff members signed up for dinner

THURSDAY DINNER: we decided to do lasagna, salad, desserts and drinks

We had 4 people sign up to bring lasagna (2 beef, 1 turkey and 1 veggie)

We had 2 people sign up to bring gluten free lasagnas. *the day Before, i decided we would be fine with only 1 GF lasagna and cancelled one of them.

RESULT: we had plenty of lasagna for everyone. We had 1 lasagna that was not even cut (but it was in a great Dutch oven, so it stayed warm and was able to go back to its owner!



We had 3 people bring salads

RESULT: plenty of salad, just a little bit was thrown away.

We asked for 2 cases of La Croix and 1 case of water

RESULT: plenty of drinks with enough to spare and leave in the teachers lounge for the next morning.

We had 2 regular desserts and 1 GF dessert.

RESULT: plenty with only a couple Of pieces of each left over.

FRIDAY BREAKFAST:

We decided on a bit of a continental breakfast.

- 2 dozen GF muffins
- 2 dozen reg. Muffins
- 2 dozen bagels
- 4 containers cream cheese
- 1 carafe of coffee
- 2 bowls of fresh fruit cut up into bite size pieces

RESULT: plenty of food with leftovers the teachers advised to leave out and people would eat through the morning.

LEARNINGS FOR NEXT TIME:

1. only 1 dozen bagels needed.
2. Next time, we will have people bring bagels and cream cheese together, so proportions are correct.
3. Only 1 dozen GF muffins needed next time.
4. Fruit-to-go to be included next time I.e. bananas, apples, clementines etc.
5. Pay attention to the number of people who note GF on their sign up and trust ourselves to provide accordingly!

In listening to the teachers, it was a successful spring conference for meals! If the liaison teachers have any feedback, as always it is welcomed!!

Oh.....and we spent no money!! Next.....Family Sharing Night!!

Staff Appreciation - Events: Daphne Johnson, Margareta Komlenac
Around the World. Hoping to get

French cuisine...crepes, Mean Weiner for Cinco De Mayo, Doing raffles every day for the teachers.

Student-Parent Awareness: Kelly Baranko, Janette Forman

Online sign up for Family Fun Night. Helping to coordinate the Jumpstart to 5th Grade Panel. Discussing all the need to knows or want to knows for incoming 5th graders.

Visiting Scientist: Julie Benda Helms, Erica Iles

VS received a grant from the Spirit of 67 Foundation to fund the program next school year.

Yearbook: Kelly Pasquesi, Monica Yaun, Gillian Goodfriend, Victoria Hansen

The yearbooks were delivered to Cherokee. In May we will be labeling the books and passing them out on the last day of school. Our deadline was March 26 and we already have the books, 3 weeks later. Hoping maybe next year we could push our date back.

Special guest: Andy Duran, LEAD and Tom Cardamone, DPM principal

Mr. Duran gave a quick update on LEAD and vaping. LEAD is growing rapidly in the community. Interface with over 3000 students to discuss vaping, drug addiction and up

and coming issues. They see students at public and private schools. Text-A-Tip, a 24/7 anonymous text crisis hotline offering emotional support for middle school and high school youth which can provide crisis management if needed. Implemented here in Lake Forest and now in several states. He discussed the issue of students and vaping. LEAD started this discussion over three years ago. Students have a misconception that vaping is safe. A teen is 4 times more likely to start smoking if they've vaped as a younger child.

Mr. Cardamone discussed the culture of becoming a big 5-8 middle school. He's been in the DPM school for 21 years in various roles. Very excited about the new role of becoming administratively one school instead of two separate schools. We will shift from 4 administrators to 3 with one principal and two vice-principals. The vice-principals will provide certain services for the entire school vs. being responsible for specific grades. Reviewed the process briefly of hiring the two new vp which includes their interaction with some of the students and feedback from the students to the administration.

Upcoming dates for fourth graders:

- Parent Orientation on April 30th - 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. presentations - in the auditorium, to include a tour.
- May 8th - 9:30 am in the cube - program by APT - Jump Start to 5th Grade. Parent to parent forum for asking "deep" questions about social, day to day and basic knowledge about changes expected in the leap to middle school.
- May 8th - Buddy Day - 4th grade classes get paired up with 5th grade classes to visit the school. They get pizza too!

Overview of 5th grade - there will be 9 sections. Currently they have about 180 students coming in, about 20 per class, which is fantastic. 5th grade is a hybrid between elementary and high school. Students will still have home rooms but then attend different classes based on various factors. Children are not placed in home rooms by ability (which had been done in the past at some time).

Most important skills we should be building for our students going into DPM:

- Need for organization - e.g. there's more movement and every student has Chrome book they're taking to every class.
- Flexibility - prepping for how things will look different (size of grade, building layout,)
- Systems for what homework looks like for your kids (expect language arts, math homework every night). Other subjects mostly project based. Expect homework and figure out a system that works best for you and your child. School provides an afterschool homework club and before school - which can be encouraged if that works for your family. Teachers are very open to helping students before or after school to clarify or assist with homework.

New Business: none

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Next APT Meeting:

Old/New board celebration brunch: May 16th at Julie Benda Helms' home 9:30 a.m.

See you next September!!

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Walters
Cherokee APT VP/Secretary