



Cherokee APT Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2020

Virtual Meeting via Google Meet

Attendees:

Maria Moore, Alex Burd, Alex Cherry, Amy Mobile, Amy Pasquesi, Ann Kiesling, Anne Axus, Annie Ignoffo, Annie Kavanagh, Tara Eggers, Cara Ruzila, Carolyn Hutchinson, Carrie Ringness, Cathy Montanari, Elizabeth Martin, Florence Woo, Gisela Balassa, Kelly Kelley, Kelly Pasquesi, Kim Walters, Lacy Fidler, Luke Livingston, Melissa Thoman, Lisa FlorJancic, Isabel Witte, Mirela Dalton, Nicole Cooper, Nora Froelich, Deanne Plattner, Patty Oey, Kristin Vallaly, Vanessa Karam, Liz Freibrun

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Welcome: Carolyn Hutchinson

President's Report: Carolyn Hutchinson

~There are always flowers for those who want to see them.~

--Henri Matisse

Cherokee APT News:

My hope during this challenging time is that the APT can help plant some “flowers” for our school community. Let’s continue to think of some fun, easy things we can do to stay connected and support a positive school environment. So far, we’ve:

- 1) Had parents post cute pictures of their kids during Spirit Week on our Facebook group.
- 2) Asked some fun questions on our Facebook group like “What movies is your family enjoying together right now?” We’ll continue to do that.
- 3) Sponsored the Cheetah Hunt going on this week. (Be sure to put up your Cheetah Paw if you haven’t already!)
- 4) Arranged the big “We Love Our Teachers” sign to be put in front of Cherokee for the teachers to see when they returned to school on Monday.

Please let me know if you have any other ideas!

I would also like to thank our staff SO much for the amazing videos that they've made. The families absolutely love these! It means so much to be able to see and connect with the staff like this.

Our last regular APT meeting was February 19. A lot has happened since then!

- 1) Our Board of Ed Liaisons Ann Kiesling and Vanessa Karam met with Superintendent Mike Simeck and Director of Communications Anne Whipple to present anonymous parent questions, as they do twice a year. I will email you their responses.
- 2) We had a big spring Box Tops deadline. Thank you to Megan Whalley and Cathy Montanari for coordinating the Box Tops collection.
- 3) Our Spiritwear Committee -- Melissa Thoman and Audrey Margol -- organized a successful Spring Cheetahwear sale.
- 4) Our Food Service Coordinators Lisa Olson and Katie McCarney coordinated two rounds of healthy lunch samples passed out for National Nutrition Month.
- 5) We had our 3rd annual Scholastic Book Fair at Cherokee. Our SEL Committee (Meredith Norman and Sarah Bass) and our Helping Hands coordinator Kim Walters recruited parent volunteers to help run the cash registers and bag books.
- 6) We had parent-teacher conferences. Our Staff Appreciation (Meals) Committee (Annie Ignoffo, Deanne Plattner, and Kistin Carruthers) coordinated a delicious dinner and breakfast for staff. The Greek Chicken Bowls were a huge hit!
- 7) We had our District 67 APT Annual Meeting at CROYA on March 11, where Ann Kiesling was voted in as the next Cherokee APT President!
- 8) The yearbook was submitted (woohoo!) and delivery is scheduled for mid-May. Thank you so much to our amazing yearbook team, Kelly Pasquesi, Gillian Goodriend, Erica Lump, and Annie Ignoffo, for all their hard work this year.
- 9) Unfortunately, we had to cancel Muffins with Mom, which was scheduled to take place on April 3. Checks were shredded and those who paid with cash will be reimbursed once school resumes. Thank you to Brianna Meade and Anne Axus for all your work on this -- and thank you for your flexibility.

Coming up..

- 1) We'll be sending out the Spring Volunteer Survey in May to gather names for beginning-of-the-school-year volunteer opportunities, such as Room Parents,

Evening Socials Hosts, Classroom Photographers, etc. We will be emailing this out to current K-3 families, as well as incoming K families. So be on the look-out!

- 2) Ann will now be taking over filling the Cherokee APT Board Roster for next year. If you are not currently on the Board, but are interested in joining next year, please contact Ann Kiesling. I will be following up with current Board members I haven't heard from yet about their intentions for next year.
- 3) For current Board members: Maria will be sending you your current job description to update. She will also be sending around a template for you to use to fill out your year-end report. Both things will be due May 1.
- 4) We are still planning to celebrate Staff Appreciation Week May 4-8. The Exec APT Board would like this week to look similar across all four District 67 schools. The current thought is to do fun, easy, virtual things to show the staff our appreciation throughout the week and plan for bigger celebrations once school resumes. Most years, we are told to spend down all of our APT budget. This year, however, we have been told that any money we don't spend this year will roll over to our budget for next year. So, money in the budget for Staff Appreciation Week this year could be used next fall, for instance.
- 5) Though we most likely will not be able to have the 4th-grade Celebration and Clap-Out in June, the committee is working on other ways to recognize and acknowledge the 4th-graders. They are thinking maybe t-shirts this May and a bigger celebration in the fall.
- 6) As I mentioned, we are still planning on having some sort of Old Board/New Board Year-End Celebration in mid-May. Stay tuned...
- 7) Next year, we will be going back to a school supplies company that will have the option for school delivery.

District 67 News:

Spirit of 67 Home Tour

The Home Tour is postponed until the fall. The Cross-town Competition is still happening! Cherokee is still in the lead and the last day of competition is still May 7.

Facilities Master Plan for the High School

An email was sent on March 10, from LFHS Communications explaining how you can still -- until the end of April -- give input for the renovations planned for the high school. Since our children will be the ones to benefit from these renovations, please check out that email and send in your thoughts!

New Hires

An email was sent out on March 17 announcing the new DPM principal (Thomas Herion)

and the new Chief Communications Officer (Melissa Oakley).

Science Labs at DPM

Construction is underway! For those of us with middle-school students next year, they will be enjoying brand-new, high-tech science labs.

Faculty Liaison's Report: Amy Mobile

The teachers were able to visit Cherokee on Monday in shifts to grab materials they might need to continue e-learning. They were all so appreciative of the sign out front and all the notes of encouragement.

Vice President/Recording Secretary's Report: Maria Moore

The minutes from February 2020 were presented and no changes or corrections were made. A motion to approve the February 2020 minutes was made by Kristin Vallaly and seconded by Annie Kavanagh and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Elizabeth Martin

Please continue to submit your receipts and check request forms if you have any that are outstanding.

Communication Coordinator's Report: Cara Ruzila

If you have any fun ideas to post to the FB page, let Cara or Carolyn know. Anything to help encourage school spirit!

Principal's Report: Luke Livingston

E-Learning Updates:

- Priorities for e-learning in order of importance (wellness of students, wellness of staff and then academics)
- E-learning planning document will continue to be updated and assignments pushed through Seesaw and Google Classroom.
- Parent Virtual Town Halls sign ups will be going out in the Friday newsletter. Parents can sign up to ask questions.
- Thank you to our APT committee who put up signs when teachers visited on Monday. This was above and beyond.

Family Updates:

- Class placement forms are available for input for next year.
- Mandarin letter going home to all incoming students and current K students.

Staff Updates:

- Mrs Yakes is long term guest teacher covering Mrs. Arndt who is out on maternity leave for the rest of the school year.
- Posted position for a school psychologist for next year.

Committee Reports/Announcements:

Back-to-School Picnic/Field Day: Lisa Weber, Kirstin Carruthers - nothing to report

Board of Ed: Ann Kiesling, Vanessa Karam

There was a meeting at the end of February where parents could submit questions to Mr. Simeck and he would answer. We will be sending out the responses via email. Also, the previous Board of Ed President has retired and Justin Engelland is the newly appointed Board President.

Breakfasts: Anne Axus, Brianna Meade

Muffins with Mom was cancelled. Any checks received were shredded and Lisa will be getting cash back to those who paid that way.

Bulletin Board: Nora Froelich - nothing to report

Celebration Book Club: Ann Kiesling - nothing to report

Community Service: Cathy Montanari, Colleen Berto - nothing to report

Evening Socials: Natasha Schnack - nothing to report. Socials are done!

Fine Arts/Visiting Author: Lindsay Gadbois, Alex Cherry - nothing to report

Food Service: Lisa Olson, Katie McCarney - nothing to report

Haunted Hallway: Anne Axus, Elizabeth Martin, Ali Dacy, Alissa McNicholas - nothing to report

Helping Hands: Kim Walters

We had one request at the end of March for the Scholastic Book fair and three people volunteered. Other than that no one has used Helping hands since October.

Kindergarten: Alex Cherry, Julie Wade - nothing to report

LF-LB LDA: Danielle Burk - nothing to report

Mandarin: Nicole Cooper, Melissa Thoman - nothing to report

Membership/Directory: Shana Ward, Jenna Long - nothing to report

New Families: Annie Kavanagh, Kate Hanson, Cyncy Schacher - nothing to report

Planters: Kim Walters - nothing to report

Publishing: Stephanie Knauff, Carrie Ringness - nothing to report

Room Parents: Lacy Fidler - nothing to report

School Supplies: Kristin Vallaly

We will be going back to offering an option for school supplies as a pre-order that will be delivered to the school. More info will be coming about this.

Spirit of 67 Board: Annie Ignoffo, Mirela Dalton

The Home Tour has been postponed until Fall 2020.

Spiritwear: Melissa Thoman, Audrey Margol

The spring cheetah-wear sale was a success! The items arrived at Kiddles the week of March 9th.. E-mails were sent to everyone who placed an order, letting them know it was available for pickup. Once again, Kiddles has been a great partner and has made curbside pick-up quick and easy.

Spring Parent Survey: Kim Pfahl

Survey will be going out in early May.

Spookfest: Jocelyn Liu, Gisela Orestano, Cara Ruzila, Margareta Komlenac - nothing to report

Staff Appreciation - Events: Gisela Orestano, Stephanie Knauff, Allie Metz, Tara Eggers

Brief Summary of Current Month – Activities:

Monday, April 13th a Card my Yard sign was placed in front of the school to give thanks to the teachers and staff that are coming to school to pick up some materials.

Brief Summary of Coming Month - Plans:

We are also planning for Staff Appreciation Week, every day for the students to make a drawing, card or video to send to the teachers virtually to thank them.

Staff Appreciation - Meals: Annie Ignoffo, Kristin Carruthers, Deanne Plattner

March 5th dinner: We served approximately 40 teachers in one seating at 5pm. Mr. Livingston's desire is for the full staff to eat together so both the teachers lounge and a conference room were used for seating. We served Greek Chicken Bowls with fresh vegetables, hummus, and tzatziki sauce for toppings. We had bottled water and LaCroix in the fridge and a "chocolate bar" for dessert with a variety of individually-wrapped mini chocolates and brownie bites with some cute to-go bags for teachers to put together. This meal was a huge success, some of the teachers commented it was their favorite staff meal ever!

Food breakdown: 32 chicken breasts, sliced and served in a chafer
1/2 pan each of white and brown rice served in a chafer

12 pita breads sliced into 6 pieces, 6 GF pitas sliced into 6 pieces, (2) 10oz Feta Cheese crumbles, 3 sliced cucumbers, 3 sliced red peppers, 3 sliced red onions, 2 pints cherry tomatoes, 3 cans chickpeas, 2 bottles Greek Salad Dressing, Tzatziki Sauce, (4) 16oz assorted hummus, 3 bags pita chips (placed on dining tables)
48 bottles water, 48 LaCroix

6 bags chocolates candies, 48 brownie bites
Other: Plates, bowls, napkins, plastic cutlery, tongs, serving spoons, serving bowls, chafers (2), non-stick aluminum foil, to-go containers for leftovers (!!!), bags for chocolate treats

March 6th Light Breakfast: We had teachers grazing throughout the morning, approximately 30, with everything set up at 7:30. We kept breakfast simple and easy to grab and go, many teachers only had a half-hour time slot here and there to eat. It was much appreciated!

Food Breakdown: 24 muffins, 2 coffeecakes, 6 GF Baked goods
3qt sliced strawberries, 3 pints blueberries, 2 pints raspberries
16 Chobani Yogurt Flips (probably a few too many)
2 boxes granola, 1 bag GF granola (again, one box too many)
K Cups- 36 count, 2 Specialty Creamer, 1 gallon OJ (1/2 gallon too much), milk

Other: Hot Cups, small bowls for granola, small plates, plastic cutlery, napkins, milk glass bottles, baskets, serving bowls, tongs, ice for yogurt

Social & Emotional Learning: Meredith Norman, Sarah Bass

The Scholastic Book Fair was a great success during March conferences. Thanks to those who volunteered.

Visiting Scientist: Lisa Watters, Ali Dacy - nothing to report

Winterfest: Lisa FlorJancic, Shermin Pelinski, Allie Metz, Sarah Bass - nothing to report

Yearbook: Kelly Pasquesi, Gillian Goodfriend, Annie Ignoffo, Erica Lump

The yearbook was finished and submitted to Lifetouch for print. As of now, our delivery date is scheduled for mid-May.

4th-Grade Celebration: Amy Pasquesi, Holly Lemon, Isabel Witte, Deanne Plattner, Lisa FlorJancic

The committee is working on alternative plans in case we are not back in school. T-shirts through Kiddles are still in the works.

Questions that were asked via chat:

We never received a class picture. Status?

Kelly Pasquesi has emailed Lifetouch to find out the status on those.

4th Grade Celebration happening?:

We don't know yet if school will be in session or not. For now, the committee is planning to order t-shirts and think of some alternative ways to celebrate and maybe postpone the celebration. It will be done the same way across all 3 schools. Stay tuned.

How do I know if my incoming Kindergartner is completely registered?

You can check the website - or email Natalia Martinez at nmartinez@lfschools.net.

If we still have personal items at Cherokee, can we pick them up sometime?

Yes, there will be a time for students/parents to come up at some point to pick up items or drop off items. We are unsure when that will be, but something will be planned once we can.

Are assignments getting graded? Attendance being taken?

Attendance is getting taken daily. This is done by students submitting work via Seesaw/Google docs for the day. Grading is also being done and students will get an end of year report card. However, grades (or checks) can only improve during this time period. No one will slide lower.

Has school been cancelled for the year?

No, school has not been cancelled for the year. We still have a tentative "go back" date of May 1. There is some split thinking among superintendents on what to do - go ahead and close for the year or try to go back. No decision has been made yet. If we do close, then e-learning will continue until June 5.

Will enrollment still be the same for August?

Yes, we are planning for school enrollment to still be as planned for the upcoming year. There may be some instances where children with pre-existing conditions have to do e-learning....but planning for the majority to begin the year normally.

Next APT Meeting:

Year-End Celebration for Old/New Board - May 20 - TBD

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Moore
Cherokee APT VP/Secretary