



Cherokee APT Meeting Minutes – February 19, 2020

Cherokee School

Attendees:

Maria Moore, Ann Kiesling, Carolyn Hutchinson, Mirela Dalton, Lacy Fidler, Tara Eggers, Annie Ignoffo, Merit Barascout, Nora Froelich, Carrie Ringness, Gisela Orestano, Thanh Shorter, Nisrine Halabi, Deanne Plattner, Kristin Vallaly, Natalie Windle, Luke Livingston, Liz Freibrun

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

Welcome: Carolyn Hutchinson

Student Highlight:

Three 4th graders (Nori Kan, Lucas Martin and Michaela Hutchinson) from Mrs. Miles/Mrs. Miedema's class presented on SEL. They talked about different techniques they are learning about to think more positively, treat others well, make wiser decisions and build confidence. Superflex, Inner Coach and Self Defender are all tools they use to help!

Executive SEL Report: Umang Singh

Umang gave an update to the April 28 Jump Start to 5th Grade event. This year there will be a morning session and an evening session that will mirror one another. If you have a current 4th-grader, you will want to plan to attend! After the main presentation, there will be several 10-minute break-out sessions led by DPM teacher Ken Smith, LEAD Executive Director Andy Duran, Resource Officer Mark Long, and District 67 Director Innovation Renee Fitzsimmons.

Also, all 4th-grade parents will be invited to the April DPM APT meeting. Renee Fitzsimmons will be speaking about cell phone/ipad usage at DPM and digital citizenship.

President's Report: Carolyn Hutchinson

Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile.

*There is just one moon
And one golden sun
And a smile means
Friendship to everyone*

*Though the mountains divide
And the oceans are wide
It's a small world after all*

Cherokee APT News:

There are so many things to smile about at Cherokee! First of all, we found out that Ann Kiesling will be our next APT president! Ann has a 7th-grader at DPM and a 2nd-grader here at Cherokee and has served on several different APT and Spirit of 67 committees. She will be a fantastic president! The rest of the Executive APT slate is as follows:

Sheridan President: Heidi Clifton

Exec APT VP: Lindsay Nero

Exec APT Recording Secretary: Amanda Lamberti

As a reminder, these are all two year terms. I want to especially thank Cherokee's nominating committee -- Cathy Montanari, Annie Ignoffo, and Lisa Lersch -- who worked with Mr. Livingston and the other schools' nominating committees to find these amazing candidates. This takes a lot of time and hard work, and we thank you.

As a reminder, we will not have a regular APT in March. Instead, please plan to come to the District 67 APT Annual Meeting at CROYA on Wednesday, March 11, 9:30-11:00 am, with a light breakfast beforehand, 9:00-9:30 am. The whole slate will be voted in at this meeting. Please come and support Ann and the rest of the slate. Plus, you'll hear a great speaker: Darren Barndt, Lake Forest High School instructional director, coach, and author of the book "Extreme Teammates."

The other big thing to smile about is that Cherokee reached the 80% donor participation rate for Spirit donations and earned \$1,000 for our school! We are now in the lead. Let's keep it up! The school with the highest donor participation rate by the Spirit Home Tour on May 7 wins a popsicle party. Thank you so much to our Spirit Liaisons, Mirela Dalton and Annie Ignoffo, who have been working so hard to bring in those donations.

We've seen a lot since our last APT meeting in January: the Visiting Scientist program, the all-school Chinese New Year assembly, Family Fun Night, *James and the Giant Peach* performances, a Spirit grant application for a Cherokee garden submitted, a Spirit grant application for the Chinese New Year assembly for next year submitted, Kindergarten Information Night, Winterfest, an adorable new Olaf-themed bulletin board, the Valentine's Cookie Walk for staff, our Social Media Focus Group's first meeting, classroom Valentine's Day parties, and an LFLB-LDA-sponsored event on Executive Functioning.

I want to give a special thanks to our SEL Committee (Meredith Norman and Sarah Bass) who created an Amazon Wishlist for items to help stock and spruce up the 3 staff bathrooms at Cherokee (hand soap, lotion, mints, etc.). The list was set up so parents could purchase items on Amazon and then they would be delivered directly to our SEL

Coordinator's house. Within two days, all items were purchased.

I also want to give a special thanks to our Spiritwear Committee (Melissa Thoman and Audrey Margol) who worked with Kiddles to quickly pull together a mini Cheetahwear spring sale! Because we have a new school logo and Spirit Day every Monday this year, we heard from several staff and parents that they wish they had more Cheetahwear. So, the Spiritwear committee went to work. The sale started on Friday, February 7, and will run until Saturday, February 29. Families who are registering their kindergartners for Cherokee for next year will also get the link to order.

Coming Up...

Our Board of Education Liaisons, Ann Kiesling and Vanessa Karam, will meet with Superintendent Mike Simeck and Director of Communications Anne Whipple at the end of this month. Please email Ann or Vanessa any questions you have for Superintendent Simeck by tomorrow, February 20. As a reminder, all questions will be submitted anonymously.

Cherokee's 3rd annual Scholastic Book Fair will take place during parent-teacher conferences on Thursday, March 5 and Friday, March 6. Our SEL Committee is coordinating parent volunteers to help run the cash registers and bag books. Our Staff Appreciation (Meals) Committee is coordinating dinner and breakfast for staff during conferences. Please use the links in last Friday's newsletter to sign up to volunteer if you can.

We've also got Spirit Week coming up next month, the week before Spring Break, March 16-20, Muffins with Mom on Friday, April 3 (7:15-7:45 am), and Jump Start to 5th Grade on Tuesday, April 28 (10-11:30 am or 6:00-7:30 pm). I've included some important dates on the bottom of our agenda today.

I will be sending around an email soon with a Board Intention Form for next year. Please be thinking about what role you would like to have next year and anyone else you think would be a great addition to our Board.

District 67 APT News:

The LFHS Talent Show (which is an APT fundraiser) will be held 3 nights next week: February 27-29 at 7:00 pm.

Lake Forest High School is in the process of conducting a comprehensive assessment of its school facilities. This thorough review, which includes both a Health and Life Safety evaluation and a Master Plan, will allow our school and communities to thoughtfully plan for the future. The review is focused on ensuring funds are allocated effectively and that our facilities are maintained and improved in a cost-efficient manner to support future ready learning.

Why now?

To meet State of Illinois requirements, LFHS is currently conducting a 10-Year Health and Life Safety evaluation. The state mandates that architects and engineers must perform this critical assessment.

There will be an Open House at the High School on Tuesday, March 4, with tours from 6:00-7:00 pm and a Project Overview and Input Breakout Sessions from 7:00-9:00 pm. Since any future renovations would affect our children the most, I highly encourage you to attend this Open House and give your input.

Community News:

Lake Forest Children's Library has a Mini Mindfulness Class with Banner Day Camp for Grades K-4+ on February 27 from 4:00-4:30pm. Please register ahead of time.

LEAD is having its annual fundraiser on Saturday, February 29 at 6:30 pm at Lake Forest Country Club. Tickets are \$125. Dress is "cattle baron cocktail" theme.

Faculty Liaison's Report: Liz Freibrun

Liz inquired about the meal for the staff during conferences and if the menu can be sent out ahead of time. There will also be a sign-up sheet posted in the lounge next week. Luke asked if in the future all teachers could block off the same time frame for meals for conferences so the staff can eat together.

Vice President/Recording Secretary's Report: Maria Moore

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

Treasurer's Report: Elizabeth Martin

Please continue to submit your receipts and check request forms to me!

Communication Coordinator's Report: Cara Ruzila

Continue to email me items that you would like to see posted to the APT facebook page and website. Continue to like and comment on facebook posts.

Principal's Report: Luke Livingston

General Updates:

- Welcome new APT President 2020-2022: Ann Kiesling
- Good Friday (4/10) is not a current day off, but several teachers have asked for it off (about 18) and it's a problem district wide. District is proposing to the Board to vote for an update to the calendar: the day off on 4/10 and then students' last day would be a ½ day on 6/5.
- Morning arrival process has improved and we are down to about 5 late arrivals each day versus 65 (as were had in January).

Student Updates:

- There was a valentine door decorating contest between the classes. Contest winners were: Tsagalis, Miller, Whalley and Pietrazewski.
- Student Leadership Team has been meeting with Mr. Livingston and Ms. Dombai. Coming up with ideas for Spirit Week (March 16). Also, planning the March 20 school-wide celebration: homerooms need to earn a total of 35 puzzle pieces between now and March 18.

Staff Updates:

- Lisa Carswell's (works in the front office) father passed away last week unexpectedly.
- School social worker who was out on leave is back part time. She and the long term sub will be working together through the end of the year at both Cherokee and Sheridan.
- Maternity Position for Mrs. Arndt will be covered by Mrs. Yakes (current Teaching Assistant). There is a job posting for a long term sub for Mrs. Yakes' TA job.

Past Events:

- 1/15 & 1/22 - Visiting Scientist Presentations
- Chinese New Year assembly (1/24)
- Family Fun Night (1/30)
- James and the Giant Peach performance (2/3)
- Kindergarten Info Night (2/6)
- Winterfest (2/7)
- Valentine's Cookie Walk (2/10)
- Social Media Focus Group -- first meeting (2/12)

Upcoming Events:

- Board of Ed Liaison questions due (2/20)
- Scholastic Book Fair (3/5 -6)
- Conferences (3/5 -6): APT provides dinner and breakfast for staff
- Spirit Week (3/16-20)

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 regular Board of Education meeting held on January 28, 2020. A report from this meeting was emailed to parents. The next regular BOE meeting will be held on February 25, 2020, 7:00 p.m., Administration Center/West Campus, Board Room.

One note to share is that we have our second sit-down meeting with Anne Whipple and Mike Simeck coming up at the end of the month, so we will be actively soliciting

questions over the next couple of weeks. I need to have the questions by the 20th.

Breakfasts: Anne Axus, Brianna Meade - nothing to report

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

James and the Giant Peach was a hit with the kids grades k-4. Thanks to the performers at GREAT WORKS THEATRE COMPANY. A huge thank you to Spirit of 67 for making this possible.

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

No requests the past couple months.

Kindergarten: Alex Cherry, Julie Wade - nothing to report

LF-LB LDA: Danielle Burk - nothing to report

If you missed the Executive Functioning Seminar and would like the slides, email Kristin Vallaly and she can send to you.

Mandarin: Nicole Cooper, Melissa Thoman

Brief Summary of Current Month – Activities:

Spirit of 67 Grant was submitted for next year Chinese New Year celebrations.

-We had great New Year Celebrations including: school decorations, Mandarin classroom parties and the all-school assembly.

THANK YOU to:

- Volunteers for decorating the school
- Classroom party volunteers
- Annie Ignoffo for taking pictures
- Our amazing Mandarin teachers Jing and Xiao!

Brief Summary of Coming Month - Plans:

- Continuing to foster the connection of our Mandarin teachers and the staff at Lake Forest Academy. This could be a great connection for additional opportunities for our Mandarin students. LFA's student body is about 25% international with about 15% of that being Chinese students.

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

New Families: Annie Kavanagh, Kate Hanson, Cyncy Schacher

We recently welcomed 2 new families with Lake Forest welcome packs of area info, Cherokee magnets and tshirts. New families will also be paired up with Buddy families.

Planters: Kim Walters - nothing to report

Publishing: Stephanie Knauff, Carrie Ringness - nothing to report

Room Parents: Lacy Fidler

We had our class Valentine's Day parties and suggested room parents plan another spring social event.

School Supplies: Kristin Vallaly - nothing to report

Spirit of 67 Board: Annie Ignoffo, Mirela Dalton

Cherokee reached 82.1% donor participation and will receive \$1000. Hooray! We attended the monthly board meeting and are gearing up for the Home Tour event in May.

Spiritwear: Melissa Thoman, Audrey Margol

In response to multiple requests, and since we have a new logo and Spirit Day every Monday this year, Kiddles has agreed to offer a mini Cheetahwear sale. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, February 29. All items will be delivered to Cherokee and sent home with the child. Additionally, all incoming kindergarten families that have pre-registered for school year 2020-2021 will be emailed the link in effort to increase the sale and get future Cheetahs even more excited for kindergarten.

Spring Parent Survey: Kim Pfahl - nothing to report

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:

We successfully hosted the Cookie Walk for Cherokee Staff and everyone loved the idea of a Valentines Cookie Walk. We recommend changing the date for February next year.

Brief Summary of Coming Month - Plans:

We will host Staff Appreciation Week....still thinking of ideas. But for sure one day we will offer pasta catering donated by the Eggers Family. Another day it will be Mexican food.

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

There is a signup to help provide dinner and breakfast for the staff during conferences. Sign up with the link in the Friday newsletter.

Social & Emotional Learning: Meredith Norman, Sarah Bass

Scholastic Book Fair will be going on during conferences. There is a signup to volunteer for a shift in the Friday newsletter.

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

We are putting the finishing touches on the yearbook and wrapping it up to be submitted before spring break.

If you have pictures to send us of any events, field trips, etc, please email them to us actual size as soon as possible.

4th-Grade Celebration: Amy Pasquesi, Holly Lemon, Isabel Witte, Deanne Plattner, Lisa FlorJancic - nothing to report

Guest Speaker: Dr. Jeff McHugh - D67 Director of Teaching and Learning

An Assessment Report is presented to the Board each December - it's much like a "State of the District" to show how things are going in D67 compared to other districts in the state. It can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/AssessmentReport2019>

There are 3 Key Takeaways from the 2019 report for D67:

1. Growth in the district is at a higher rate than in the state and nation.
2. Higher levels of proficiency compared to the nation and state.
3. D67 performed similarly to peer districts, but improved participation will provide a more accurate comparison.

There is some concern in the third takeaway. Because our participation is lower, it blurs our stats and makes us rank lower than all our peers. Some parents are not making their kids take these standardized tests. If a child refuses to test, the school gets a zero rating for that child....there is no "opt out" option. When the state grades the district, they are looking at testing scores, attendance and more. Both of these (testing and attendance) are at a bit of a decline in District 67 as compared to other districts.

District 67 does not teach for the test itself, but it is important to have the child take the test and be present. It will help our overall score and rating for our district and our community. The test is just a snapshot of what the student knows. D67 does SO MUCH more to look at a student's growth and academic needs; the IAR and MAP tests are just small ways to see these, but they make a big impact on the big picture scoring.

Here is the link to the Illinois Report Card if you want to see where other districts in the state are.

<https://www.illinoisreportcard.com>

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Next APT Meeting:

March 11 - District 67 APT Annual Meeting at CROYA

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Moore
Cherokee APT VP/Secretary