



Cherokee APT Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2020

Cherokee School

Attendees:

Vanessa Karam, Ann Kiesling, Sam Davie, Barret Davie, Elizabeth Martin, Natalie Windle, Deepak Dalia, Himani Dalia, Joalida Smit, Janet Gongola, Stephen Gongola, Lacy Fidler, Cara Ruzila, Gisela Orestano, Nora Froelich, Thanh Shorter, Kristin Vallaly, Stephanie Knauff, Deanne Plattner, Carrie Ringness, Anne Axus, Tara Eggers, Carolyn Hutchinson, Kaci Spirito, Meredith Norman, Mirela Dalton, Jonathan Dalton, Lisa Florjancic, Alana Sandel, Amy Mobile

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

Welcome: Carolyn Hutchinson

Student Highlight:

Three 2nd-graders (Stephen Gongola, Lila Bock and Carolyn Davie) from Mrs. Freibrun/Mrs. Nasshan's class presented on co-teaching and inclusivity.

Students: In a co-taught classroom, all students and all teachers work together. We work in small groups, all together and sometimes in stations where we rotate to different groups and do different activities. Parallel teaching is when we see both teachers at different times during one subject to learn different things.

Favorites for students of co-teaching:

You can learn more in a smaller group than you can with the whole class.

It is easy to have two teachers because you don't have to wait very long for a teacher to help you.

We like the variety of having two teachers instead of just one.

Guest Speakers:

Kindergarten: Amy Piergalski, Special Education/Learning Behavior Specialist

2nd Grade: Jenny Nasshan, Special Education/Learning Behavior Specialist, and Liz Freibrun, General Education Teacher

3rd Grade: Annette Miller, General Education Teacher

Presentation/Video: Co-teaching is a vehicle to provide inclusive practices in our classroom. Inclusion is not simply about physical proximity, it is about intentionally

planning for the success of all students. Regardless of how good of a swim instructor you are, you can't teach a person to swim in the parking lot of a swimming pool. It's not our job to say "No you can't", it's our job to say "How can you?". Fairness is not giving everyone the same thing, it is giving each person what they need to succeed. Inclusion is about membership, participation and learning.

The Mission of District 67 is to inspire and empower all students to maximize their growth as learners and develop a balanced sense of self, steadfast resiliency, and deep respect for others. District 67 believes inclusive teaching practices will assist in reaching this vision. One way this can be done is through a co-teaching model to best support students with disabilities within the general education setting.

Co-teaching is sharing the intellectual expertise of two or more certified staff who share an active instructional responsibility within the classroom within a specific content with mutual ownership, pooled resources, and joint accountability for achieving positive student outcomes and growth on a daily basis. Co-teachers share a common belief that each partner has a unique expertise and perspective to enrich the learning experience. Co-teachers regularly collaborate to meet the needs of not only students with disabilities assigned to the general education class but also students without disabilities assigned to the general education class.

Some examples of how this model is being utilized in our classrooms this year:

Team teaching is when the whole class is being taught together which offers multiple perspectives and increased opportunities for interaction.

Parallel teaching is when the class is split into two groups in which each group works with one teacher on the same lesson. That way the students are learning in a smaller group with a smaller teacher to student ratio.

Station Teaching is when students are placed into three or more small groups. These groups can be designed for students who need support or for students who need a challenge. Students rotate through each station working with each teacher.

Benefits of co-teaching include: smaller student-to-teacher ratios, as a result co-teaching provides support and access for all students. Students have more opportunities to ask questions and participate in lessons. This fosters a sense of belonging, and compassion, understanding and acceptance of differences among students. Co-teaching encourages high expectations for all students. We believe everyone belongs, everyone can learn and everyone can teach all students!

President's Report: Carolyn Hutchinson

"Obstacles don't have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it."

--Michael Jordan

Cherokee APT News:

Since our last meeting in November, we've seen Donuts with Dad, Barrel of Monkeys' final performance for all district 4th-graders,* a small Thanksgiving treat given to all staff members, holiday gifts and classroom parties coordinated, 120 books published for our 1st and 2nd graders, new planters out front, a new "We Thank Our Lucky Stars" bulletin board up, a new "Eat Healthy, Think Healthy, Move Healthy" cafeteria bulletin board up, many books added to our library through the Celebration Book Club, and the yearbook cover submitted. Thank you ALL so much for all you are doing.

*Barrel of Monkeys is now called PML: PlayMakers Laboratory

Coming up we have the Visiting Scientist program (today, Jan 15, for 3rd and 4th-grade workshops, topics are reptiles and polymers, respectively, and Jan 22 for the K-2nd-grade assembly: Smarty in Space: A Big Balloon Odyssey), the all-school Chinese New Year assembly on January 24, Family Fun Night on January 30, James and the Giant Peach performances on February 2, Winterfest on February 7, and the Valentine's Cookie Walk for staff on February 10.

Please sign up to volunteer to run one of the classroom activities at Family Fun Night if you can. The link was in last Friday's newsletter. And please email Lisa FlorJancic if you can volunteer at Winterfest. A signup for the Valentine's Cookie Walk will be available soon.

Cherokee Garden update: Campbell Eggers (Tara Egger's daughter and former Cherokee student), Mr. Livingston, and I met with four staff members (Mrs. Tsgalis, Mrs. Miles, Ms. Whalley, and Mrs. Miedema) to discuss the garden and writing a Spirit grant application for the garden as part of Campbell's Gold Star Award for Girl Scouts. We are now in the process of writing that grant application, which is due January 30. Some of the curricular lessons that a garden could complement that we are highlighting in the grant application include: first grade: bees (pollination), rainforests (plants, water cycle), and farms (plant parts, plant life cycle); second grade: soil and water cycle; third grade: life cycles, analyzing and interpreting data related to inherited traits in plants and explaining how traits can be influenced by the environment; and fourth grade: renewable energy as well as plant adaptations. Mr. Livingston and I also met with Carol White, our District's Director of Building and Grounds, to go over everything and get her input and are meeting with her again next week. Part of the plan is to create two permanent APT positions to be in charge of overseeing and maintaining the garden, including a schedule for care over the summer. So we will definitely need your parent support!

Speaking of Spirit grants, teachers, students, and parents are all encouraged to submit applications! Parents spearheaded the Visiting Scientist program. Students at Everett received a grant for new games for indoor recess. Let me know if you have any questions. All grant applications are due January 30.

Speaking of the Spirit, Cherokee is currently in 3rd place out of the four schools in the Cross Town Competition! Everett already hit the 80% participation level and earned \$1,000 for their school. Sheridan is at 75%, Cherokee is at 72.5%, and Deer Path is at 60%. We only need 18 more families to donate and we can earn \$1,000 for our school. The school with the highest percentage on the day of the Home Tour (May 7) wins an additional \$1,000!

A few other reminders:

- Please update your job descriptions as you go.
- Put that green circle APT logo on as much as possible.
- Turn in those receipts.
- Check the Lost and Found after the meeting today.

Other Cherokee News:

Don't forget to send in those Box Tops and those pop can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House service project.

Kindergarten Information Night will take place at all elementary schools on February 6, 6:15-7:15 pm. Please tell friends who have incoming kindergartners. More information is on the Cherokee website's landing page.

Girls on the Run - Parent Volunteers Needed! Cherokee is looking for parents to volunteer as a site coordinator and as coaches for Girls on the Run this Spring season. Girls on the Run is a national organization that encourages and promotes self-respect and a healthy lifestyle through running for young girls. The curriculum helps the girls develop physically, emotionally, and socially through a formal structure of physical and learning activities. It is a group (of 3rd and 4th grade girls) that practices 2 days a week after school for 75 minutes in the months of March, April, and May. If you are interested in volunteering and/or learning more, please contact Amy Piergalski (apiergalski@lfschools.net).

Social Media Focus Group - Cherokee is looking for a group of interested parents to meet with Mr. Livingston to discuss what we can do at Cherokee to better educate our parents about social media and its effects, especially BEFORE our kids enter middle school. We would love to develop a group that can brainstorm together and perhaps come up with 1 or 2 programs next year to inform, educate, and give practical tips and suggestions to our parents, much like what LEAD does for alcohol and drug use.

On a related note, there will be a one-hour class at Gorton called Cyber Security: Keeping Our Kids Safe in a Digital on Tuesday, January 28, 7:00-8:00 pm (\$10).

District 67 APT News:

Don't forget to activate your online directory. We are no longer using My School Anywhere. We are now using Membership Toolkit (MTK). An email was sent on October 30 to confirm your information and create a new account on Membership Toolkit.

Please just email me if you have any questions or issues.

Other District News:

At the Exec APT meeting last week, Mr. Simeck had an interesting presentation regarding our schools' state report cards that came out recently and how they are affected by our kids' participation in IAR testing.

Our participation in IAR (formerly PARCC) testing affects our designation as an "exemplary" school vs a "commendable" school. For example, if 100 kids are eligible to take the test, and only 90 kids take it, we get a 0 score for those kids who don't take it, which greatly affects our average. We have many more students than other schools NOT taking this test, and schools CANNOT get an exemplary rating if student participation rate is lower. DPM would have gotten an exemplary rating this year if not for its participation score. Most schools had a 96-100% participation rate; DPM had an 87% participation rate. In this regard, we are a significant outlier among our peers. 7th and 8th grades seem to be the worst, in regard to test participation rates. Absences in general also affect our scores: we have higher-than-typical chronic absenteeism due to social reasons.

A few other things to note:

- Our participation in testing hasn't changed, but our lack of participating hurts us more now since the designation scale has changed. The state has moved towards a multi-faceted system to determine ratings where the absenteeism and test participation hurts us more now than in the past. Components used to calculate the rating change from year-to-year, and they are not entirely transparent about how the score is determined
- These numbers are mis-representative of where our kids are academically. Public perception is that our kids are under-performing but the reality is that our kids are doing great. However, this affects our district's image and the perception people have of our community.
- We do not have the same problems with NWEA (MAP) tests.

Faculty Liaison's Report: Amy Mobile

Family Fun Night coming up on January 30, 5:00-6:00 pm. Thanks for supporting our SEL Committee on this. Thanks for stocking the staff bathrooms. Thank you for moving the Cookie Walk from December to February.

Vice President/Recording Secretary's Report: Elizabeth Martin

The minutes from November 2019 were presented and no changes or corrections were made. A motion to approve the November 2019 minutes was made by Elizabeth Martin and seconded by Kristin Vallaly 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 posted to the facebook page and website. Continue to like and comment on facebook posts.

Principal's Report: Luke Livingston

General Updates:

- Reviewing spirit grants
- Posting online versus sharing your concern at the school level (Norovirus and Winter Sing)
- Winter Sing and holiday parties
- Chronic absenteeism and 'refusal' from IAR Assessments and the impact on IL Report Card rating

Student Updates:

- School-wide celebration (December) for earning puzzle pieces
- 3rd grade iPad roll out is occurring. Working to phase out the Chromebooks.
- Winter MAP/NWEA results going home on Wednesday (grades 2-4)

Staff Updates:

- Welcome Aubrey Clement - new teaching assistant
- Welcome to Ms Haase - new music student teacher
- Starting interviews for Mrs. Arndt's maternity substitute

Past Events:

- 11/22 Donuts with Dad, Muffins with the Mayor
- 11/22 Report Cards went home
- December - MAP testing
- 12/20 Winter Sing

Upcoming Events:

- 1/15 Visiting Scientist (grades 2-4)
- 1/21 All School K9 Assembly with LF Police Department
- 1/22 Visiting Scientist (grades K-2)
- 1/24 Chinese New Year Assembly (wear red)
- 1/30 Family Fun Night
- 2/3 Fine Arts James & the Giant Peach performance
- 2/5 World Read Aloud Day
- 2/6 Kindergarten Info Night
- 2/7 Winterfest

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 December 17, 2019. A report from this meeting was emailed to parents. The next regular BOE meeting will be held on January 28, 2020, 7:00 p.m., Administration Center/West Campus, Board Room.

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 performances will take place at Cherokee on Monday, February 3.

Food Service: Lisa Olson, Katie McCarney

We have the new bulletin board up. Theme is "Eat Healthy, Think Healthy, Move Healthy"

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

Helping Hands: Kim Walters

No HH requests were made in December.

Kindergarten: Alex Cherry, Julie Wade - nothing to report

LF-LB LDA: Danielle Burk - nothing to report

Mandarin: Nicole Cooper, Melissa Thoman

Brief Summary of Current Month – Activities:

Chinese New Year Celebrations!!! Year of the RAT!

-Friday, 1/17, 1:00- Decorate the school! We need parent volunteers to help!

-Thursday, 1/23- Mandarin Classroom Celebrations. We are asking for 3-4 parent volunteers per class to come help with snacks, crafts, games, etc. All snacks and crafts are provided.

Schedule:

G2 class: 10:10-11:10

G3 class: 11:10-12:10

G4 class: 12:40-1:40

G1 class: 1:30-2:30 upstairs Mandarin room

K: 1:45-2:35 downstairs Mandarin room

-Friday, 1/24, 1:50-2:30- All school assembly in the gym and multi-purpose room. The assembly includes a slide show Q&A run by Mandarin students in all grade levels, a short Mandarin cultural video and the Lion Dance presentation.

We need pictures taken for yearbook and website.

We are also submitting our grant for next year's Chinese New Year celebrations.

Brief Summary of Coming Month - Plans:

- We're helping coordinate more field trip opportunities. We recently made a connection for 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 - nothing to report

Planters: Kim Walters

Winter holiday planters are now in place till Spring.

Publishing: Erica Iles, Stephanie Knauff, Carrie Ringness

Brief Summary of Current Month – Activities: The Publishing Coordinators (Erica Iles, Stephanie Knauff, & Carrie Ringness) completed approximately 120 books in December and early January for the 1st Graders and 2nd Graders. Thank you to the many parent volunteers that typed up the students' books. Also, many thanks to former Publishing Coordinator, Erica Iles, for all of her time and effort that she spent on transitioning the publishing role before she moved away.

Brief Summary of Coming Month - Plans: We will start publishing the second book for both 1st Grade and 2nd Grade in May.

Room Parents: Lacy Fidler - nothing to report

School Supplies: Kristin Vallaly - nothing to report

Spirit of 67 Board: Annie Ignoffo, Mirela Dalton

We attended the monthly board meeting. Continuing to send emails to non-donors. We still need 17 families to donate to reach the 80% level which gets Cherokee \$1000.

Spiritwear: Melissa Thoman, Audrey Margol

Committee responsibilities are completed.

There has been a request from staff to have more than one sale per year. As the change to school spirit day changed to occur every Monday, some staff were taken by surprise that they needed more gear! Historically, Kiddles has not found this to be beneficial and stated that it is financially difficult to make small orders.

Spiritwear coordinators took note that communication (particularly to staff members directly) may need to be increased next August/September. Perhaps an email to staff reminding them that there is only one sale/opportunity to purchase spiritwear per year.

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
Staff Cookie Walk coming up on February 10. Please sign up!

Staff Appreciation - Meals: Annie Ignoffo, Kristin Carruthers, Deanne Plattner - nothing to report

Social & Emotional Learning: Meredith Norman, Sarah Bass

Family Fun Night is coming up on January 30 from 5:00-6:00pm. Please sign up to volunteer for a shift and bring your family! Link was in the Friday newsletter or you can contact Meredith.

Visiting Scientist: Lisa Watters, Ali Dacy

Today!

Winterfest: Lisa FlorJancic, Shermin Pelinski, Allie Metz, Sarah Bass

Coming up on February 7. Glow Night again with same vendors - was a hit last year! Registration forms were sent home.

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

-Classroom photographers are finishing up their montage pages.

-We are working to get the yearbook finished.

-If you take pictures at field trips or events, we would love to have them! You can email them to us and be sure to choose 'actual size' when you send.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Next APT Meeting:

February 19 - Jeff McHugh, District 67 Director of Teaching and Learning

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria Moore

Cherokee APT VP/Secretary