

**Winnetka District 36 Central PTO
Minutes - October 7, 2016**

Welcome: Jenny Keller

- Present for the meeting: Jenny Kelly, Shannon Preda, Julie Eldring, Brie Root, Trisha Kocanda, Jennifer Pehlke, Jen Baker, Kymm Junker, Brooke Helmstetter, Kim Melancon, and Jenn Weiler

Secretary: Shannon Preda

- Will approve minutes via e-mail for last month

Treasurer's Report: Julie Eldring

- Working on Infosnap totals donations / contributions to Central and School PTO's. We should have it soon.
- Certificates of Liability were sent to school PTO Presidents.

VP Communications Report: Brie Root

- PTO reps updated on the website
- Minutes will be posted on the website
- To do: Check that school domains are covered

Superintendent Report: Trisha Kocanda

- Trisha was able to get out and visit the schools this week. Students are doing creative / exciting projects. Skokie School is doing a garden project.
- Focus on effective communication and reaching all students / learners
- Reaching all learners – looking at math program. Dr. Miriam Sherin and Mr. James Lynn will present the findings of their evaluation of the math program in District 36. The board will hear the information at their meeting next Monday and develop a response plan at next month's board meeting. There will be a parent meeting next Thursday, Oct 13 at Washburne School.
- Barry Rodgers will provide info on MAP, PARCC performance, and freshman preparedness for New Trier at the next board meeting. The board will use this info to set goals.
 - Don't technically have access to all the PARCC data. Once we have it, data analysis will be done to look at how we performed as a district.
 - PARCC in current form probably won't be around next year. MAP is talking with the state about replacing the PARCC.
 - 8th grade PARCC results not great but only 50-60% took the test so may not be indicative of performance.
- Wilmette hosted a parent session last Thursday and Friday with Dr. Jo Boaler (Stanford University). She presented on The Mindset Revolution: Teaching Mathematics for a Growth Mindset. We are working on bringing her to Winnetka in spring.

- Some of our district teachers went to the Wilmette program. Take away: Winnetka is ahead of the curve in their thinking on this compared to other schools in the district.
 - This coming Monday principal newsletter will be on this topic.
- Focus on community outreach with the pre-schools – building relationship with the pre-schools. Trisha and Daniel Ryan are visiting WPSN and Winnetka Community to help answer parent questions. Have reached out to Willow Wood as well.
- Discussed with the Central PTO group the possibility of repeating the K-2 Program again in the spring.
- On September 15, Julie Pfeffer, Trisha Kocanda and Daniel Ryan hosted an Open Forum at Crow Island. They fielded questions regarding curriculum, communication and special education services. They will be going back to CI on Monday, Oct 24 to further address some of the questions.
 - Thoughts on this format: Might be better to have questions sent ahead of time. Jen Baker reported it went really well...parents asked great questions. Parents want feel like they are being heard. Parents who attended felt better after attending the meeting. Julie also was able to circle back with particular parents.
 - Some parents had questions about New Trier. NT will be coming later in fall to talk with Skokie / Washburne parents. This will also be open to elementary parents.
- Conferences are coming up. District is giving teachers certain areas for teachers to discuss with all parents / about all students. Goal to be more consistent across the district.
- MAP reports are being mailed on Monday. Will give % rank nationally and grade level average in Winnetka.
- Enrollment Balancing Committee had their 1st meeting. This group will visit each building during school hours. All Enrollment Balancing Committee meetings are open to anyone interested in attending.

School Board – Jennifer Pehlke

- Air conditioning / Cooling – Board has heard the complaints and is being responsive to this issue. They are considering and researching several options and the costs associated with these options: looking at % of cool space in each school, evaluating the cost of fans and / or window units, and researching what it would take to have 100% air conditioning.
- German Company (VS Furniture) that designed the original furniture for Crow Island wants to collect the furniture to restore it. They will be donating new furniture for the entire school.
 - Jen Baker reported – CEO for VS furniture believes strongly in his mission of furnishing the “most perfectly designed school”. He wants to showcase his furniture in CI.
 - Every piece of furniture will be replace. Using him for STEAM space
 - Ergonomic, flexible spacing – Goal is instructional approach meets the environment

- Company wants to have the project completed by the end of the year.

Crow Island Report –Jen Baker, CI PTO President

- Run-a-thon today
- Crow Island Parent Party will be the 3rd week in Feb.
- Dr. Pfeffer provided a wish list for the new STEAM / Maker Space at CI. These items will be the fundraising targets for the parent party.
- There will be an open house for the STEAM / Maker Space prior to the Parent Party. There will also be a demonstration(s) set up at the party.

Greeley Report: Kymm Junker, Greeley PTO President

- Historically have done a Halloween Party after their Ghost Dance. This year they will be doing a Fall Fest right after school. The new event will be more age appropriate and more family oriented. It will take place the Friday before Halloween and will not be a fundraiser.
- Conversations about parents from various schools going to the school board meeting to ask questions about math. Greeley also putting together another group to be there in support of the district / board.

Hubbard Woods Report: Brooke Helmstetter, HW PTO President

- Beth Carmody – Did her 1st version of Vision and Views. She put her own twist on it. In her presentation she outlined goals of community outreach in an appropriate way per grade level (reaching all learners).
- IDEA Lab open house (right after Kindergarten open house) – not a huge attendance. Timing may not have been great. Will look at doing it again later in the year.
- This Saturday is the annual Cardboard challenge with the new theme: Make it and Wear it. The event will be from 2-4:00pm in the gym. National Program base– young boy would do projects with cardboard (made games). ABT delivers the cardboard and kits including rivets to connect the cardboard are provided. It is typically very well attended and kids created great structures. The purpose of the program is to encourage creative exploration / thinking and community building.

Skokie-Washburne Report – Kim Melancon and Jenn Weiler, PTO Co-Chairs

- Skokie added a Passion Period to the daily schedule - PTO supported teachers going to Hack Studio in Evanston
 - Child determines a “quest” and then looks at the process to complete the quest.
 - Concern is we are taking time away from academic block. Taking a piece of the block to have more staff available to work on certain areas or enhance certain area
 - Some of the advisory classes have started projects ie. Garden Project. As the program evolves, the goal is for students with similar interests to be grouped together and not grouped by advisory.
 - New schedule is a bit more flexible than in the past.

- Have been able to triple kids receiving RTI time.
- Skokie / Washburne Parent Party was very successful!! 200 parents attended the casual attire party at Skokie Country Club for only \$50 per ticket.
- Skokie 5K – Historically in the spring but is moving it to the fall in hopes of better weather, November 5 – Same location as last year.
- PTO is working with Kelly on Hack Studio and new schedule.
- PTO is working with Washburne on how to best use funds. Replacing the lunch room furniture is one possible project.
- 5th Grade Party Committee looking at putting together a social event for the 5th graders.

Next Meeting:

Friday, November 4, 2016, 9:15am, Skokie School Community Room