

Winnetka District 36 Central PTO
Minutes - September 9, 2016

Welcome / Introductions: Jenny Keller

- Present for the meeting: Jenny Kelly, Shannon Preda, Julie Eldring, Brie Root, Trisha Kocanda, Liz Kunkle, Claire Storino, Kymm Junker, Brooke Helmstetter, Kim Melancon, and Jenn Weiler
- Central PTO Role – Facilitate communication / share ideas between the individual school PTO's, Convey information back to our school / PTO re the district
- School Bulletins: Intended to share / promote PTO / school activities. Not obligated to publicize community activities. Promoting community activities at the individual school's PTO discretion.
- Central PTO gives financial contributions to 4 organizations: Erika's Lighthouse, Haven, FAN (Family Action Network), and Alliance for Early Childhood. FAN receives a donation of \$3 per student in the district.

Treasurer's Report: Julie Eldring

- Certificates of Liability: Julie will send to PTO Presidents and Treasurers.
- Funding for the Central PTO comes from Infosnap donations

VP Communications Report: Brie Root

- Central PTO has it's own website
- There was a discussion about going back into Infosnap to check completed donations. Linda Wehrheim can answer questions regarding infosnap.
- Parents receive an e-mail confirmation / receipt when placing school related orders ie Directories, Donations to School Fundraisers, Teacher Gift Funds, etc.

Superintendent Report: Trisha Kocanda

- Great start to the school year / good energy in the schools
- It has been hot...know it is not ideal! Board had a HVAC proposal in 2013 for around \$10,000,000. At the time decided not to move forward with it at that time. There is a lot to consider with old buildings and electrical limitations.
- Rolling out shared vision this year. School improvement is focused on shared vision.
- Staffing changes: Beth Carmody is the new principal at Hubbard Woods School. Barry Rogers is the new Director of Innovation and Teaching. Daniel Ryan (past Hubbard Woods principal) is the new Assistant Superintendent Professional Learning.
- Summer storm: All schools took in some water. Hubbard Woods was hit the hardest. The district responded quickly and worked hard to get the school ready for the start of the school year.
- Hubbard Woods Librarian / Media Specialist, Todd Burleson, won Scholastic National Honor Librarian of the Year.
- Finalizing Goals with the Board next week

- Effective communication
- Shared Vision understanding
- How to communicate student growth / achievement to parents / how to package information for parents
- Experiential learning
- Emphasis on reading: implementation of the common core / reaching all students including special education
- Fiscal Management / Building Design: how to use reserves
- Enrollment balancing
- Prototype classrooms – flexible learning environments that align with the expectations for learning, there is a lot of research in this area
- Enrollment Balancing - Balance our the K – 4 buildings
 - CI is much bigger than Greeley and Hubbard Woods. 60 – 80 students over capacity
 - Educational programming is the drive, goal is to maintain 17 – 20 students per class across all school
 - Board started the Enrollment Balancing Project in June 2016
 - Working with demographers and geographers to determine trends in the community and enrollment trends
 - Formed an Enrollment Balancing Committee made up of board members, community members and staff members – Looking at all options including enrollment to self-correct, reconfiguring grades housed at school buildings, a school boundary shift, or school construction.
 - Link on the district website dedicated to this project. Goal is to be transparent with the process. Group will also collect input through focus groups and on-line comments
- Full Day Kindergarten – made a commitment to do it and district will see it through
- Community Discourse: members of the community focused on performance / test scores (pulling certain data to support their views)
 - Trisha met with them in July
 - Group wants the district to get rid of Terc (math program), teach reading more formally in Kindergarten, and keep progressive ed. They are targeting families with young children / early elementary age.
 - Alliance is helping to provide education. District is educating K teachers so they can address questions

D36 Green Team Report: Liz Kunkle

- Green Team has had great support from the District. They have district level meetings once a month. Each school has it's own rep.
- Helps to provide schools with signage / needed resources.
- Goals to encourage the mindset of “Leave no foot prints” both at school and in our community.

Crow Island Report – Claire Storino (Covering for CI PTO President Jen Baker)

- Portable classrooms for Spanish and Music were added over the summer.

Greeley Report: Kymm Junker, Greeley PTO President

- Greeley Mascot Election is this year (every 4 years). There is a lot of excitement around this tradition.
- New Parent Party last night. Greeley PTO puts together a information packet for new families.

Hubbard Woods Report: Brooke Helmstetter, HW PTO President

- Welcomed new principal, Beth Carmody, with a PTO sponsored brunch at a parent's home. 60 HW parents attended. Beth is very approachable and authentic.
- Working on a way to recognize Todd Burleson's Librarian of the Year Award

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

- Discussion about possibly moving Social Dance to another time during the school year
- Working towards having a back to school paypal page for all back to school payments next school year

Next Meeting:

Friday, October 7, 2016, 9:15am, Skokie School Community Room