

**Winnetka District 36 Central PTO  
Minutes - March 3, 2017**

**Welcome: Jenny Keller**

- Present for the meeting: Jenny Keller, Shannon Preda, Brie Root, Jen Baker, Brooke Helmstetter, Julie Eldring, Jen Weiler, Trisha Kocanda, Nat Roberts, Steve Cirulis.
- Nat Roberts and Steve Cirulis, candidates for the school board, attended today's meeting to introduce themselves and hear about the issues facing the Central PTO.

**Crow Island Report –Jen Baker, CI PTO President**

- CI PTO would like to add one additional VP of Programs to their Exec. Board. 2VP Programs would split the job. Bylaws state that you need to have at least 3 VP's. Individual PTO's can add a VP by an Exec Board vote. CI considered having VP Programs be a 2-year job but that would limit the 1-year positions to 1 (instead of 2 as it is currently). Decided to continue with it being a 1-year but shared position.
- Parent Teacher Party last Friday – Over 200 people attended the event at the Kenilworth Club. Lou Malnati's did a great job with the catering. Candy bar at the end of the night was a hit! Goal was to raise \$5K and raised over \$10K, all going towards the STEAM Program.
- Steve Cirulis, Nat Roberts and John Conine will be joining the CI exec meeting this month.
- K transition is still a big topic. CI has ideas to bring to the next K Committee meeting for transitioning kids into K and transitioning them back to CI with a focus on the district (not just CI). Recognizes that this is a big change for CI but also a big change for Greeley and HW.
- PTO Presidents from all 3 schools agreed to keep the cost of the Directories consistent and that families shouldn't have to pay for more than one directory.

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

- 6<sup>th</sup> Graders going to Washburne today
- Valentine's lunch for the staff recently
- Skokie is looking at an updated climbing wall.
- Furniture project is moving forward

**Hubbard Woods Report: Brooke Helmstetter, HW PTO President**

- STEAM night coming up on Pie Day. Michael Collins is coordinating with the HW teachers. Will continue with the math activities but will also have the IDEA room open and the art space. All grades will attend on one night.
- District Food Policies: Brooke reported that there seemed to be more questions this year. She would like something in writing to pass along to committee chairs planning activities where food is provided. District is aware there are some inconsistencies and looking at the policy. Trisha can provide written policies.
- HW also discussing the cost of the Directory.

- HW is having more trouble getting a parent to chair the directory. The question came up about the possibility of one person doing the Directories for all schools / possibly a position on the Central PTO (maybe Communications?)

**Greeley Report: Kymm Junker , Greeley PTO President Elect**

- PTO sponsored Family Bingo Night a few weeks ago was a success. Open to all kids / parents. 120 people attended this family, fun night / not a fundraising focus.
- There will be a Greeley gathering (for parents) at the end of the school year at Happ Inn.
- STEM night is coming up (also PTO sponsored). Thinking of incorporating a Cardboard Challenge.

**Treasurer's Report: Julie Eldring**

- Website Maintenance: Greeley website went dark last month because the payment was overdue (more difficult to monitor since it was a 3-year contract). Sherrie Gottlieb has offered to take over as the host for all of the schools. Going forward will renew the schools at the same time. Should all be moved over within the next month.
- Julie will send a preliminary budget for next year before the next meeting.

**VP Communications Report: Brie Root**

- No report

**Secretary: Shannon Preda**

- Approved February Minutes

**Superintendent Report: Trisha Kocanda**

- Alliance Sponsored Preschool – Kindergarten Summit on Feb 9 - Teachers' – Over 200 early childhood educators from the area attended 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event focused on current research of these years and the transition from PreK to K.
- Teachers' College this week – working with teachers in grades 3-4 at HW on reading program. Looking at materials, model lessons in the classroom. Rotates through the schools each year.
- Anti-Defamation League partnership – How to have conversations about politics for our students, staff and teachers in a healthy and unbiased way. Working with staff at Washburne, may consider parent programming in the future.
- Will be working on the Social Studies curriculum this summer
- AASA – Nat Sup Association- pre conference in New Orleans. Trisha is a part of a cohort working with sups across country. Nice to see / learn what other sups across the country and what is happening at the national level. Trend is integrated / personalized learning and less of the standardized learning. How to get kids collaborating and globally connecting.
- Brad Goldstein will be the new CFO, 40 applicants for the position. Brad is coming from Hawthorne (Vernon Hills). Has private and school experience.
- Conferences (follow up from Feb mtg): Trisha had a conversation with principals and union leadership re: clarifying expectations of conference days with staff

- Board Election – 3 board members stepping down. Thank you to Kendra Wallace (President), Betsy Owens (board financial sub committee), and Dana Crumley (served 2 terms). New board members will participate in 20 hours of orientation, this occurs after election and before the next board meeting. There is also a board retreat every spring. There is some required, documented training by the state.
- Kindergarten: So helpful to have the connection with the PTO's and thank Jen for her ideas. Committee has met and working to make sure this is a positive experience. Working with the Park District to make sure kids who are doing Happiness Is over the summer will be placed at their assigned K school. Monday is deadline for 1/2 day and extended day. Staffing: 7 section of K planned but have the capability for up to 9 sections.
- Last Board Meeting: Approved boundaries for how K students will be assigned to Greeley and HW. Next month the board will approve a policy for families to request to stay at their K school for grades 1-4 or transfer to one of the other schools.
- HW will invite incoming K kids to Mayfest.
- Jen suggested doing a Popsicle party with all the K kids from all schools. Do a K 2017-18 t-shirt.
- Enrollment Balancing Phase 2 – Proposing a Facility Master Plan (last done in 1995), which is a Full Analysis of the buildings. Architects come in and observe how schools are used, talk to students, staff and parents, talk about educational programming, look at life safety and structures) then help to prioritize the best use of facilities and what are the costs to maintain a building vs. cost of new building. Board already has enrollment and capacity information so will build on this. Task the Facilities Subcommittee with interviewing architects. Trisha would like a decision on this by next year of where we want to head with this. For the next committee, the plan is to remove admin / staff (keep them as advisors) but add more community members (from seniors to K parents) / broaden the community input. About ½ of the committee members from Phase 1 will stay on for Phase 2. First meetings about educational programming and research, next about buildings, next finances. Trisha working with the board on this plan. Board needs to be very hands on.
- Debt repayment: Board added a special meeting next week (Tuesday) to discuss this - going to do a Finance 101 for the community. It is said that the board has 64 mil in reserves but 11 million of it not accessible to us (4 million in Debt Service, 7 million earmarked for Life Safety so then left with 53 million and 30 million would come off of that. Board will make a decision at the March board meeting. Probable property taxes freeze at the state level in about 2 years.

**Next Meeting:**

Friday, April 7 2017, 9:15am at Skokie School Community Room