

Winnetka District 36 Central PTO
Minutes - May 5, 2017

Welcome: Jenny Keller

- Present for the meeting: Jenny Keller, Brie Root, Jen Baker, Kymm Junker, Kim Melancon, Julie Eldring, Jen Weiler, Trisha Kocanda, Brooke Helmstetter, Jennifer Pehlke, Nat Roberts
- Board approved the minutes from April 2017 meeting.
- Board approved the slate for 2017-2018 Central PTO:
 - President – Jenny Herb
 - VP Communications – Cynthia Werts
 - Treasurer – Karen Skinner
 - Secretary – Laura Kastelic
- Jen Weiler reported that Heather Smith, Nominating Chair, received very positive responses from parents at 5 schools. Her committee focused on slating parents who had not served before.
- Breakfast Transition Meeting on June 2nd at 9am at Jenny Keller's home.
- Remember to transition the people who are taking your place. Recommends doing so before end-of-school-year.
- Lynn Wellehan led a meeting of the Parent/Teacher Advisory Committee. They meet annually to discuss School Board policies relating to discipline.
 - Parents are there to give perspective and feedback.
 - The goal is to keep kids in school, regardless of discipline.
 - Trisha reported that this is part of a big legislative push from the Federal government: there was a lot of data showing that minority students were being disciplined more, especially with out-of-school discipline (suspension, etc). Discipline should not take the kids out of school, rather they should remain in school with assignments referencing the discipline/repercussions, engage productivity.
 - Julie Eldring recommended that the School Board send out a communication referencing the discipline guidelines for D36; there seem to be a lot of rumors floating around as to who got disciplined for what, was it enough, etc.

Treasurer's Report: Julie Eldring

- Board approved the Budget Proposal for 2017/18.
- Donations have been made to Erika's Lighthouse, Fan, Alliance, Haven and WPSF. Thank-you notes have been received, the donations were very much appreciated.

Greeley Report: Kymm Junker , Greeley PTO President

- School Supply ordering will begin on 5/15. This will be communicated to Crow Island parents who have Kindergarteners assigned to Greeley School.
- Greeley Picnic is scheduled for 6/11. Crow Island parents who have rising Kindergarteners assigned to Greeley School will also be invited.

- Teacher Appreciation was this week: Monday breakfast, Tuesday cards & notes, Wednesday flowers, Thursday gift cards, Friday luncheon. A company also donated chair massages for all the teachers for free.
- Greeley has switched lunch vendors to Marla's Lunch (same as Crow Island).
- Students are planning a dance party for 5/16.
- First and Second graders planted gardens.

Crow Island Report –Jen Baker, CI PTO President

- Staff Appreciation Week was last week, very well received. Jen will share the gift card “raffle” information with everyone via email.
- Transitioning our new PTO Executive Committee.
- Working closely with G and HW; a big benefit of the EBP and Kindergarten “move”. Has been a big positive to learn from each other and work together on volunteering, K transition, directory, etc.

Hubbard Woods Report: Brooke Helmstetter, HW PTO President

- Mayfest is scheduled for Sunday 5/21, their biggest fundraiser.
- Kindergarten Open House scheduled for 5/22.
- Sign-ups for Committees went out this week along with G and CI. Great to work together.

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

- Furniture for Washburne Cafeteria should arrive soon.
- Seating at lunch is a big topic at Washburne; right now, kids choose where to sit at the beginning of each trimester, and then they have to stay in that spot the entire trimester. Many complaints, makes it hard for the kids if they make new friends but can't sit by them, no flexibility. Socially difficult. New furniture and layout should help with more flexibility on seating options and also open the space up for use by teachers during the day. Washburne PTO and administration also looking into POS and green behaviors. A big change that should be beneficial to everyone!
- Staff Appreciation Week was this past week. They offered massages to teachers which were very well received. The PTO and Principals also had a Mariano's Smoothie Cart which they wheeled around to all the classes. The students all had the opportunity to applaud and celebrate their teachers. Great for the kids to get involved and recognize their hard work.
- School Supply ordering will start on Monday (Skokie only)
- Field Day scheduled for 6/5. Rain date 6/6.

VP Communications Report: Brie Root

- Received a comment from a friend who teaches at a Winnetka school: “This is the best place to work. Every teacher would want to work here.”

Superintendent Report: Trisha Kocanda

- Thanked everyone for their support, especially during Staff Appreciation Weeks, which are very much appreciated by all!

- Welcome to our new Board Members who were officially seated at the April School Board meeting: Scott Conine, Nat Roberts and Steve Cirulis. They have just completed 20 hours of orientation. Elections: Kristen Hertel has been elected President, Dawn Livingston is Vice President, Jennifer Pehlke is Secretary.
- Winnetka Parents Institute: parents are asking for more classes about Technology and social media. They are hoping to schedule one more session before school ends in June. Brooke asked if a social worker could be present to give their view also. The “Not Quite Little Kid, Not Quite Teenager” sessions were very successful, all three of them were at capacity.
- NT Township Superintendents are working through the guidelines for ESA, which has replaced No Child Left Behind. IL just released their version: 50% of the academics are based on growth. PARCC will be used in IL. Trisha is concerned about PARCC’s shaky statistics—she and the other NT superintendants are pushing back, they would prefer to use MAP. 70% of the state is already using MAP. She is meeting with the State Board to advocate for change. The new IL guidelines only allow 10% of the schools to receive “exemplary” status, which sets everyone up for a very competitive environment.
- ERB Reporting was a hot topic at the last Board meeting. Superintendents are staying firm that this test score is not the “all-being” that others say it is. There is a misrepresentation of data. However they do want to remain open and transparent.
- Kindergarten planning is going very well. Making sure everyone feels welcome. June event is planned for ALL Kindergarten families. August events at HW and G for those attending each school. Teachers are working tirelessly to get ready for the new school year and extended day. District just hired a new teacher from The Baker School. 8 units total.
- District growth: the District had 9 move-ins last week which is very high.
- If anyone moves into the CI district over the summer, their Kindergarten children will probably be assigned to HW, regardless of where they fall in the map.
- Phase II of EBP: 4 architectural firms are now taking tours of the schools. They’ll present ideas to the District, who is focused on a clear educational focus to present to the community. Ideally they will choose an architect before school ends this spring. However this may get pushed back as the architects might want more time in the schools WITH the kids—extend to August so they can see how the schools operate while full.
- DirectorySpot update: we will proceed with 2 directories next year: one for the three elementary schools, one for SK/CW.
 - Linda will send a full report in June with email addresses so the PTO have contact info
 - Schools will supply a “DirectorySpot master template” to Beth. She will scrub the data and upload it to DS the second week of school in the Fall.
 - Corrections and Additions to the Directory will be handled by the PTO.
 - Beth will help train any PTO Chairs who need training.
 - Cost of DirectorySpot will be divided in three between CI/HW/G

Next Meeting:

Transition Brunch on Friday, June 2, 2017 - 9:00am at Jenny Keller's home, 20 Old Green Bay Road