**Winnetka District 36 Central PTO**

**Minutes - December 8, 2017**

**Present for the meeting: Jenny Herb, Shawna Radzik, Laura Kastelic, Kelly Bachman, Sara Alshouse, Cynthia Werts, Trisha Kocanda, Nat Roberts**

**President: Jenny Herb**

* Welcome

**Greeley Report: Shawna Radzik, Greeley PTO President**

* Greeley book fair took place last week. The fundraiser produced about $3,500 more than the previous year.
* 1,500 books were donated by Greeley families to Bernie’s Book Bank..
* Greeley will hold a Vineyard Vines fundraising event at the Old Orchard store on December 13. Families will receive 10% off the purchase price and 10% of revenue will go to the Greeley PTO.
* Greeley parent party will take place on January 26 at Skokie Country Club.
* Kindergarten parents continue to give positive feedback.

**Hubbard Woods Report: Nidhi Singh, PTO President**

* Friday before Martin Luthur King Day will be a service day at Hubbard Woods.
* Parent faculty party will take place at Skokie Country Club this year.
* Hubbard Woods Book fair took place in November.
* Fall luncheon was in November.

**Skokie/Washburne Report: Kelly Bachman, Sara Alshouse**

* Band/Orchestra concerts will take place this week.
* Facility lunch will take place next week.
* PTO sponsored Skokie students to view the movie Wonder this week. It was well received by everyone.
* Maze Home store interested in an event or coupon for PTO. Any interest in entertaining this?

**VP Communication Report: Cynthia Werts**

* No report

**Treasurer Report: Karen Skinner**

* Absent - no report

**Crow Island Report: Maxie Clark, PTO President**

* Absent - no report

**Secretary: Laura Kastelic**

* November minutes approved

**Superintendent Report: Trisha Kocanda**

* Kindergarten registration for the 2018/2019 calendar year went smoothly, but the number of registrants was was low. The district opened the initial registration process now in order to be able to plan. Full registration will take place in May. Some families may be waiting to see what happens with Future Ready 36. Administration will reach out to preschools in area to find out roughly how many JK students they have. Winnetka typically has about 100 students pre-register, but this year only 60 kindergarteners are registered.
* Levy request will be approved at December meeting. 1.08% is well below CPI. Levy happens annually based on district needs.
* A goal for the district is special education. Winnetka 36 has been part of NSSED cooperative for many years. We are looking at what is working well as well as inefficiencies. Staff and Board are working together to take a closer look at the best interventions for students. In the past, students have been pulled out to work on specific skills. That might not the most efficient intervention. We are working to bringing as many interventions to classroom as much as possible. We have co-taught classrooms and targeted training for associates which then helps to free up special education teachers to do other things. Beth Martin, Director of Pupil Services will be having parent education sessions on this topic as well.
* Future Ready 36 - Our focus recently has been to visit other environments locally and out of state. We are visiting schools to research developmentally appropriate best environments for learning. Sunset Ridge has been a fantastic resource. The core team, some students and teachers visited Sunset Ridge and found the building to be well thought out. A lot of tradition was honored while looking forward.
* Some schools visited have movable transparent walls. More collaboration and inter-class projects can take place because of this. It also gives flexibility also for small class work.

**Winnetka School Board Report: Nat Roberts, Winnetka School Board**

* Nat recently returned from visiting High Tech High in southern California. It is part of a chain of schools with project-based learning, similar to teams at Skokie. All classrooms are side by side where walls could be opened. Curricular focus was digital learning so that there wasn't as much project work for others to see. Students at the school must present what they learned to peers, parents and teachers at the end of the school year to show what they have learned and why they should move forward.
* Students gave us the school tour.
* A difference from Winnetka is that High Tech High doesn't do specials like we do. Theater/acting for example, would take place in the main classroom and they would incorporate their study into the special.
* They are using a lot of the same studies that we are doing but doing it differently. Future Ready 36 is not just about changes to the facility. Fundamentally, the environment will be a catalyst for this to drive process. We need to think big and small within learning spaces.
* Philosophy needs to shift to look at environments as well. Board will hear from core team in January and then will present to the community. Concepts will be fine tuned in the second week of March. Professional development training for new environment will also be included in the plan.
* Another component to Future Ready 36 is flexible furniture to use with class teams. Student involvement is taking place at Washburne. We are also working with New Trier focus groups.

Next meeting:

January 12 at 9:15 am at Skokie School