

**Winnetka District 36 Central PTO
Minutes - January 6, 2017**

Welcome: Jenny Keller

- Present for the meeting: Jenny Keller, Shannon Preda, Brie Root, Jen Baker, Shawna Radzik, Brooke Helmstetter, Kim Melacon, Julie Eldring, Trisha Kocanda, Matt Hulsizer, Dan Kerr

Secretary: Shannon Preda

- Minutes from January approved.

Treasurer's Report: Julie Eldring

- Julie requested information re: the Domains from each school PTO's. Noticed there are some inconsistencies between the schools - Domains are covered by Central PTO for some schools but not others. Julie would like to make this consistent.
- Skokie / Washburne – \$8 / month with Go Daddy
- CI - \$95 / year, also uses Go Daddy, higher expenses last year because the website was hacked. CI pays there own.
- HW – paid by Central PTO on Jan 2017, also use Go Daddy

VP Communications Report: Brie Root

- No report

Superintendent Report: Trisha Kocanda

- A student created poster of Malala Yousafzai displayed in the hallway at Washburn was defaced. It is believed that it was discovered within an hour of it happening. Washburne staff immediately began investigating and talking with students. Discussed with students the expectations of our school community. The conversation spurred some kids to come forward. Reached out to the Anti-Defamation League to see what else we might want to do at Washburne or what we can offer to our parent community. District is keeping in mind the ages of the kids involved. Come out using it as a learning opportunity. Working with Staff to make sure they feel equipped to deal with situation like this. Working with the creators of the poster as well as the kids involved with the defacing.
- NT diversity day coming up: There are differences in opinion on what this day should look like. There has been a tremendous amount of support but there is also some who do not want their kids exposed to certain speakers. There has been media attention around the day. The underlying complaint is that it is representing a political view.
- Foya came in this week and districts are just starting to respond now. Placements for NT just went out last Friday. District 36 is using this as an opportunity to determine what we should be looking at (what is working well, what is not). Looking at placement data from freshman year but also value information from NT senior profile report (broad report). Want to see how our kids from Winnetka are doing at the end of their time at NT. Board packet this month will also have an update. Winnetka is the only district that is talking with NT in this way.

- Enrollment Balancing: Board wanted to vote right away in Jan. They felt committee had done a great job looking at all options and keeping the board updated along the way so wanted to go ahead with the vote. Looking at how to assign Kindergarten students to HW and Greeley, how to assign staff. Plan will be presented at the next board meeting.
 - Created a transition committee with representatives from each of the 3 schools. Committee members will promote transition activities / act as communication liaisons. Making sure we are thinking about all parts of the process.
 - Infosnap – how will PTO dues work? Registration is per child but can opt out of PTO dues (or say already contributed).
 - Conveying information re: CI for 1st grade. Want to make sure not to overload these families.
 - Staffing plan will be presented at the next board meeting. Not changing the staffing plan that much.
 - Keeping the Butterfly and Beads! All schools will be doing these traditions next year.
 - Going to assign by geographic location.
 - There are current teachers are interested in the K positions
 - 4 extended day K classes at HW and 5 at Greeley

- Dan Kerr:
 - Parent Donations: This discussion came up around the holidays re: opportunity for schools to identify needs and put these up for personal donations. Do not want to create a competitive environment.
 - Recommendation is for donations to go through the PTO's, coordinate with principals. Need to formalize an approval process so there is a paper trail. Got through District which is able to buy without sales tax, able to buy with volume discount and able to keep records.
 - Over \$5000 needs IRS reporting.
 - Washburne – Approved \$150,000 to improve cafeteria. Working with architect to finalize the plan and get bids. PTO will contribute to this project. Need so to go in front of the board – looking at approval in March and installation in June. PTO needs a way to be able to explain the rationale for putting money towards this project. District will help with this (explaining how it will also be used as an instructional space).
 - CI Water Coolers: There is a 5-year rotation on the schools. Historic Landmark status does make CI a bit trickier to make visible updates. Doing the roof at CI. Talking about free-standing water coolers in places that are less obvious. Grassy area in back of school gets really muddy when it gets wet. Jen asked if the district would entertain doing something. This summer would be a good time since CI will be closed for the roof repairs. Dan adding it to the list.
 - HW: Playground at HW had the historic jungle gym removed last year. Parents are asking if and when something will be added to

replace it. Is there enough space for the increase in K numbers? Dan reported that the district set aside money in budget for removing old play equipment and adding some new ones at both Greeley and HW. All needs to go in front of board and village. If all goes as planned, Greeley will be done in June.

- Another big board decision for the board is the debt repayment opportunity. There is up to 30 million dollar of debt repayment bonds that are callable in June. Separate committee looking at this. If interest rates are low, buying the bonds saves the taxpayers but would need to use money from the operating funds. It would not change the operating budget. Looking at whether the board needs to retain some money to address aging heating systems or do the fund for this come out of future referendum.

Crow Island Report –Jen Baker, CI PTO President

- Working on next year and impact of K moving out of CI. Then how to transition them back to Crow Island.
- Looking at implications of having kids at 2 elementary schools – ie don't want parent to have to pay for 2 directories
- PTO Exec Board nominating process has started.
- Furniture donation will happen over the summer. PTO is coordinating thank you letters to be completed before school is out for the summer. They will be sent to offices in Germany and South Carolina once the furniture arrives.
- Book Fairs: Moved it to the fall this school year as a holiday sale. Both Greeley and HW do theirs in the fall.
- Water Fountains: Working on getting a filter on 2 of the water fountains, cool / filtered water and a water bottle fill, challenging with the historical landmark status.

Greeley Report: Shawna Radzik , Greeley PTO President Elect

- No Report

Hubbard Woods Report: Brooke Helmstetter, HW PTO President

- Parent faculty party tonight at Happy Inn. Looking for a new venue next year because close to maximum numbers
- PTO nominating committee is getting started.

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

- Washburne dance went well
- Working on how they will use PTO funds

Next Meeting:

Friday, March 3, 2017, 9:15am, Skokie School Community Room