

**Winnetka District 36 Central PTO
Minutes - December 2, 2016**

Welcome: Jenny Keller

- Present for the meeting: Jenny Keller, Shannon Preda, Brie Root, Jen Baker, Kymm Junker, Brooke Helmstetter, Kim Melancon, Jennifer Pehlke, Kristen Hertel, Julie Eldring, Jen Weiler, Trisha Kocanda

Secretary: Shannon Preda

- Minutes from November approved.

Treasurer's Report: Julie Eldring

- Individual PTO's should have provided information for audit.

VP Communications Report: Brie Root

- Renewed all the Domains one year for each school except for Greeley who does their own.

Superintendent Report: Trisha Kocanda

- Board Members Jennifer Pehlke and Kristen Hertel attended the Central PTO Meeting.
- The School Board posed 3 questions to the Central PTO Members:
 - What are some things you appreciate about our district/schools this year?
 - What are some concerns you have about our district/schools this year?
 - What are some thoughts you have about the direction of our school district?

What are some things you appreciate about our district/schools this year?

- Glad District 36 has committed to and stuck with the progressive model
- Beth Martin breakout – her interest in parent feedback and input, she is working towards all the schools having a consistent model.
- Administration is accessible.
- Principal leadership at the middle school level. They are open to new ideas and working with the PTO.
- Love how passionate people are about their school.
- Traditions at all the schools. Schools are able to maintain their traditions with maintaining consistency in the curriculum.
- Teachers – overwhelmed with the heart and sole teachers put into their jobs. Thinking long and hard about each student. Appreciate the diversity of teachers within each grade. Teacher to student match. Administration looking at new ideas for schedule, not afraid to try something new.
- Board and Trisha – so much thought goes into making decisions. Example EB – consultant brought in and the process that is created to figure out the best solutions.

- Greeley PTO feedback to above question:
 - Communication has been great, small class sizes, level of attention giving to the special needs students
- Hubbard Woods PTO feedback to above question:
 - Also appreciates communication from the district, happy that we continue to hang on to the progressive philosophies while keeping traditions.
 - Brooke and Kim had the opportunity to observe an English class at Washburne and they were very impressed with the lesson. Want to share this with other parents particularly with younger children.

What are some concerns you have about our district/schools this year?

- Enrolment Balancing – Greeley community concerned when one of the options was closing Greeley.
- Special Ed consistency from school to school. Skokie is doing a great job with a co-taught model. The co-teacher moves with the students from class to class.
- Conferences: Elementary conferences were always great but Skokie and Washburne conferences seem to lack content. Parents feel they get a lot of information from New Trier conferences that run 5 minutes but not a lot of information from Skokie and Washburne conferences. Suggested there is communication about the goal of the conferences at Skokie and Washburne. Feel like it is more of a conference between the student and the teacher not the parents.
- Kids that don't qualify for IEP but still need support, don't have needs met.
- Kids who need to be pushed to the next level are not having needs met. Needs more enrichment for kids who need to be pushed.
- More in depth focus on teaching the students to type.
- Time-sharing with the arts. Greeley parents have been disappointed that some of the activities offered in the past (ie art projects) are no longer done due to floating staff.
- Concerns that a couple of the board nominees have less than 5 years living in Winnetka.

What are some thoughts you have about the direction of our school district?

- The question was asked, "What is happening with the surplus?"
- All other feedback was covered in the first two questions.

Trisha's Report:

- Enrollment Balancing Update –
 - 130 people attended the last meeting. Most of the public comment speakers were from Crow Island. There was about an hour of public comment.
 - Redistricting was taken off the table for Phase one. It is not a good short-term solution.
 - The following options are still being considered for Phase One:
 - All Crow Island Kindergarten student attend another district school, Split between HW and Greeley, or Skokie or Washburne
 - Some Crow Island Kindergarten (up to 2 sections?) attend another

district school and some stay at Crow Island for Kindergarten. Possible keep siblings at CI, new kids go to another school.

- Crow Island becomes K – 3 at CI only and the 4th graders go to Skokie early.
 - All Students remain at Crow Island and an additional portable classroom is added. Initially taken off the table but then after the final public comments, it was put back on.
 - The Enrolment Balancing Committee is looking at the benefits and challenges to each option. They will be going to each school in January to present feedback.
 - Staff will look at the educational impact, financial impact of the options.
 - There are 3 board members on the committee
 - The question is “How can we make this work for our community?” Trisha views the last meeting as a catalyst and a more positive feel will come out of the process. The approach to the process will be, “how we can make this work while still keeping our same Winnetka philosophy.”
 - EB is not going to compromise the staffing plan for next year.
 - Board will make a final decision by March for phase 1 and the phase 2 decision will be made by late spring / early summer.
- District 36 has a new partnership with Northwestern. NWU will be coming into our Maker Spaces and STEAM to look at ways of measuring outcomes. This is the first time they have partnered with a school to look at this information.
 - Teacher Institute Day – The staff looked at Math and Social Emotional Learning in the morning and then staff could choose from 53 different options for the afternoon.
 - District 36 is in session MLK this year. Every school is working with a template on how to celebrate the day. It is a day of service so looking at the service activities at each school.
 - 8th graders interested in STEAM – working with female leaders in STEAM, opened up the space during lunch
 - 50% accountability measure include non-standardized test information / alternative measures. States are adopting these measures for HS. Trisha in a group of 12 supers in the country that support student’s growth. Trisha was invited and the school board is supporting.
 - PTO asking for a procedure for reserving school space for after school PTO sponsored events.

Crow Island Report –Jen Baker, CI PTO President

- No Report

Greeley Report: Kymm Junker, Greeley PTO President

- No Report

Hubbard Woods Report: Brooke Helmstetter, HW PTO President

- Gift fund ready to go
- The AV in the auditorium was damaged during the summer flood, trying to get it working for their holiday sing
- Had a problem with Vincinos Pizza this month. They did not show up for the Pizza Lunch due to an electrical outage at the restaurant. Dominos was able to jump in and get pizza to the school. Dominos is able to provide a drink and fruit with their pizza lunch so HW will use them for the rest of the year.

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

- 1st gift fund. 75% parent participation
- 1st ever 5th Grade Funfest – Feedback and thoughts:
 - ½ hour too long, turn in their electronics, boys didn't handle it well
 - There was a group of boys who were bored and wanted to leave
 - Learning curve – DJ, food, basketball, youth organization
- Upcoming Washburne Events:
 - Spirit Days / Pep rally with the basketball game
 - Get everyone to stay for the girls game so they will have a boys / teachers game
 - Dance is the following week with a beach theme

Next Meeting:

Friday, January 6, 2017, 9:15am, Skokie School Community Room