

**Winnetka District 36 Central PTO
Minutes - November 4, 2016**

Welcome: Jenny Keller

- Present for the meeting: Jenny Keller, Shannon Preda, Julie Eldring, Brie Root, Matt Hulsizer, Kymm Junker, Brooke Helmstetter, Kim Melancon
- Thank you to Kymm Junker for her help with communication with the Foundation.
- Question came up about extended day for Kindergarten – Jenny recommended talking with Beth Carmody or school secretaries. Possibly the principals could address communication with parents.

Secretary: Shannon Preda

- Minutes from October approved

Treasurer's Report: Julie Eldring

- Infosnap totals donations / contributions were provided to the Central and School PTO's

VP Communications Report: Brie Root

- No report

Superintendent Report: Trisha Kocanda (Trisha is away attending a superintendent conference but sent an e-mail report November 3 – see below)

In my absence, I wanted to provide you with a special update regarding the Enrollment Balancing Project, as the rumors are starting to swirl. You are excellent communicators, and I appreciate all you do to help share accurate information.

As you know, the advisory committee has had three meetings and is currently in an exploratory phase during which potential models are being discussed. The purpose of analyzing the models includes identifying viable options based on feasibility and agreement with the Board adopted Guiding Principles. At its most recent meeting on November 1, the Advisory Committee was presented with four preliminary concepts for an initial analysis. The goal was to ensure that a range of options was considered. The 4 concepts ranged in scope and incorporated the following (in a nutshell):

- Redraw K-4 street boundaries
- Shift grades; K-3 (CI, HW, GR), 4-5 (SK), 6-8 (CW); no street boundary shift
- Close GRorHW; schools are K-3, 4-5, 6-8; no boundary shift
- Expand Crow Island School; no change anywhere else

It was important for the committee to take the time to analyze these models as an exercise of due diligence. These models are NOT recommendations. Our demographer presented the range of considerations so the committee can hone in on what will work best. The hottest rumor at the moment is that we are closing Greeley School. While there was a model that showed the impact of closing Greeley or Hubbard Woods School, it clearly

demonstrated that closing a school would not address our balance issue and actually make it worse. The powerpoint of these models will be uploaded to our website.

If you do get approached about the EBP process, please continue to direct people to our website (<https://www.winnetka36.org/enrollment-balancing-project-overview>). We also have an email address dedicated to receiving comments and feedback from community members about EBP (enrollmentbalancingproject@winnetka36.org). Community members can also call the District Office and talk with Kate Hughes, our Communication Coordinator, or attend the EBP committee meetings.

We are updating the EBP webpage today with documents and information related to the November 1 meeting and models. We have also generated a list of FAQs. We will send out an email to the community later today reminding them of this webpage and the available avenues for communication and feedback. We remain dedicated to ensuring transparency and encouraging participation.

Please reach out should you have any questions. If it would be helpful to have another administrator attend tomorrow's meeting to address any questions, please let me know.

Thank you!
Trisha

School Board – Matt Hulsizer

- Enrollment Balancing:
 - There is a lot of noise / discussion around things that are just hypotheses. The math / numbers need to also be considered
 - Greeley will be hurt the most by the enrollment dropping.
 - Board represents the taxpayers and the community. The community has a voice through elected board members.
 - Idea of redistricting is scary for many people. The education is the same at all schools now. People have a historical perspective that the schools provide a different experience...this is no longer true. The administration has worked hard to provide equitable education across the 3 CI, Greeley and Hubbard Woods while still maintaining the valued traditions unique to each school.
- Board Members, Dana Crumbley and Jennifer Pehlke, are coming next month. They have 3 questions:
 - 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?
- Kim and Kymm reported that Greeley is feeling a change to the music program with the Music teacher now floating – Matt agrees that it needs to be fixed. Fiscally makes sense but they hear that it isn't perfect. Everyone is focused on providing the same curriculum at all 3 elementary schools.

- Previous board paid very close attention to the data. At one point there was no data so there was a focus on data once we had it. The current board recognizes that some of the programs that are provided are not part of the data.
- Matt reported that the Board is going to pay down some of the debt.

Crow Island Report –Jen Baker, CI PTO President

- No report

Greeley Report: Kymm Junker, Greeley PTO President

- Greeley Mascot election coming up on Tuesday (Red Panda, Giant Panda, Sea Turtle are the 3 finalists).
- Fall Festival went over very well. It was much more age appropriate and the Greeley parents seemed to have a positive response to the change.

Hubbard Woods Report: Brooke Helmstetter, HW PTO President

- The PTO supported a “Steamer In Residence” from **Larry Jaswick in WI???** to come to work with the 4th grade. PTO supported. STEAM team (at Hubbard Woods) did work prior to him coming to create this specific science unit. Program supplemented the existing curriculum. Students created amusement park rides. Recycled materials were used in this project. PTO and Beth will debrief on the effectiveness of the program. The goal was to bring the science program to life. It might be great to replicate at other schools in the future. More feedback to come!

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

- 5 K Run this Saturday.
- 5th Grade Party with a DJ is coming up soon. The goal is to create more of a community amongst the 5th graders.
- The event chairs are planning a 7th and 8th Grade dance in January.
- There will be a Spirit Week at Washburne. The PTO is planning some fun theme days. The week will include a basketball game between the two Washburne travel teams.
- The Skokie Spirit Wear sale went live yesterday.

Next Meeting:

Friday, November 4, 2016, 9:15am, Skokie School Community Room