**Skokie-Washburne PTO Meeting Minutes**

**November 18, 2019**

**Present: April Potterfield, Brie Root, Kymm Junker, Andrew Fenton, Victoria Willer, Meg Moudy, Ben Horwitz, Barry Rodgers, Christine Morse, Libby Elliott**

1. **Minutes Approval - explanation of notable absences, including a professional development day at Skokie and PTO members with sick kids at home.**
2. **Guests: D36’s Barry Rodgers and Christine Morse, parent** member of the SEL Parent Advocacy Committee. Morse & Rodgers are visiting D36 PTO’s to share information about the community/district-wide effort to integrate SEL into schools. D36 has always been focused on the whole child and emotional learning has always been an integral part of that approach, but this new initiative involves, parents, teachers, staff, etc.
   * + - 1. Background for new SEL initiative: – schools are experiencing major issues with executive function skills in young students. Reports of stress and school refusal are on the increase. Schools are realizing that it’s important to continuously address these issues from young age all the way to high school. New Trier High School is also focusing on SEL. Percentages and statistics support the use of SEL in schools. According to CASEL, 88% of students at strong SEL schools feel happy and motivated to do their work versus 39% at weak SEL schools. Everyone in the district is encouraged to visit CASEL.org for further information. Also important to note that SEL work will not impact academics, recess or specials. Lessons will be integrated into the school day. D36’s SEL super-committee meets three times a year for full-day workshops.

#### A big part of CASEL’s theory of action starts with teachers. Studies show that SEL-trained teachers are more resilient, absent less, more attentive to students, more collaborative with parents. D36 will be focusing its SEL initiative this year on adults with the goal of having a cohesive framework/model across all schools.

#### On Dec 3rd, Winnetka Parents Institute will hold the first session of a three part series about self-awareness and self-care. District parents are encouraged to attend WPI. A notification about the session will be listed in the parent corner of the Skokie/Washburne student newsletters. April Potterfield invited Morse back for a spring follow.

1. **Principal Reports –Dr. Andrew Fenton/Ben Horwitz**
2. Busy working on next advisory coffee. Last coffee morning featured New Trier Resource Police Officer on vaping.
3. Teacher Wish Lists. (See Treasurer Report for final details)
4. The Burne –still working to find a price on u-shaped seating designed for Sitting for games and needs to be designed to promote conversation. Right now quotes are too high.
5. Composting – continues to be a question mark in terms of how much should be budgeted/projected costs. Composting participation has gone up. Dr. Fenton will do a an all-school mailing to make sure bins are picked up full to control costs
6. **Co-Chair Reports**
7. Graduation Committee- getting wheels started for graduation,
8. Green Team – last meeting was a small gathering of only 5 people there, Liz Kunkle is talking about getting district to fund more green initiatives and is also working to get the D36 composting policy changed so PTO’s don’t have to fund it.
9. Social Committee - starting to think about holiday luncheon for the teachers.
10. Met with Betty to talk about Skokie Wish List (see Treasurer Report)
11. **Central PTO Update – October 30**
12. Food Service - other schools are interested in going to one common food providers. Julie Pagliaro is working on a survey going out to parents. Communications chairs at different locations will send it out to parents to gauge how people feel about existing food services.
13. 7th/ 8th grade sports – PTO discussed cut versus no cut.
14. School updates
    1. Crow Island is undertaking landscaping work
    2. Greely is creating a mindfulness space for teachers.
    3. March 10th 2020 will be 100 years of Carlton Washburne and the district.
    4. Closure of Skokie – administrators are looking to fund renovation work at Washburne without a referendum using operating funds and through costs savings derived from decommissioning Skokie. D36 has already been approached by several organizations looking to take over Skokie.
    5. Superintendent Kocanda is still looking for responses from PTO members on feedback questions.
15. **Treasurer Report—Amy Kay**
16. Collected another $8,000 for Teacher Gift Funds which puts the PTO close to where it was at last year. Haven’t had many bills going out lately.
17. Teacher Wish list Budget- the PTO knew last year that our takings were going to be lower. PTO lost $5,000 because of the lost directory sales. PTO typically makes approximately $4100 from sales of the directory. The PTO’s financial appeal also down on the previous year from $19K versus $17K. Typically, PTO funds Teacher Wish Lists based on what the financial appeal takes in. When PTO set its Wish List budget there was no way to know to what extent the budget would be affected. PTO had $83,000 cash balance at the end of last year. Only required to keep $5K in reserves. Each school given equitable 10K budget prior to the start of school.
18. Washburne total 2019-20 Teacher Wish List: $10,540 ($540 over budget)
19. Skokie total 2019-20 Teacher Wish List: $11,583 ($1,583 over budget)
20. Motions approved to fund both wish lists.
21. Amy Kay will forward information to Amy Faisal. District will front the money for these purchases and PTO will reimburse them for the total amount.
22. Teacher Gift – we have taken in a little over $28,000 to be divided into $50 a share OR $55 a share. A four-share staff person would get $200 (full time teacher) which would leave a balance of $5500 in reserve. An amount of $55 per share would leave a reserve of $2950 to be used for end of year breakfast and teacher retirement gifts. As with previous years, whatever monies are collected will spend on teachers by the end of the year. Motion approved to distribute $55 a share and to round up onhours that end in .4 (2 shares) and .7 (3 shares).
23. **Communications Report—Laura Roney**

a) Recommends a thank you to those who gave in the Teacher Gift Appeal. Notes that some people gave twice.

1. **VP Co-Chair Report—Megan Riley and Victoria Willer**
2. Teacher gift fund update **(see Treasurer Report)**
3. **Upcoming dates**

a) Card party—December 6th @1pm, April Potterfield’s Home 1212 Westmoor Road

b) Holiday lunch December 16, Brie Root’s Home, 1332 Sunview Lane, 12:30