

## LAKE FOREST HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, October 3, 2011, 1:30 p.m.

*Committee Members Present:* Dr. Harry Griffith, Dr. Julie Cooley, Sharon Golan, Jay Hoffmann, Jim Thiel, Jim Sullivan, Jen Knight, Beth Coughlin, Anne Sorensen, Monty Edson, Nicki Snoblin

*Guests:* Dick Block, Diane Clark

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by chair Nicki Snoblin.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes were approved on a motion by Dr. Griffith, seconded by Sharon Golan.
- III. **Report from the English Department:** Diane Clark reported on how the Department revised its common rubric for writing. The previous rubric, which had been in place for almost 20 years, consisted of six equally weighted criteria and a complex grading scale. Each student's writing is evaluated and graded by two teachers (not their own) according to the rubric. In recent years there had been concerns that abstract thinking should be weighted higher than some of the other criteria and that the system could be made simpler.

The teachers began working on a new rubric, assisted by a workshop made possible by a grant from the LFHS Foundation. Using the AP scoring model as a starting point, they developed a rubric with a five-point scale that gives a more holistic picture of the students' writing and is easier to apply consistently. The new system is being used this year and will be adjusted as necessary over the course of the year.

Diane also reported that English teachers will be offering afternoon sessions on college essay writing, as well as covering it in more of the English classes.

#### IV. **Student Services**

- a. *College acceptance:* Jim Thiel presented 5-year comparisons for a number of matriculation measures. Consistent with previous years, 60% of our students chose to attend schools in the Midwest. In terms of the number of applications by LFHS students, the top five public schools were University of Illinois, Indiana University, University of Iowa, Miami of Ohio, and University of Missouri–Columbia. The top five private schools were Marquette, University of Dayton, DePaul, University of Denver, and Saint Louis University. In terms of actual attendance by our students, the top five public schools were University of Illinois (36), Miami of Ohio (13), Indiana (12), College of Lake County (11), and Michigan (10). The top five private schools were Northwestern (12), Santa Clara (9), DePaul (6), Denver (6) and University of Southern California (6). Jim also presented comparisons of LFHS students' acceptance rates compared with the colleges' average acceptance rates. For the schools most attended by our students, our 2011 rates were at or above our 5-year acceptance rate.

Seventy-two of last year's seniors responded to an email survey about their college choice; 70 did attend the college they indicated they had chosen.

- b. *College counseling:* Jim T. reported on the 2011 survey given to seniors and parents. Ratings for almost everything related to college counseling were up. Information gathered from the surveys is being used to make the college counseling services more accessible and effective. Direct informational emails are being sent to targeted grade-level groups, clearly labeled "From the Counselors." The CRC has been redesigned and the college planning guide has been redeveloped.
- c. *Counseling Department update:* Each counselor handled his or her own students' schedule changes this year; the student survey at the end of the year should reflect whether that change was perceived as helpful by the students. Communication between the counseling department and the IDs about schedule changes was much improved. All counselors are participating in parent seminars; they also met with more than 200 freshman parents on Open House night in September. There is an improvement in teamwork among the counselors.

- V. **Goals and Objectives**
- a. *2010-2011*: The year's key objectives have been completed (although goals 1 and 2 are ongoing).
  - b. *2011-2012*: The process of developing objectives via the Principal's Leadership Team was described. Each department develops its own departmental goals to define how it will meet the district's objectives. The wording and purpose of key objective #3 (class size and program study) was discussed.
- VI. **Website/Dashboard**: Anne Whipple presented an overview of the district dashboard on the LFHS website. At the board level over the course of the year, we will be discussing the metrics we use to measure success and how to present those on the dashboard.
- VII. **Informational Items**
- a. *Lake County Tech Campus*: We currently have 16 students enrolled.
  - b. *Youth Summit*: This event, held in September at Lake Forest Hospital, resulted in some interesting feedback from high school students throughout the community. It's not known yet what the follow-up will be and whether it will be student-led or subsumed by an adult organization.
  - c. *NSSSED*: Dr. Cooley has had meetings to keep parents up to date on possible changes in specials needs services. She attended a recent NSSSED finance committee meeting and reported that there will be changes in the NSSSED fee structure in an attempt to keep schools in the consortium. Currently LFHS spends approximately \$190,000/year for NSSSED. The Life Skills and Transition programs will definitely be moving in-house. A recommendation may be ready for the board in January.
- VIII. **Adjournment**: The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m. on a motion by Monty Edson, seconded by Beth Coughlin.
- IX. **Next Meeting**: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2, at 1:30 p.m. at East Campus.