

**Lake Forest High School APT Minutes**  
**October 5, 2011**  
East Campus Room 113

**Members Present:** Linda Ganshirt, Jean Clewlow, Michele Medzigian, Barb Kesman, Jan Richman, Julie Stevenson, Lisa Garrity, Colleen Laughlin, Sheila Cavalaris, Laurie Doherty, Mary Beth Theodore, Julia Fiske Parker, Amy Keaton, Cathy Dohnalek, Lisa Troller, Sue Wagener, Susie Athenson, Julie Eckert, Marianne Stride, Julie Thauer, Leann Asma, Leeni Ellis, Susan McMahon, Erin Foley, Kathleen Hanson, Lorraine Freedman, Mary Flagstad,

**Members Absent:** Sheri Passalino, Mary Kay Jaekel, Leslie Habjan, Ruth Muscarello, Andrea Perino, Amy Tswarhas, Midge Nelson, Tracy Matthews Hill

**President, Linda Ganshirt** opened the meeting and remarked how busy the last month has been for the APT. Three of the class parent meetings have been held and attendance is up from last year. The sophomore class meeting is tomorrow. The Hospitality Committee recently helped host a reception for the students visiting from China. Linda attended the JDRF (Juvenile Diabetes) walk this past weekend and commented that there was a large presence of LFHS students participating.

**Principal, Jay Hoffmann** shared that Homecoming was successful on all levels. 1100 students attended the dance. The pep rally and all the activities of the week went very well. He gave special thanks to Laura Clegg and Maureen Fallon who guided the student council through the planning of the pep rally and the dance. The dance made approximately \$7000.00 The recent Youth Summit was wonderful and we were well represented. LFHS students along with students from LF Academy and Woodlands got together to discuss the pressures of being a kid in Lake Forest. He stated that the next task is for the school and community adults to listen to what was said and follow up and see what the students would like to see happen as a solution to some of their concerns. It will be the student's agenda and driven by them. He hopes to share more information on what is planned at our next meeting. Last year the senior class instead of giving one large gift gave several gifts to the school. They donated some new trees that have been planted, helped with the new recycling containers and also commissioned several murals. One of the murals was done by Ileana Anagnos, Class of '98 and is entitled "Moxy" and is located in the student commons. Also Buck Hastings, class of '02 is doing two murals over the trophy cases in the student commons. We hope to have a grand opening once they are installed and get our graduates back to thank them for their work. Jay discussed the background of the flag football team which is having a great season and is hoping to make it all the way to the championship and also some of our other intramural opportunities and club sports, several of which have won state championships. Jay was asked if it is true that we may be having a "turn about" dance this year. He said there is a senior class sponsored dance in the plans, a formal, "turn-about" in February. The students have asked for it and it is in the planning stages. It is being voted on by the students soon.

**Board of Ed, Jim Carrey** gave an update on the Board of Education and stated that the superintendent search is well underway and the goal is to have a new superintendent identified and under contract by late winter 2012. Jim stated that he chairs the Finance Committee of the board and that the last few years there have been many economic

challenges. Last year there was only a 1/10<sup>th</sup> percent increase in revenues and several already committed expenses one of them being the teacher contract which called for a 6% increase. Due to the hard work of Harry and Jay, changes were made and the year ended with a deficit of \$300,000 which although it may not seem like it, was wonderful compared to what it was originally projected to be. The goal for this year is to get back in the black and begin to restore surpluses to a level that is appropriate for a school of this size. The budget this year calls for a \$400,000 surplus but the one variable is the teacher contracts which are still under negotiation. The goal is to negotiate a contract that reflects the current economic conditions. Jim thanked the APT for all they do and the energy that they bring and all of the great projects that are going on to make the school better.

**Communications, Anne Whipple** thanked the APT for inviting her to speak at the Freshman Class Parent Meeting. She reminded the board that e-profiles need to be updated each year to reflect the student's current class. Reminders have gone out to all parents. She also stated that parents should go on at the same time and update their Instant Alert profiles. Instant Alert messages can now also be received via text. Anne announced that she is putting together a focus group to discuss improvements to the web site and all communications. She would like to have a few representatives from the APT Board and asked anyone who is interested to see her after the meeting.

Linda introduced Jim Thiel, Jacquie Berkshire and Robert Wagemann from Student Services.

**Student Services, Jim Thiel** introduced himself in his new role as Director of Student Services and gave a brief highlight of his background and experience. He stated that in the two months he has been working with the counselors he is impressed by how the counselors not only work "with" the students but also "for" the students. Last month 200 freshman parents took advantage of the opportunity to arrive early to Open House and meet their child's counselor. One of the goals of the department is to increase communication internally among the counselors and also externally to the school community. The counselors have an increased budget for education and are attending conferences and travelling to visit colleges. It was asked if the counselors are going to have a specialty which was an idea when the department was being restructured and Jim replied that it is not going to be organized that way but that the counselors are concentrating on sharing their knowledge and working as a team.

**Jacquie Berkshire** gave the board an overview of what the counseling department does and also an outline for the counseling seminars. She likened it to seasons as each student is developmentally working on different things and the counselors or working with them helping them grow. This first seminar this fall for seniors is about launching them and working with them wherever they are in the college process. The juniors are working on PSAT testing and the college process. Sophomores will be taking the PLAN test and thinking about possible careers and areas of interest and the freshman are working on their transition to high school and their four year academic plan. The seminars continue and there are planned touch points with the students through out the year that will insure that each student is progressing and developing. Jacquie stated that the advantage to working with the students all four years is that it gives the counselors the ability to really get to know them and develop a relationship.

**Be True to Your School, Kathleen Hanson and Erin Foley** thanked the administration for the help in getting the word out about the event via the web site and Highlights as well as help with printing and getting the invitations mailed. They thanked the APT for the wine donations and also thanked the Class Reps for doing such a good job in coming up with the live auction items for each class. Raffle ticket sales are going well and they will also be sold outside Egg Harbor and Sunset in the coming weeks. So far approximately 200 people have responded that they are coming and the goal is to sell out at 320.

Linda explained that she recently met with the heads of Foundation, Booster Club, PALS and Applause in an effort to work together and to cooperate and join forces in the work they are all trying to do. She explained that she invited them to speak to the board today to give an overview of what they do.

**PALS, Janilee Ihlenfeld** explained that PALS stands for “Producers at Large” and the purpose of the organization is to support the theatre events at the high school. The first performance is the “One Acts” at the beginning of the year, followed by the senior/junior play “Almost Maine” coming up next week. The freshman/sophomore Play will be the weekend before Thanksgiving. The student directed “One Acts” will be held in January and the musical is held each spring. PALS helps with hospitality for the performances and meals during rehearsals. She stated that it is a great group of kids who are involved in the theatre at LFHS including all of the kids who are involved with the Tech Crew.

**Applause, Diana Wetterman** gave the board an overview of what Applause does. Diana stated that it is the “booster club” for the music department and helps to support the choirs, band and orchestra. This year the choir is going to Italy and the Citrus Sale is going on now through the end of October to help the students raise funds for the trip. Orders can be placed through the web site. The annual Spaghetti Dinner will be held this year on December 11.

**Booster Club, Ellen Funk** gave an overview of some of the things the Booster Club is currently working on. The “Excellence” mural was completed and unveiled at the West Campus Athletic Field at the first football game this fall. For Homecoming, in addition to helping with the pep rally they also helped sponsor the Great Lakes Naval Initiation Night. There were several hundred soldiers along with the Navy Band. There was a combined Navy/Lake Forest/North Chicago band performance and the Booster Club also fed the soldiers. Ellen stated that it was a really nice coming together of communities and that the Navy was extremely appreciative and would like to do it every year. The Booster Club also provides general support to the teams as they go through their seasons. This year the Booster Club is sponsoring a major capitol campaign called the “Diamond Campaign”. The need for field improvements at East Campus was brought to the attention of the Booster Club board when Brian Vandenberg was President and it was proposed that they start a capitol campaign to raise money for two turf fields along with scoreboards and stands and to replace the track. Ellen explained that all of these improvements were originally part of the last referendum but other aspects of the slated projects under the referendum became more costly and these improvements were not able to be made. An example of why the new fields are needed is that the front lawn of the high school was never designed to be a field hockey playing field and it has been a cause of injury both to our players and players from visiting high schools. One of the positive gains would be that wellness classes would be able to take advantage of using the new fields year round. Another advantage would be the ability to offer the use to the

community and youth teams as well as to host tournaments which would provide sources of revenue. There is a major push going on right now in the fundraising with the goal that if a certain level of pledges is reached by the end of October, work could be scheduled and there would be a possibility of using the fields during the next school year. There is currently a raffle for a new car that will be awarded at this Friday's football game. Tickets can still be purchased online at [www.diamondcampaign.org](http://www.diamondcampaign.org). The cost is \$100 a ticket. Ellen asked for support and said she welcomes feedback and any ideas on how they can get the word out. It was asked what the amount of money to be raised is and Ellen answered that it is 2.5 million dollars to complete the entire project. If the goal is not reached there is a possibility to plan on doing it in stages. The plans can be viewed on the website.

**CROYA, Marcy Kerr** (on behalf of Todd Nahigian) introduced herself and explained that she has been on the CROYA Board for 6-7 years and she is excited about all of the great things that are happening. The CROYA Youth Board volunteered at the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Artesian Guild Fall show and they donated over \$4000 to CROYA. The FIT Club is on Mondays and there has been a great response. The Glee Club is meeting on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the recording studio and is open to kids and adults. The Quidditch Club is on Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. The freshman dance "Dance through the Decades" is this Friday from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. and cost is \$5.00 at the door. This week also continues the "Shop Your Cause" at the Lake Forest Shop and 10% of the proceeds will go to CROYA. The kids were also selling raffle tickets in conjunction with this event. There are several community service opportunities coming up including the Lake Bluff PTO Pumpkin Fest on Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup>. Super Jam II will take place with multiple local bands in the CROYA Student Union on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Todd wanted to remind everyone that the Poinsettia Sale will be held in November. The High School Retreat will be held November 18-20 and signs up will be held soon and usually this does sell out. Please check the website for more information on all that is going on at CROYA.

**Directory, Leann Asma** announced that the directory is finished and is at the printer. The cover art work selected was done by sophomore student Kayla Higbee. She was given a prize of \$50.00. The directories will be mailed home in the next week or two.

**Vice President, Jean Clewlow** discussed the Liaison Committee meetings and explained that the purpose of the meetings is to communicate information about the high school to the community and to the other schools. The first Liaison Committee meeting is October 17 at 9:30 a.m. in room 113. All are welcome to attend.

**Treasurer, Jan Richman** asked for a vote on the proposed 2011-12 APT budget. A question was asked about the money that we carry forward and Jan explained that we are currently carrying a large reserve but that we are trying each year to spend some of it for example last year we bought new ice cream machines for the cafeteria. A motion was made and voted on. The budget was approved.

**Parent Awareness, Susie Athenson** stated that she met with Jen Knight recently to talk about the proposed parent speaker series which will happen the second half of the year. The focus is general information that will apply to most families. An idea of one of the talks that is being developed is along the same lines of "Life of an Athlete" that was so popular last year and this year the focus will be on character development and team building. Another idea is

to have a talk similar to the “Letting Go” theme of last year but with a different spin, maybe a panel discussion and also being considered is a talk on technology and social media. On October 12<sup>th</sup> Lead is sponsoring and the APT is hosting a talk with author Jennifer Delahunty who wrote “I’m Going to College Not You”. Susie stated that LEAD has a collection of books including this one for sale. Lake Forest Book Store sells the books to LEAD at a 20% discount and then LEAD sells them at retail and keeps the proceeds. Books will also be on sale the evening of the event. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> APT and LEAD are co-sponsoring an evening with Wendy Mogul. Her latest book is “The Blessing of a B-“ 200 tickets have already been sold. On November 9<sup>th</sup> the annual presentation of “Streets Smarts Parents Teens and the Law” will be held at 7:00 p.m. Susie also informed the group about the collection boxes for unused medications which are located at community police stations. This program is being promoted by the Speak Up Coalition. The annual LEAD 5k run/walk fundraiser is coming up at Elawa Farms on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Recording Secretary, Michele Medzigian** thanked the board for getting the monthly reports turned in. The minutes from the September APT Board meeting were approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Medzigian  
Recording Secretary