

Lake Forest High School APT Minutes

January 4, 2012

East Campus Room 113

Members Present: Linda Ganshirt, Michele Medzigian, Barb Kesman, Jan Richman, Julie Stevenson, Lisa Garrity, Colleen Laughlin, Sheila Cavalaris, Laurie Doherty, Julia Fiske Parker, Amy Keaton, Sheri Passalino, Cathy Dohnalek, Mary Kay Jaekel, Lisa Troller, Sue Wagener, Susie Athenson, Julie Eckert, Julie Thauer, Leann Asma, Leslie Habjan, Ruth Muscarello, Leeni Ellis, Susan McMahan, Amy Tswarhas, Lorraine Freedman, Midge Nelson, Tracy Matthews Hill,

Members Absent: Jean Clewlow, Mary Beth Theodore, Marianne Stride, Andrea Perino, Erin Foley, Kathleen Hanson, Mary Flagstad

President, Linda Ganshirt wished the board a Happy New Year! She thanked the Hospitality Committee for hosting a wonderful holiday brunch for the December board meeting and also for the holiday treats they provided for the staff. Linda introduced Leigh Moss who is joining the board next year as the chair of the Senior Contribution Awards Committee. Leigh will spend the rest of this year shadowing Leeni to learn the process. Linda announced that Mr. Donlon has returned to work. In Ruth Muscarello's absence, Linda reported that the nominating process for next year's board is going to begin one month earlier than in the past. Ruth will be sending out a form next week asking all current board members if they wish to continue on next year and also to name any recommendations of others whom might be considered.

Superintendent, Dr. Harry Griffith greeted the board and welcomed everyone back for the New Year.

Principal, Jay Hoffmann stated that exams begin next week Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday with a teacher workday on Friday and Monday is a holiday. He relayed that the Student Advisory Leadership Team (SALT) has asked for a winter pep rally to be held at east campus on Friday, February 10th at 2 p.m. That week will be Spirit Week and activities will be scheduled each day. Jay gave an overview of the new Student Advisory Board which will be comprised of two representatives from every student organization. The purpose of the SAB will be to examine school policies and procedures and how the administration affects the students. He gave some examples of topics that might be discussed such as the students' idea that teachers assign no homework over school breaks or another would be the school cell phone policy. Jay explained that a big goal of the administration is to look at alternative delivery of text books and the possibility of using electronic text books. They are conducting a pilot where students test out three types of systems; the Kindle, notebook and iPad. The students seem to prefer the iPad so far. Second semester they are going to have one biology class become a textbook-less class. Jay stated that we are wireless throughout the building now. The APT helped complete the project with funds raised from Be True to Your School. The Publick room is open to seniors for a study room on an honor system basis right now. He discussed the one year short term teacher contract that was agreed to by the teacher's union and the District 115 Board. The teachers agreed to a one year freeze of pay. He stated that a longer term contract would have been better but that he is proud of both sides for coming up

with a solution that was fiscally responsible and realistic. Discussions will start up again in February or March for a longer term contract. Jay informed the group that two hundred kids came out for intramural basketball.

Dean, Laura Clegg is the Student Council Advisor and came to speak about the upcoming “Turn About” dance. She explained that the Student Council typically sponsors a winter dance after a Friday night basketball game. In recent years attendance at that dance has been dwindling so the senior class decided it was time for a change. The dance is a winter formal “turn about” where the girls ask the boys. The date is Saturday, January 28th. Dress is formal. Boys should wear coats and ties girls will wear “cocktail” type dresses. The dance will have a dessert reception in the commons and dancing will be in the cafeteria. The seniors wanted a senior V.I.P lounge so for the first hour the upper commons will be used for that purpose which will help get the seniors there a little earlier. Laura stated that help is still needed. Volunteers are needed to help with refreshments, coat check and general supervision. Questions and concerns were raised and it was decided that an informative but positive memo along the lines of “Top Ten Questions about Turn-About” would be put on the website for parents to read.

Communications, Anne Whipple stated that there have been more emails going home because they have been working with Student Services to do a better job of breaking down and communicating individually to each class some of the things that are happening with Student Services especially relating to counseling and college planning. She reminded the board that parents need to update their profiles in order to be receiving the correct information for their student’s current class. They are working with technology to hopefully be able to roll it over to the next class next year, but right now parent’s need to go in and do it themselves. They have initiated a community newsletter that goes out quarterly to the community to let them know what is going on at the high school. Anyone can sign up to receive it on the website. The superintendent search that started two years ago is going well. There were a total of ninety nine applications that the consultants screened to twenty. Then the board further screened the candidates to eight and now they are down to the top four. Two teams of interviewers have been put together that are comprised of administrators, parents, teachers, support staff and community members. Next week the teams will be conducting interviews of the final four candidates. Each interviewee will come in for the day. They will meet with the board in the morning and then meet with the two committees and then end the day with dinner with the board. The board will then evaluate each candidate. All interviewees have to sign a confidentiality agreement. The board will then discuss and hopefully by February or early March they will announce the selection. The new superintendent will assume the responsibility on July 1st. Anne stated that course catalogs will be available on the website next week.

Foundation, Denise Bunning thanked the APT for the cooperative effort among the parent support organizations. The Foundation has a luncheon coming up April 11th at the Onwentsia Club. It will be a fundraising event. Grant applications are due February 24th. Last year the Foundation collaborated with the APT to purchase the new screen and projector for the RMA.

CROYA, Todd Nahigian Stated that the winter break was wonderful and a little quiet. The kids took a trip to the Cuneo Winter Wonderland and also there was a ping pong tournament.

Over 200 applications were received for the new Student Youth Worker position. They have narrowed it down to about 15 candidates that they are interviewing. The students will have an opportunity to meet them. They will narrow it down to 2-3 candidates and be interviewed by the students. The kids actually have the final decision and they want as many kids to be involved as possible. The Spring CROYA retreat will be held March 16-18th. It is only open to kids who have been on a fall retreat at some time during high school. The juniors lead the retreat. The middle school Jingle Jam winter dance is also coming up on January 28th.

Talent Show, Mary Kay Jaekel and Lisa Troller, explained there will be posters out advertising the try-outs on January 28th and 29th. The forms can be found with Mr. Balonick at the Help Desk as well as on line. There is space for 52 acts to try-out and sign up is on a first come, first serve basis. The logo for the theme of “The Final Count Down” is an hour glass which is being finalized and will be used for the cover art, t-shirts, etc. Lisa explained the audition process and the judging and how the acts are scored. The judges are 20-23 people selected from our community and others nearby who have experience in the world of theatre and/or music. The judges score the acts and the committee does not have any vote. The student committee does not see the scores and the scores are erased. The student committee sets the content and order of the show. On Sunday evening students can call the hotline to see if their act has made it into the show. Acts are identified by their try-out number. Practice begins on January 30th. They suggest that acts be kept to less than three minutes. February 29th will be the matinee performance and the show dates will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday March 1-3. Tickets will be available online beginning February 15th. Mary Kay and Lisa suggest lowering the total number of tickets that each family may purchase per show to from 10 to 8. Mary Kay stated that there are always tickets available on show days and there has never been a case of turning someone away the day of the show. Linda called for a board vote. A motion was made and seconded and the vote was passed in favor of setting the maximum ticket order per show to 8 tickets.

Prom, Lisa Baker gave an update on the plans for this year’s prom. The junior class hosts prom and it is scheduled for May 19th at the Chicago Marriott. The parent committee members work with 2-3 student council representatives. The theme this year is “Fire and Ice”. Lisa stated that everything is going very smoothly and at this point all committees are running on time or ahead of schedule. The outside of the invitation is almost done and they will be finalizing the inside contents in the next couple of weeks. The decorations committee has been down to the Marriott and has decided to re-use some of the glass pieces from last year which allows them to have more money to use in other areas. The students voted on the art work for the prom t-shirts. A few chaperones are still needed and if anyone is interested they should call Janet Hughes or Shelly Saffron. Project Safe Prom is underway and the goal is to raise the \$23,000 to fund the 18 buses needed to get the students safely downtown and back. The letter asking for contributions is going out today. Lisa stated that prom updates will be posted on the website. She addressed the concern that the G8 Summit is being held that week in Chicago and said that she has learned that by the end of the week most of the meetings will have concluded so it will not be as busy downtown. Also, the Marriott is not hosting any of the diplomats. They are hosting the press and they will have heightened security. Lisa also wanted the parents to know that the red carpet ceremony for getting onto the buses is optional and that anyone who chooses not to participate will go out a separate door and straight onto the bus. There is a concern about the amount of time that the kids wait on the buses and Lisa said they are looking at ways to improve the process.

Parent Awareness. Susie Athenson met with Karen Cunningham from LEAD this week. There are two more upcoming events with speakers. One is with a psychologist from Lake Forest College on the topic of social media and technology and how it affects kids and that will probably be held in February or March and the other will be a yet to be determined speaker on a topic along the lines of last year's "Letting Go" for parents whose students are heading off to college and that will be held in April or May. This year they are going to try a more intimate setting and more of a Q &A. Susie reminded the board that Betty Frank Bailey the Executive Director of LEAD is leaving and LEAD is looking for someone to take on her role.

Treasurer, Jan Richman explained that she has closed the books for December and emailed everyone the report. She is going to cut the checks this month and disburse the funds from Be True to Your School.

Recording Secretary, Michele Medzigian asked for an approval of the November minutes. A motion was made and seconded. The minutes were approved. There are no minutes for December since the meeting was social.

Meeting adjourned 10:28 a.m.