

Lake Forest High School APT Minutes
January 5, 2011
East Campus Room #113

Members Present: Donna LaVitola, Michele Medzigian, Julie Eckert, Jan Richman, Germaine Arnson, Susan McMahon, Susi Rowe, Marcy Kerr, Mary Flagstad, Barb Kesman, Linda Ganshirt, Karin Springer, Sarah Yarger Kienzle, Sue Wagener, Susie Athenson, Julia Fiske Parker, Kathy Dasso, Leann Asma, Lesley Guido, Pam Salm, Leeni Ellis, Amy Tsarwhas, Midge Nelson, Laurie Sirus, Mischelle Hopfinger, Tracy Hill, Mary Sanders, Sally Burns, Tracy Tolmie, Carolyn Konz

Members Absent: Ruth Muscarello, Linda Torcivia, Sherri Passalino, Marianne Stride, Justine Santello, Nadia Walgreen, Laura Cox, Lorraine Freedman

President, Donna LaVitola opened the meeting and introduced guest speakers **Officer Brett Marquette, School Resource Officer and Scott Kraniak, Director of Safety and Security**. Scott gave an overview of all of the updates that occurred at the time of the last referendum. Additional stair towers were added for fire safety and are equipped with a “special assistance” alarms so that a person in need of help can press it and the fire department will know to go there first. The front lanes of the school were improved to make more room for buses and cars to encourage parents to pick their kids up in front of the building after school which is safer than picking up on the side streets. Each classroom is equipped with emergency and non-emergency call buttons, 911 capable and has sprinklers. A phone system/camera was added at the loading dock so that when deliveries are made the visitor can be identified and has to be buzzed into the school. Moving the student parking to the front of the school has increased the safety on side streets. A new camera system was installed. The school previously had 48 cameras and now we have approximately 100 in various locations throughout the building and grounds. The new system is a very sophisticated system which gives police and fire access over the web to view the cameras so they can see what they are getting into when they enter the building in an emergency. The videos can be kept for up to 21 days. There has been a reduction in theft because of the cameras. In addition, the bike paths are monitored randomly for kids who may be smoking or using drugs. Officer Marquette introduced himself as our School Resource Officer and gave us an overview of his duties and how he works with the kids and the administrators. He will be holding a Citizens Police Academy sometime this spring, the start dates to be determined. It will meet every Wednesday night for ten weeks. Please let him know if you are interested

Communications, Anne Whipple asked Donna to remind the board to go on the website and fill out the survey for the superintendent search.

CROYA, Todd Nahigian announced the hire of a new Middle School Youth Worker, Jessie Urban. The kids were very involved in the interview process and had the opportunity to meet and interview the final four candidates. The kids gave their input and narrowed the search to two candidates. At that time there was an evening event for all the kids to come and meet the final two candidates and vote. 40-50 kids were in attendance. Jessica Urban won the vote and became the new Middle School Youth Worker. There was a party to thank all of the students who helped with the Poinsettia fundraiser and there were also various service projects going on over the winter break. CROYA welcomes donations of non-perishable food for their pantry. Perishables can be accepted on Tuesday and Wednesday to be consumed at their meetings.

Teacher Representative, Carolyn Konz informed us that she has returned to work after her maternity leave. Teachers are busy preparing for finals.

Committee Reports

Nominating, Pam Salm announced that a committee is being formed to begin the process of nominating for next year's APT Board. The Executive Board positions that will be open for next year are President, Vice President and Corresponding Secretary. Pam passed out a Nominating form to each board member and asked that everyone let her know what their intentions are for next year and what positions they have an interest in as well as anyone else they would like to recommend to be considered by the nominating committee.

Talent Show, Karin Springer gave an update on the progress of the Talent Show to date. This year the biggest change is that tickets will be sold online. The same guidelines as to how many each family can order will apply. A family may order no more than ten tickets per night of the show. A letter will go home to explaining the process and the date and time that tickets will go on sale. There will be a Tech Night for the families of the tech crew to come and watch one of the dress rehearsals and see their kids in action as well as a Senior Act Night for families who may not want to watch the whole show but just want to come and see their student perform in the senior act. These nights will free up tickets on the actual show nights. The theme for this year's Talent Show is "Just Warming Up" and the Emcee's are Augie Athenson and Will Small. The show dates are March 2-5, 2011. Auditions for the talent show will be the last weekend in January. Karin is looking for two parents of Tech Crew kids to volunteer to help out.

Directory, Lesley Guido and Leann Asma explained that they are working on revamping the process of putting the directory together for next year. They will form a committee to help with coming up with the changes. Also, they are looking for new software to use for the data input. There will be a meeting on January 18th at 1:00 pm. anyone interested in helping out and giving input to the improvements for next year, please email Lesley or Leann.

Parent Awareness, Susie Athenson announced the upcoming viewings of the film documentary *The Race to Nowhere*. The film will be shown at LFHS on January 20 at 5:00 pm. and 7:15 pm. in the Raymond Moore Auditorium. The shows are sold out but tickets have been set aside for APT. Anyone interested in going may email Susie. On January 21st there will be a follow up panel discussion hosted by LEAD at the Church of the Holy Spirit from 12:00n to 1:30 pm. The APT in conjunction with LEAD and LFHS Student Services will be hosting a special presentation for parents of students heading off to college. The speaker will be Karen Levin Colbourn author of the book *Letting Go, A Parents Guide to the College Years*. The program is scheduled for April 14' 2011 from 7:00pm to 8:30 pm. Look for more information to come.

Recording Secretary, Michele Medzgian asked for approval of the November minutes. Minutes were approved. Michele explained that December and January minutes will be approved at the February meeting.

Liaison Committee, Vice President, Ruth Muscarello was unable to attend and asked Donna to remind Board members to go on the APT link on the LFHS website and update the information for each committee.

Treasurer, Jan Richman reported the tax returns for 2010 are completed and mailed. Be True to Your School raised 100,284.51. The monies will be divided among the four class treasuries. The APT funded a new ice cream machine for the cafeteria which costs \$10,000. The APT wished all of our students a “Happy Holiday” by providing everyone with a free ice cream the week before break.

Hospitality, Julia Fisk Parker announced the recent Alumnae Reception was a success. The Reception is normally held the Tuesday before Thanksgiving but this year it was moved to the Friday before Winter Break. Attendance was strong with 30-40 alumnae stopping by. They recommend we keep this new date for next year.

President, Donna LaVitola stated that one of the successful aspects of Be True to Your School this year was the ability to have a good amount of student involvement. The APT will be looking at ways to build on this for next year’s event. Donna welcomed **Dick Block, Board of Education** representative and thanked him for attending our meeting this month. Dick gave us an update on the Superintendent Search and stated that the timeline for the search has been revised so that the actual search will begin in the Spring/Summer of 2011. If the right candidate is found, and the timing works, there is a possibility of hiring the new Superintendent in January 2012 which will allow for some transition time before Harry Griffith retires in the spring.

Sue Wagener announced that the **Project Safe Prom** mailing is being assembled after the meeting and asked board members to stay and help. If you would like your name to be included in the Prom Invitation Booklet, donations need to be received by March 5th.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.