

Lake Forest High School APT Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2009
Room #113

Members Present: Donna LaVitola, Ruth Muscarello, Jan Richman, Julie Eckert, Terri Karst, Michele Medzigian, Susie Athenson, Katie Begley, Diane Quon, Leeni Ellis, Linda Torcivia, Sheri Passalino, Sue Wagener, Ana Kapoor, Jill Moutvic, Julia Fiske Parker, Linda Ganshirt, Mary Flagstad, Lesley Guido, Chrystal Gannon, Marianne Stride, Justine Santello, Pam Salm, Karla Schwartz, Laura Cox, Lorraine, Freedman, Mischelle Hopfinger, Mary Kay Jaekel, Mary Sanders, Sally Burns

Members Absent: Marcy Kerr, Kathy Dasso, Roberta Zicarelli, Laurie Sirus, and Tracy Tolmie

Donna LaVitola called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.

President, Donna LaVitola welcomed the new LFHS APT Board.

Superintendent, Dr. Harry Griffith addressed the Board. He provided an updated report on the fiber optic network construction currently going on in the City of Lake Forest. The network will connect LFHS and District 67 to the city in a joint partnership providing the most advanced technology available to the classroom. In total, it will take approximately one year to complete. He announced that ACT scores were the highest in the high school's history with 26.2 English, 24.6 Science, and a composite score of 25.6. There are fourteen National Merit Semi-finalists from last year. West campus is currently going through construction with SEDOL paying for a new entrance and many new classrooms for a self-contained campus. SEDOL is a special education school for students with behavioral disorders and will comprise one hundred students in grades 1-8. Also at west campus is Little Scouts, a day care facility for the faculty of the district as well as open to the public encompassing over 120 children. Lake Forest place donated \$50,000 for the new playground.

President, Donna LaVitola thanked all APT board members for work accomplished over the summer break. She noted that the executive board met over the summer to discuss the APT's future identity and overall purpose. She is also in the process of providing the APT with a logo and updating our mission statement. Donna also reported that Joy Murawski runs the LFHS website, please send her photos when available.

Secretary, Jan Richman announced that she would take attendance as people filter into the meetings. The minutes will reflect all attendees/and non-attendees. Please let her know if the minutes do not correctly reflect attendance. Please also be aware there is an attendance policy in the by-laws for all board members. Additionally, she will send an email reminder for all board meetings. She asked that all board members provide her with a monthly report, either email or hard copy, prior to all meetings. All board meeting will begin promptly at 9:00am with coffee to start at 8:45am. All meetings will take place in room #113 with the exception of December and May. A motion was made to

approve last May's minutes. First given by Terri Karst and a second given by Sheri Passalino. Motion passed with all approving.

Principal, Jay Hoffman reported that standardized testing results were excellent with three perfect ACT scores. There were 34 commended scholars who took the PSAT and fourteen National Merit Semi-finalists. On October 2nd, nine students from Shanghai, China will arrive for a two-week stay as part of an independent studies program. They will stay with host families and this spring eleven LFHS students will stay in the dorms at Shanghai. This program is separate from the Mandarin language program, which has 35 students currently enrolled. On September 9th, the Drama and theater programs will have an open house from 7-9pm in the RMA with short presentations from students involved in various aspects including ITS and tech crew. Dave Miller retired last year and Ben Davidson has taken over his responsibilities. The emotional wellness initiative is currently beginning year four. A climate survey is underway with students, parents, and faculty completing the survey by early November. Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for November 4th. On September 15th from 7-9:00pm will be the Open House, with shuttles for parents from the train stations. Jay announced that the Board of Education would begin a best practices on the college resource center. There are currently 1786 students enrolled in LFHS this school year.

Communications, Anne Whipple stated that Highlights will be getting thinner every month in an effort to eventually be available solely online. Please sign-up emails for each child enrolled with their student identification number. The finance committee is looking for a new member with an October 1st application deadline. Sign-up for NutriKids on the website. Please update your instant alert account.

CROYA, Chris Torrence asked the APT if they had received a copy of their first Fall/Winter mailing by CROYA. This weekend, the Artisans for CROYA will be at the Art Fair with all proceeds benefiting the CROYA foundation. On September 9th from 7-8:00 pm, will be the first high school meeting. CROYA personnel are also available during the school day in room #138B.

Faculty Liaison, Carolyn Konz was introduced to the Board. She will also be working with the senior class this year.

Vice-President, Ruth Muscarello reported that the next Liaison meeting date is scheduled for October 20th. The purpose of the liaison meetings is to disseminate information to community organizations, feeder schools, etc. The main topic of discussion for the October meeting will be the new athletic code as introduced by the athletic director. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Directory/Membership, Mary Flagstad stated that the directory is in its final stages of compilation. This year teacher phone numbers will be included. The directory committee will staff a table at Open House.

Volunteer Coordinator, Justine Santello announced that all of the volunteer forms have been incorporated and are available in her database. She handed out lists of volunteers to various board members. Everyone was urged to contact all volunteers on each list.

Special Events Chairs, Pam Salm and Karla Schwartz announced the annual parent social and fundraiser, “Be True To Your School”, is scheduled for Sunday, October 25th at the Deer Path Inn at 5:00pm. The evening will include dinner, raffle, silent and live auctions. This year each Class Parent Representative will be responsible for a live auction item. All funds will be disbursed to the class treasuries based on attendance of each class at the event. The committee is still accepting donations. All Board members were strongly urged to participate in our fundraiser. Chris Torrence of CROYA will be the auctioneer.

New Family Coordinator, Mischelle Hopfinger reported that the week prior to school beginning a get-together took place on campus with tours for the ten new high school families. Now, there are currently forty new families in total. The committee is looking into scheduling another get acquainted event.

Treasurer, Terri Karst handed out a new tax-exempt letter for future APT purchases, a reimbursement form and a proposed budget for the year 2009-2010. She explained in detail the proposed balanced budget for year 2009-2010 for the board, which will be voted on at the October meeting. (See attached budget)

Sophomore Class Representative, Susie Athenson submitted the following report: The Sophomore Class Parent meeting will take place on September 17th in the DMT. The topic will be, “The Plan Testing overview”. Principal Jay Hoffman will welcome parents to the new school year. Dr. Merry Quinn and Jacquie Berkshire will present information regarding the test, which will take place on October 14th. Kathy O’Hara will discuss service opportunities for sophomores. A reminder postcard will be mailed out the week prior. Susie will be meeting with the sophomore class student council reps on September 3rd to discuss BTTYS and their class silent auction item. Other class parent meeting will take place on November 12th and December 10th.

Enrichment Programs, Diane Quon submitted the following report: Kathy O’Hara, Leeni Ellis and Diane Quon will be setting up a September meeting with the Executive Student Council members and their advisors to discuss ideas for a possible Enrichment Program in the spring (i.e., Earth Week or some other theme/idea).

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted
Jan Richman, Recording Secretary