

Lake Forest High School APT Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2009

Room #113

Members Present: Donna LaVitola, Ruth Muscarello, Jan Richman, Julie Eckert, Terri Karst, Michele Medzigian, Susie Athenson, Marcy Kerr, Katie Begley, Leeni Ellis, Linda Torcivia, Sheri Passalino, Julia Fiske Parker, Linda Ganshirt, Mary Flagstad, Kathy Dasso, Lesley Guido, Chrystal Gannon, Marianne Stride, Roberta Zicarelli, Pam Salm, Karla Schwartz, Laura Cox, Laurie Sirus, Mischelle Hopfinger, Mary Kay Jaekel, Mary Sanders, Sally Burns, and Tracy Tolmie

Members Absent: Diane Quon, Sue Wagener, Ana Kapoor, Jill Moutvic, Justine Santello, Lorraine Freedman

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

President, Donna LaVitola welcomed the LFHS APT Board and thanked all for their help and support with the Quon and Moutvic families. She also thanked the hospitality committee – Jill Moutvic, Julia Fiske Parker, and Linda Ganshirt – for all their efforts including New Teacher Luncheon, Chinese Reception, Open House, and the APT meetings.

Secretary, Jan Richman made a motion to approve the minutes from the September APT Board meeting. First given by Pam Salm and a second given by Terri Karst. Motion passed with all approving.

Treasurer, Terri Karst made a motion to approve the 2009-2010 LFHS APT proposed budget. Ruth Muscarello gave a second motion. Motion was passed with all in favor. (See approved budget attached).

Principal, Jay Hoffman reported that nine students from Shanghai, China have arrived for a two-week stay as part of an independent studies program. They will stay with host families and this spring twelve LFHS students will stay in the dorms at Shanghai. Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for November 5th. The School Board meeting welcomed student body president, Lauren Ganshirt. There will be six late start dates this year for faculty to review curriculum. Visit LFHStele.com for posting of all videos, which are student produced. The homecoming dance was a success with approximately 100 students in attendance. There are many concerts and plays coming up, please check the school calendar for dates.

Faculty Liaison, Carolyn Konz reported that seniors Kara Zeni and Catherine Farrell recently completed the Senior Wall. Soon thereafter, it was mildly defaced and touched up. Juniors can submit drawings for the senior wall, which are then voted by their class. Curriculum meetings for each department are ongoing and addressing a more consistent approach to educating the students.

Communications, Anne Whipple stated that students last week gave a tour to a group from the Lake Forest Place. The seniors were most impressed with the renovation and enjoyed meeting a number of the students. E-news letters will begin soon; please sign-up since they will be taking the place of Highlights. There will be a testing next week of the Instant Alert System. The Chinese Reception took place last week with much success. She also thanked the APT for all they do to enhance LFHS.

CROYA, Chris Torrence reiterated that Homecoming was a great success last week. The dance and game were both well attended. The annual poinsettia sale will be commencing soon. There is a CROYA meeting tonight. Next week's topic night will feature Tommy Farley, the deceased brother of comedian Chris Farley. He will be speaking about drug and alcohol addiction.

Dean of Students, Jen Knight, gave an overview of the Emotional Wellness Initiative. After much review of "canned" programs on educating the whole-child, the administration agreed to look into creating our own program. Over the years, there has been much involvement from students, parents, and teachers. In the spring of 2007, a survey was offered with low participation from the parent population, thus, the survey would be repeated beginning next week. Please tell all parents to participate in this survey that will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

LEAD Program Director, Karen Cunningham, announced that on October 26th begins Red Ribbon Week. On November 1st at Elawa Farms a Red Ribbon 5K race will take place. On October 19th at 10:00am in Gorton, Dr. Heather Hale will speak about adolescent psychology. On November 12th in conjunction with LFHS, the seminar, "Parents, Students and the Law" will take place. Parents are encouraged to bring their teens for this frank discussion. She additionally thanked the APT for their ongoing support of LEAD.

Vice-President, Ruth Muscarello reported that the next Liaison meeting date is scheduled for October 20th in room Seminar C at 9:00am at West Campus. The purpose of the liaison meeting 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. Both Dr. Griffith and Principal Jay Hoffman will speak at the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Directory/Membership, Mary Flagstad stated that the directory would be going to print this Friday. They chose Andy Shaw's artwork for the cover. Distribution is expected by the end of October.

Volunteer Coordinator, Roberta Zicarelli reported that Justine Santello has updated the volunteer spreadsheet. If you need a hard copy please call Justine. Please make use of this listing and contact those who have volunteered to help. (Please see attached for a copy of the spreadsheet).

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. Julie Eckert generously donated the raffle item, A Beatles Rock Band. Raffle tickets are currently being sold at \$5/each, 3 tickets for \$10, etc. They will be selling tickets during the lunch periods at school to the students.

New Family Coordinator, Michelle Hopfinger reported that on October 25th a second get acquainted coffee was held, with only three people in attendance. Invitations had been mailed to forty new families. Thus, although a newcomers’ coffee was beneficial the attendance was poor.

Junior Class Representative, Marcy Kerr stated that the recent Junior Class meeting held on October 6th was well attended.

Senior Class Representative, Katie Begley reported that the last Senior Class meeting on the college application process was very informative and well attended. The next Senior Class meeting will be tomorrow, October 8th regarding the admissions process.

Freshmen Class Representative, Michele Medzgian submitted the following report: Our first freshman parent meeting was held September 10th. The topic was “Meet the Faces of LFHS”. Donna LaVitola came and gave an introduction to APT. Pam Salm was there to introduce and promote “Be True to Your School”. Jay Hoffman then introduced the administrators from each of the following departments: Counseling, Dean’s Office, Social Work, Community Service and College Counseling. Each of the administrators had an opportunity to discuss their area and give an overview to the parents and also introduce the staff in their departments. Dr. Griffith welcomed the parents and gave an update on the district. Our next parent meeting is scheduled for October 15th at 10:00 a.m. in the David Miller Theatre and is entitled “How Can Students Get Involved?” We will talk about clubs, community service, athletics and all extra-curricular activities. We are inviting current students to come and talk about why it is important to get involved and to share their experiences in some of these areas.

Sophomore Class Representative, Susie Athenson submitted the following report: The first Sophomore Parent meeting of the school year took place on:

Thursday, September 17th
10:00 AM
David Miller Theater
“PLAN Testing Overview”

APT President, Donna LaVitola, welcomed parents on the behalf of the APT. Karla Schwartz, “Be True To Your School” Co-Chair, explained the fundraiser and asked for

parents' support in donations and attendance. Principal Jay Hoffman welcomed parents to the new school year, briefly explained the PLAN Test, and answered parents' questions regarding the new Athletic Waiver policy. Dr. Merry Quinn, Director of Student Services, explained how the LFHS Counseling Department works and gave an overview of testing for the sophomore year including the PLAN Test. She answered many parents' questions regarding course scheduling. Jacquie Berkshire, College Counselor, presented detailed information on the upcoming PLAN test taken by all sophomores at Lake Forest High School on October 14th and how it fits into students' overall college testing sequence. She explained the specifics of what topics are on the PLAN Test, how it is scored, and the importance of the career interest survey. Jacquie provided parents with handouts entitled "Helpful Hints For Sophomore Year" and "The PLAN Test Components" which were well received by parents. Jacquie also explained the importance of planning your student's course work and using the PLAN results to determine strengths and interests. Jacquie answered many questions from parents regarding the PLAN Test, other college testing (SAT1, SAT2, AP), and Naviance. Kathy O'Hara, Student Service Coordinator, discussed service opportunities for sophomores. There are no mandatory service hour requirements for graduation at LFHS, but Kathy's office keeps track of service hours online from the summer of 8th grade through senior year. Service hours do not have to be solely with LFHS but can include outside activities. Kathy also discussed the "Open Doors" mentoring and shadowing program offered through the APT for all LFHS students in April. Parents can use the PLAN Test interest survey to match their student's interest with a mentor. The next sophomore parent meetings scheduled for the 2009-2010 year are November 12th and December 10th.

Talent Show, Linda Torcivia submitted the following report:

This month Linda is meeting with Luann Blowers, last year's producer, to go over notes and recommendations from the previous year's production. Sheri and Linda are working to fill the final slots on their committee for this year's show. The goal is to have all the slots filled by mid-November. The contract with the printer will be finalized soon. They will meet with the student committee in early December.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35am.

Respectfully submitted
Jan Richman, Recording Secretary