

Lake Forest High School APT Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2010

Room #113

Members Present: Donna LaVitola, Ruth Muscarello, Jan Richman, Julie Eckert, Terri Karst, Michele Medizigian, Susie Athenson, Marcy Kerr, Katie Begley, Leeni Ellis, Linda Torcivia, Sue Wagner, Ana Kapoor, Jill Moutvic, Linda Ganshirt, Kathy Dasso, Lesley Guido, Chrystal Gannon, Marianne Stride, Justine Santello, Pam Salm, Laura Cox, Mischelle Hopfinger, Mary Kay Jaekel, Sally Burns, Tracy Tolmie

Members Absent: Diane Quon, Sheri Passalino, Julia Fiske Parker, Mary Flagstad, Roberta Zicarelli, Karla Schwartz, Lorraine Freedman, Laurie Sirius, Mary Sanders

Donna LaVitola called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

President, Donna LaVitola welcomed all to the meeting.

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

Treasurer, Terri Karst stated the financials for the meeting were distributed via email yesterday. (See financial report attached.) She said that the financial statement reflects the receipt of the credit card receipts from Be True To Your School event. She is still waiting for the final report to distribute the class monies.

Principal, Jay Hoffman reported that February 12th there is no school due to a faculty institute day. The Choir is traveling to Greece to perform over Spring Break. Winter Sports are winding down and spring sports are about to begin. There are 445 freshmen in the in-coming class fall 2010. Juniors are starting fall registration with the other classes following suit. There are two years remaining on the physical education waiver issued by the state. The waiver applies to students currently enrolled in a sport and has the ability to apply for a study hall. The Breast Cancer Ball will follow the basketball game Friday night. For the APT website next year, Ben Davidson is currently working on filming the parent class meeting. May 18th is the Emotional Wellness Walk, which the students are planning and implementing with help from the faculty and APT.

CROYA, Chris Torrance announced that there was a meeting tonight. Student council is currently selling t-shirts for the Breast Cancer Ball. Friday in the Dave Miller Theater there is a presentation by Lake Forest Hospital about breast cancer. CROYA is starting Open Mike Night for adults and students. It will take place the first Thursday night of the month and cost \$7. On February 13th, Croya is sponsoring "The Haitian Hustle" a fundraiser and dance to raise funds for Haiti. The dance is 7:30 until 10:30pm for high school students only.

Faculty Liaison, Carolyn Konz stated that the Social Studies Chair, Jim Gantt, has been currently working on academic benchmarks for students' writing in the social studies department for freshmen through seniors. This will be implemented in the fall and will be outlined on the website. The program is loosely based on an established one by the University of Texas. Also, the Social Studies department is formalizing a student/faculty integrity pledge. This pledge will be piloted in the social studies department and will be later addressed for the rest of the academic departments.

Enrichment Program, Leeni Ellis outlined some of the student involvement in the Emotional Wellness Walk in May. The graphic arts classes have produced a logo and a variety of posters to advertise the event. Also, the triathlon will be sponsored by the physical education on the same day as the walk. Routes and logistics for the walk are still being hashed-out. There will be a senior class tie-in too. The APT will be helping with the lawn celebration, volunteers, and t-shirts, etc. Please email Jen Knight if any students would like to get involved.

Special Guest Speaker, Cindy Hauser from GLASA made a presentation to the Board regarding the 2010 National Junior Disability Championships that will be held at LFHS and Deerfield High School starting on July 17, 2010. The event is for athletes between the ages of 7 and 21 who have met the appropriate Disabled Sports Organization (DSO) criteria. Kathy O'Hara of LFHS is working to acquire student volunteers. Anyone who would like to volunteer please contact Kathy O'Hara or email Cindy Hauser directly at: njdc2010.org.

Parent Awareness, Ana Kapoor submitted the following report to announce the upcoming LEAD events:

Ladies' Night Out: A Celebration for Women

<http://www.lead.memberlodge.com/Default.aspx?pageId=30557&eventId=115648&EventViewMode=EventDetails> **Friday, February 5, 6:30 PM**

**The Armour House at Lake Forest Academy
1500 West Kennedy Road, Lake Forest**

LEAD invites you to treat yourself and your girlfriends to a well deserved night out! Indulge your spirit and nurture your soul with an evening of friends, food and two inspiring seminars.

Internet Safety, Managing Your Online Identity with Anastasia Goodstein

A Loyola Academy Sponsored Program

*All Parents Welcome
For All Ages*

Wednesday, March 3

7:00-9:00 PM

Loyola Academy, East Gym, 1100 Laramie Ave., Wilmette

Social networking is a great tool, but with it comes a great deal of responsibility. **Anastasia Goodstein**, publisher of Ypulse, a Forbes magazine Best of the Web blog and author of Totally Wired: What Teens and Tweens Are Really Doing Online will share real-life stories of privacy violations and practical advice on how to manage your online identity.

Parent University

Saturday March 13, 2010

Barbara Coloroso, acclaimed speaker, educator, author of Just Because It Isn't Wrong Doesn't Make It Right and The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander will share valuable advice on how to teach kids of all ages to think and act ethically. Join us for this keynote session and many other workshops.

Seniors Only: What Every High School Senior Should Know

Sunday, April 18 **New Date**

12:00-3:00 PM

Lake Forest College

High school seniors won't want to miss this fun, informative program. Watch your mail for details. *For more information on any of the above programs please go to www.leadweb.org or call (847) 295-9075.*

Talent Show, Linda Torcivia reported that Talent show auditions were held on January 23 and January 24. This year 24 acts were selected from the 54 acts that auditioned. Senior Act sign-up forms are due February 5 and are hoping that we will have a lot of interested seniors signing up. Ticket order forms are being mailed February 1 and the same ticket order form should appear on Ed-line February 3. The orders will again be mailed to a PO box. As voted on by the APT last year, tickets this year will be a uniform \$15. We are expecting that the ticketing process will be streamlined and revenues will be raised by the one ticket price. We have finished our first week of rehearsals. In addition to a great line-up of talent, we have an amazing group of 'tech' kids who have already spent hours working on sound and light issues and set design. Haley Beeson designed our program cover again this year. Alyssa Loiacano, who has come up with an imaginative setting for the show, will incorporate her art into the set design. We have met with the MCs to discuss the framework of the show and they have some great ideas. We are enjoying watching all the elements that make the Talent Show so much fun to watch start to come together. It is going to be a great show!

Grants, Sue Wagner stated that they are inviting all students interested in attending summer academic experiences to consider applying for a grant to help underwrite the costs of those camps, internships and seminars. Application information is available on the district website under Parent Opportunities and APT. Please feel free to contact Sue for more information at 847-295-3781 or her email address: allwags@comcast.net.

Project Safe Prom, Tracie Tolmie announced that they are currently starting the fundraising process. In total, approximately \$23,000 needs to be raised to fund the bus

transportation for the prom. A mailing will be going out to LFHS families in late January.

Nominating, Chrystal Gannon reported that the nominating committee has been selected. The following have volunteered to serve:

Current Board Members:

Sue Wagener
Mischelle Hopfinger
Terri Karst

APT Members At-Large:

Mary Sperzel
Kauri McHendry
Susan McMahan

The nominating committee will meet and determine candidates for Recording Secretary and Treasurer by the March APT Board meeting. All current board members are reminded to complete a nominating form, which will be used by the current APT President to complete a full roster of members for next year. It is very important to have your intentions known.

President, Donna LaVitola reported to the Board that the Executive Board was currently working on designing an APT logo; reviewing the APT by-laws, financial forms, board responsibilities, contact sheet, etc. The executive board is working on this project in order to put together an APT Board Welcome package for next year's board. Donna distributed a preliminary "Top Ten Tips" for new board members for an open discussion with the current board.

Open Doors, Laura Cox submitted the following report:

We are currently interviewing students that have taken part in the program in the past so that we can put their testimonials on the website. We are gearing up for all of our publicity leading up to the April roll out. We are also expanding our stable of mentors, working with counselors and teachers to get the word out and suggest participation to students.

Sophomore Class Representative, Susie Athenson submitted the following report:

Class Parent Meetings:

The Sophomore Parent meetings have concluded for the year. But if you have an idea for a Parent meeting, please contact me at sathenson@comcast.net - we welcome new ideas!

Sophomore Student Council:

The Sophomore Student Council has been very busy getting organized for the New Year. They worked at soup kitchens several times over the past month. The sophomores are also currently planning some fundraisers and preparing for the upcoming Winter Dance.

APT Student and Faculty Grants:

Please remember if your sophomore is interested in enrichment opportunities including leadership training, camps, seminars, summer programs, materials, or guest speakers please consider applying for an APT Student and Faculty Grant. The application and further information is available the LFHS website under “Parent Opportunities” and “APT”. For more information, contact Sue Wagener at (847) 295-3781 or allwags@comcast.net.

Junior Class Representative, Marcy Kerr submitted the following report:

The third program in the “On the Road to College” held January 28 was well attended by both parents and students. The program hosted three college admission experts who shared their perspectives on the advantages of an education at a liberal arts college, a public and a private research university. The program was presented by College Counselor, Jacquie Berkshire, and supported by the APT. About 150 attended. The next program in the “College” series will be the “College Selection Panel”, to be held Friday, April 23 at 10:00a.m.

The Junior Class primary service project of the year will take place Sunday, March 7th at Dickenson Hall Senior Center. This heart-warming experience has become a tradition of the Junior Class as the two generations come together to share stories, laugh, dine and dance. Many student volunteers are needed to work at the party. Sign-up sheets will be available during lunch periods or by contacting any of the student chairs, Ashley Boyce, Colin Danly, Catherine Kesman, Caroline Stride and Weston Terrasse. Please encourage your student to volunteer. If you have any questions regarding student volunteers, contact Parent Volunteer Chair Debbie Marcusson at damlfmom@comcast.net. The committee also needs parent volunteers to help provide the refreshments for the afternoon. Volunteers may choose to provide three dozen small finger sandwiches, fruit and veggie plates, assorted sweets or table treats. If you would like to help with the refreshments, please contact the Parent Food Chair, Francesca Connell at fconnell@aol.com or 847-604-9460. The Junior Class would also like to thank the parents working behind the scenes to help organize and promote the event: Julie Jahp, Diane Newman, and Alison Sherman. In addition, we would like to thank the Jazz Band Director Brian O’Connor, the Jazz Band, and the all the volunteers who will make the afternoon special.

The Prom committees are in full swing as final decisions are being made regarding prom colors, t-shirt designs, invitations and dinner menu. It is a busy time for our students as they have the opportunity to participate in making the evening special for each and every one of them. The Prom, themed, **Midnight Masquerade**, will be held **Saturday, May 22** at the **Chicago Marriott**. Buses partly funded by Project Safe Prom will safely transport the students. Information about this project was recently mailed to the parents of all LFHS students. The last parent meeting of the year will be a joint program with the senior class. The topic will be “Prom, What to Expect”. The meeting will be held Thursday, April 8th at 10:00a.m.

Senior Class Representative, Katie Begley submitted the following report: The Senior Council is serving at a soup kitchen in Waukegan for two Friday evenings in February and March as a charitable outreach. In addition, our next Senior Class Parent meeting is

in April and will be a joint meeting with junior parents about Prom. The senior parents will then find out all about the end of year special events and of course, Graduation-Class of 2010. I have begun the planning process with the Senior Council and their class advisor, Carolyn Konz, on the Bike and Bake Sale, which will take place on May 8. The senior class will begin taking suggestions from all seniors for a class gift to the school and many great ideas are already being discussed.

Vice President, Ruth Muscarello submitted the following report:

LFHS Liaison Committee Meeting – December 7, 2009

Mr. Tim Burkhalter, Director of Athletics, was the guest speaker and began with an update about the Athletic Department. Currently, there are 31 total sports offered at LFHS. This past fall, 781 students participated in the 12 sports offered. Winter sports were currently underway and this coming spring, 6 sports for boys and 6 sports for girls will be offered.

Tim then discussed the Athletic Code of Conduct. A committee made up of 15 student-athletes, coaches, teachers and administrators started work back in November/December 2008. The Emotional Wellness Initiative drove the Athletic Code of Conduct with the focus being on the Responsibility and Accountability components. The Athletic Code of Conduct has a July 1 start date and covers student conduct on and off campus 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, 365 days/year. Tim reviewed the different categories of violations and the consequences of each. (A copy of the LFHS Athletic Code of Conduct is inside the Athletic Department's Parent-Athlete Handbook or can be found on the Athletic webpage of the LFHS High School website under "Athletic Documents", www.lfhs.org). Tim reminded the group that in our roles as liaisons, we should call if we have any questions.

Tim also reviewed the academic eligibility of participating in a sport. Grade checks are made by the Athletic Department on Thursday and verified on Friday. Student-athletes must have 2.0 passing credits for the week or they are ineligible for contests. Student-athletes academically ineligible must attend the M-Th Athletic Study Tables until they maintain 2.0, or above, passing credits.

Jay Hoffman, LFHS Principal, discussed thoughts about the "All-School" Code of Conduct, currently in the early stages of discussion. Jay said Laura Clegg, Dean of Students, is currently working with a group of juniors and is looking at what other schools are doing in the way of "All-School" Code of Conducts. He also mentioned that administration is looking at "Extra-Curricular" Code of Conducts, which would cover conduct from members of clubs, theater, drama, music, etc.

The next meeting will be on Monday, February 22nd in Room 113 @ LFHS (East Campus). Guest Speakers will be representatives of the LFHS Core Teams, including Assistant Principal Jim Theil, Social Worker John Maher and NSSSED Psychologist Candice Adams. Jennifer Knight, Dean of Students, will also address Emotional Wellness.

Alumni Wall of Fame, Tracy Tolmie, Mary Sanders, and Sally Burns submitted the following report:

The committee met with Anne Whipple and Joy Murawski (LFHS Communications) in October 2009 to discuss the scope and timing of the Wall of Fame Project. The event was created in 2005 to recognize distinguished LFHS alumni. The selected alumni receive an award and are asked to speak to the senior class about their career experiences. The next awards will be given in April 2011. The planning for the event will begin in earnest in Fall 2010.

In November, the committee reviewed the existing files from past and prospective candidates and summarized the information on an Excel spreadsheet for future use. These paper files are currently housed in the LFHS Security office. The committee met with Jay Hoffman informally in January to explore his interest in having a guest motivational speaker for this year's senior class. Although he is open to the idea, if a stellar candidate was found, he feels the planned "All School Walk" (part of the Wellness Initiative) may take the place of such an event. The committee is considering its options.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50am.

Respectfully submitted
Jan Richman, Recording Secretary