

**Lake Forest High School APT Minutes**  
**March 2, 2011**  
East Campus Room #113

**Members Present:** Donna LaVitola, Ruth Muscarello, Michele Medzigian, Julie Eckert, Jan Richman, Germaine Arnson, Linda Torcivia, Susan McMahon, Marcy Kerr, Mary Flagstad, Linda Ganshirt, Sue Wagener, Susie Athenson, Julia Fiske Parker, Kathy Dasso, Marianne Stride, Lesley Guido, Pam Salm, Leeni Ellis, Justine Santello, Amy Tsarwhas, Laura Cox, Lorraine Freedman, Midge Nelson, Mischelle Hopfinger, Tracy Hill, Tracy Tolmie, Carolyn Konz

**Members Absent:** Susi Rowe, Barb Kesman, Karin Springer, Sarah Yarger Kienzle, Leann Asma, Nadia Walgreen, Laurie Sirius, Mary Sanders, Sally Burns

**President, Donna LaVitola** opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

**Superintendent, Harry Griffith** shared his experience of attending the annual ELS Basketball game. He stated that he hoped everyone would go and watch at least once in their time at LFHS. He met recently with the superintendents of New Trier and Stevenson and they are also struggling to get through these difficult economic times. The district is striving to focus on not cutting the things that directly impact students and to lower our costs in every other way possible. The shared service concept of District 67 and 115 is helping with a savings of \$600,000 per year. To date there have been cuts of 5.8% of the teachers and 9.8% support staff. By the end of next year there will be a 28% decrease in administration. He gave an update on **College Bound** an organization that he is bringing to the high school that helps economically challenged families with junior and senior students with the college selection process and then through out college. The number of low income families in Lake Forest has risen from 2.5% in 2006-07 to 4.5% this year. The program costs \$4000 per student per year for six years. The goal is to identify five LFHS students each year to enroll in the program. They must be highly motivated students with a minimum of a 3.7 GPA. So far Lake Forest Bank and Trust has committed \$15,000 and the Lions Club of Lake Bluff has donated \$10,000, support from other community organizations is being pursued. The class treasuries of each class at LFHS have donated \$500 to the project. If anyone is interested in making a donation or helping with the program, they should contact Harry Griffith or Kathy O'Hara to make a direct donation to the Lake Forest program.

**LFHS Foundation, Jennifer Graham and Janet Hughes** gave a presentation on what is currently going on with the Foundation. Last Friday was the deadline for applications for Foundation grants. This year, for the third year in a row, the requests total over \$250,000. In addition to fundraising through the letter campaign, this year a painting was commissioned by Mark McMahon to honor the 75 year anniversary of the school. The painting is called "Kids and Cars, a Classic Reunion" and it depicts vintage cars from over the years on the front lawn of LFHS. The cost of the painting was underwritten by Knauz and the original will be donated to the school. Prints are being sold to raise funds. The painting will be presented on April 26 at the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon at Exmoor. There will be a luncheon and silent auction. For more information visit [www.lfhsfoundation.org](http://www.lfhsfoundation.org)

**Open Doors, Laura Cox, Lorraine Freedman and Kathy O'Hara** introduced the Open Doors program for this year. They showed a video with comments and testimonials of some of the more than 170 kids who participated in last year's program. Open Doors is a program that is held April 27-29 and is an opportunity for all students to participate in career exploration. The APT support allowed this program to expand with the addition in recent years of the PT conference maker software that allows registration and matching of students requests with available opportunities to happen online. Online registration for this year's program will take place March 22-April 8. One of the key pieces of the program is the orientation that the students receive prior to their day of job shadowing. The orientation includes instruction on topics such as dress, business etiquette, communication and more. The instruction comes from various school adults, parents, professionals and videos. This year a staff member of Lake Forest College will be coming to address the students. A mailing is being sent home to each family at the end of this week explaining the program and registration. Kathy O'Hara stated that next year they are planning to have a series of "lunch and learn" programs where they bring professional in to speak with the students. Kids will sign up to attend through Naviance. Saturday, March 12 is the Parent Seminar being held at LFHS from 8:30 am to 12:00 n. It will be a morning of informative sessions and break outs related to everything having to do with the college selection process.

**CROYA, Todd Nahigian** gave an update of what is coming up at CROYA. The Battle of the Bands will be held April 9 and try outs will take place on March 11. The next CROYA Retreat is coming up March 18-20. The "Arrows" program for 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to come and talk about the transition to high school will be held March 11 from 2:00pm to 9:00pm. The following day there is a concert sponsored by the Kids Uganda Youth Board to raise money to build a dormitory for the school in Uganda. Todd informed us that he is no longer the Interim Director of CROYA and has been offered the position on a permanent basis.

**Communications, Ann Whipple** reported that the search firm Exec Connect that is conducting the search for a new superintendent for District 115 and 67 will present to the board on March 8. They will be sharing the results of the extensive survey and have put together a profile on what type of candidate the two districts are looking for. There will be a community Open House on Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup> to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of LFHS.

**Prom Chairs, Patti Scribner and JoAnn Kenehan** shared the progress of the Prom plans so far. The theme is "Neon Nights". The invitation is in production and will be mailed in a few weeks. Ticket sales will be held on April 19, 20 and 21<sup>st</sup>. Project Safe Prom is ahead of their goal for fundraising so far. It has been agreed that if there is an excess of funds raised the money will be donated to LEAD and CROYA, similar programs that are focused on kids making good choices. Project Safe Prom donations received prior to March 15 will have the donors names listed in the Prom Invitation Booklet. Volunteers are needed for the day of Prom to help with the check-in process and the Prom parade.

## **Committee Reports**

**Enrichment, Linda Ganshirt** announced that the students have decided to do Earth Week as their Enrichment project this year. Earth Week will take place the week of April 19. Activities for the week will include speakers on related topics, healthy food tastings during lunch hours, a Health Fair with activities such as yoga and meditation. On Friday of that week there is no school and the students wish to use that day to do an “earth friendly” service project, possibly in conjunction with the middle schools.

**Teacher Rep, Carolyn Konz** stated the teachers viewed the film *Race to Nowhere* on a recent Institute Day. The reactions were varied. After the film the teachers met in break out sessions with students to discuss the film.

**Alumni Wall of Fame, Tracy Tolmie** explained that the program is to honor former LFHS students who have distinguished careers. This year’s program will take place on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Three candidates have been selected and will remain a surprise. There will be a reception followed by an assembly in the auditorium where they will speak to the students about their experiences.

**Student and Faculty Grants, Sue Wagener** reported that the committee recently approved a \$1000 grant to Ben Davidson and the theatre department to buy a hazer. PALS also contributed to the purchase. A hazer is an apparatus used to enhance lighting effects. Sue reminded all that student grants are available to students who want to participate in programs, workshops or camps outside of school that will enhance their learning.

**Nominating, Pam Salm** thanked the nominating committee for coming up with this year’s slate of officers. They are as follows: Corresponding Secretary, Barb Kesman; Vice President, Jean Klewlow; President, Linda Ganshirt. We will vote on the slate at our next APT Board Meeting on April 6. Anyone interested in serving on next year’s board as a committee chair or knows someone else who would, please contact Pam.

**Parent Awareness, Susie Athenson** announced the upcoming LEAD sponsored program “Walking the Talk, Aligning Actions and Values” with speakers Madeline Levine and Denise Pope on March 15, 11am to 1 pm at Gorton Center. Also LEAD is holding their annual “Ladies Night Out” on Friday, March 18 at Lake Forest Academy. There will be seminars on various topics to choose from. 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. There will be a reception and book signing in the lobby of the RMA following the presentation. The Senior Class Reps and Hospitality will host the reception.

**President, Donna Lavitola** said she attended “Tech Night” for the Talent Show last night and thought it was wonderful. She thanked Linda Torcivia and Sherri Passalino for the positive changes that they helped institute to the show such as “Tech Night” and the new ticketing procedures. Donna asked that we all start preparing our final reports for our areas of responsibility. They are due in May and some committees that have no current activities, she would like to get sooner. She requested that everyone look at the “Guide to Positions” page for their position, revise if necessary and return it to Michele Medzigian who is updating the guide for next year. Please do not list a time commitment as we have done in the past unless it occurs during a specific time/months of the year. Donna encouraged all board members to ask questions about changes going on in our school and in the district and to be able to be a positive spokesperson to other parents who may have questions or concerns. Donna asked the board if we would like to support the “College Bound” program that Harry Griffith presented early in the meeting and it was suggested that APT match what the class treasuries have donated which is \$2000. Motion to approve the donation of \$2000 to College Bound Opportunities was approved.

**Recording Secretary, Michele Medzigian** asked for approval of the December and January minutes. Minutes were approved. Michele asked that the board members send the updated “Guide to Positions” page for their positions back to her via email which will save her a lot of typing.

**Liaison Committee, Vice President, Ruth Muscarello** stated that the Liaison Committee met recently on February 28<sup>th</sup> and the Business Education department of LFHS came and presented an overview of all that we offer to the students in this area. The next meeting will be Monday, April 11 at 9:00 am at the West Campus Administrative Center. Harry Griffith and Jay Hoffmann will discuss district and school goals for next year. All are welcome to attend.

**Treasurer, Jan Richman** reviewed the Financial Report.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am.