

Lake Forest High School APT Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2010

West Campus, Seminar B

Members Present: Donna LaVitola, Ruth Muscarello, Jan Richman, Julie Eckert, Terri Karst, Michele Medizigian, Susie Athenson, Marcy Kerr, Katie Begley, Leeni Ellis, Linda Torcivia, Sheri Passalino, Sue Wagener, Ana Kapoor, Jill Moutvic, Julia Fiske Parker, Linda Ganshirt, Mary Flagstad, Kathy Dasso, Lesley Guido, Chrystal Gannon, Marianne Stride, Roberta Zicarelli, Justine Santello, Pam Salm, Lorraine Freedman, Laurie Sirus, Mischelle Hopfinger, Mary Kay Jaekel, Mary Sanders, Tracy Tolmie

Members Absent: Diane Quon, Laura Cox, Sally Burns

Donna LaVitola called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

President, Donna LaVitola welcomed all to the meeting. She thanked Linda Torcivia and Sheri Passalino for their efforts in running a successful talent show. She thanked Tracie Tolmie and the Project Safe Prom Committee for their fundraising efforts. Almost all the funds needed have been raised to date. Marcy Kerr was thanked for the Junior Class involvement in the Senior Prom with 100 seniors and 70 students participating overall. The Emotional Wellness Walk is underway and scheduled for May 18th. Over sixty volunteers are needed for the walk and the subsequent carnival/music event on the lawn. She announced that two students, Emma and Corbin Heiser contributed funds for a plaque to be placed at the front of the school in honor of Stan Eaton. May 25th is the farewell party during the students' lunch period to thank Mr. Eaton for his contributions. EKG testing is slated for September 1 and Mary Kay Jaekel needs volunteers.

Secretary, Jan Richman made a motion to approve the minutes from the March APT Board meeting. First given by Terri Karst and a second given by Julia Fiske Parker. Motion passed with all approving. Jan thanked the board members for submitting monthly reports and reminded others to email them.

Treasurer, Terri Karst stated the financials for the meeting were distributed via email yesterday.

Principal, Jay Hoffmann reported that all winter sports had concluded. The Illinois swimmer of the year is Mitch Starr. Eight hundred students are involved in spring athletics. The Choir went to Greece over spring break. Next year, the band and orchestra will travel to Europe to perform. Report cards were mailed yesterday for the third quarter. The Prairie State Exams are slated for the end of April. Tomorrow there is a junior/senior class parent meeting about the prom and graduation.

Special Guest, Julie Cooley, Superintendent of Student Services gave a power point presentation regarding the restructuring of the Counseling and College Counseling

Departments. This process was started two years ago involving a Post High School Planning Committee. Please see attached presentation for full detail.

Special Guests, Kamy Daddano (Director of CROYA) and Chris Waugh, (President of the Adult Advisory Board to CROYA) addressed the Board regarding the budget shortfall effecting the staffing changes at CROYA. Eighty-four percent of the CROYA budget is personnel related. All City of Lake Forest Departments have made cuts resulting in the loss of seven city personnel, one of which pertained to CROYA. Todd Nahigian will be the new high school contact replacing Chris Torrance. Various Board members and guests at the meeting expressed their concern regarding the ongoing operations of CROYA meeting the needs of the LFHS students. In addition, many people expressed their disappointment in the firing of Chris Torrance. Kamy emphasized that CROYA personnel work together and will try to continue the same work provided to LFHS students.

Grants, Sue Wagener 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.

Nominating Chair, Chrystal Gannon stated that The APT Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of officers for the 2010-2011 school year:

Continuing Officers - one year remaining:

President – Donna LaVitola

Vice President – Ruth Muscarello

Corresponding Secretary – Julie Eckert

New Officers - Two-year positions:

Recording Secretary – Michelle Medzigian

Treasurer - Jan Richman

Brief Bios:

Michele Medzigian – Michele moved here five years ago from Greenwich, CT.

She has three children: Brendan 19, a freshman at Miami, Connor 17, a junior and Maggie 14, a freshman. Most recently Michele served as the freshman class representative. She has also been varsity football team mom for two years (08 and 09), served on the prom committee 08 and also the “*Let There Be Lights Committee*”.

Jan Richman - Jan has lived in Lake Forest for 11 years. She has three children: Jason, who graduated from Stanford; Zach, a freshman at University of Illinois, and Jilly, currently a sophomore at LFHS. Jan served as VP for Cherokee’s APT. She also served four years on the Spirit of 67 Foundation Board. In addition, she served as both Treasurer and President of the Newcomers' Club of Lake Forest and the Encore Club. Most recently, Jan served as Recording Secretary on the APT Executive Board.

Chrystal Gannon made a motion to elect the proposed slate with Sue Wagener seconding the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

The following have volunteered to serve on the nominating committee:

Chrystal Gannon, Nominating Chair

Current Board Members:

Sue Wagener

Mischelle Hopfinger

Terri Karst

APT Members At-Large:

Mary Sperzel

Kauri McHendry

Susan McMahan

President, Donna LaVitola stated that last month she had distributed a new Policy and Procedures for the Board. She made a motion to vote on the new Policy and Procedures outline. First given by Ruth Muscarello and a second by Julie Eckert. Motion passed with unanimous support.

EKG Testing, Mary Kay Jaekel announced that on September 1st there will be EKG testing for all incoming freshmen and sophomores, and any student not previously tested. She is in need of fifty volunteers for the one-day testing. LFHS supports the Max Schewitz Foundation that raises funds for EKG testing over the last four years. For further information please see the website: maxandthewildthings.com. The annual Maxstravaganza is scheduled for June 19th at the Lake Forest Sports Cars. All APT Board members please bring a bottle of wine to the next APT meeting for the wine cellar auctioned off at the event.

Senior Class Representative, Katie Begley announced that there is a Senior Class Parent Meeting on April 8th at 10 a.m. Bike and Bake Sale is scheduled for May 8th. Any toy with wheels, including strollers, rollerblades, bikes and skateboards are eligible for the sale. Please bring your used bike to the Field House on May 7 from 4-7pm or May 8 from 7-9:30am for the sale. Also, the Senior Class has chosen their class gift, which will be announced shortly.

Sophomore Class Representative, Susie Athenson submitted the following report: The Sophomore parents are welcomed to attend the Junior Parent meeting on April 8th at 10:00 AM in the DMT when the Junior/Senior Prom will be discussed.

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 helped out at the recent ELS basketball game on March 12th. They continue to volunteer at the Holy Family Soup Kitchen in Waukegan once a

week with Mr. Eaton. The students are also planning a canned food drive. Donations of canned food can be dropped off in any of the marked boxes located throughout the school April 5th through April 16th.

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 Junior Class hosted another very successful Senior Citizen Party, March 7th at the Senior Center. Over 100 senior citizens enjoyed an afternoon of great food, music and dancing. More than 70 students from the Junior Class spent their afternoon entertaining, mingling, dancing and laughing with the seniors. A great video is posted on the APT website.

The next junior parent meeting 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. It is a great forum especially for parents whose children will be attending Prom for the first time.

Junior students and parents are invited to attend the COLLEGE_SELECTION PANEL, Friday, April 23, beginning at 9:30 a.m. (this is a time change to accommodate the students) in the David Miller Theatre. Current seniors will share their journey through the college selection and the application process

The Prom, themed Midnight Masquerade will be held Saturday, May 22 at the Chicago Marriott. Invitations were mailed to all juniors and seniors April 1st. Junior parent volunteers are still needed to chaperone. Please contact Pat Carollo or Carol Sperry, Prom Chaperone Chairs if you are interested in helping out.

PSAE testing for juniors will be 4/28 and 4/29.

Vice President, Ruth Muscarello submitted the following report:

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 12th at the WEST Campus (300 S. Waukegan) in one of the 2nd floor seminar Rooms. Guest Speakers will be Principal Jay Hoffman and Superintendent Dr. Harry Griffith who will share school and district goals.

Directory Committee, Lesley Guido submitted the following report:

The Directory Committee is currently soliciting artwork for the cover of the Directory and is hoping to receive some by June. Any and all encouragement of the student body would be appreciated by everyone!

Talent Show, Linda Torcivia and Sheri Passalino submitted the following report:
The Talent Show was held on March 10-13. The show was very well received. The cast and crew worked extremely hard to create a wonderful show and the audiences were very responsive. The feedback we have received has been overwhelmingly positive. Although all expenses are not yet turned in, preliminary figures indicate that revenues are up this year. Ticket prices were changed to a uniform \$15 last year and this change definitely helped boost revenues.

We would like to thank our Student Committee, the MCs and the Parent Committee, all of whom spent countless hours making sure the show was a success. We are especially grateful to Brad Balonick, Ben Davidson and the tech crew who truly made the show happen.

Due to the overwhelming demand for tickets again this year, we had to return over \$5,000 of ticket orders/donations. Many people were not able to obtain tickets immediately or had to attend a second choice performance. People were encouraged to sell back tickets that they were not using and to show up on performance nights to see if tickets had been turned in. We found that everyone who showed up on a show night was ultimately able to obtain a seat. There were also unsold seats at the Preview Performance on Wednesday. We are recommending that tech parents be invited to a special "Parent Tech. Night" during the last week of rehearsals and that parents of students in the Senior Act be invited to attend the same night that the Senior Act kids watch the show. Allowing these parents to see their kids in action at these times should also ease the demand for tickets. Raising the ticket price to \$20 could also be considered. The 2011 show will be produced by Karin Springer and directed by Sarah Yarger Kienzle.

Please note that the final meeting for our current Board will be on Wednesday, May 5th in the Wedge Café with a light breakfast provided by the hospitality committee. There is an extra meeting scheduled for the New Board on May 12th and will be a working board meeting in Room #113.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25am.

Respectfully submitted
Jan Richman, Recording Secretary