

**Lake Forest High School APT Minutes**  
**September 7, 2011**  
East Campus Room 113

**Members Present:** Linda Ganshirt, Jean Clewlow, Michele Medzigian, Barb Kesman, Jan Richman, Julie Stevenson, Lisa Garrity, Colleen Laughlin, Sheila Cavalaris, Laurie Doherty, Mary Beth Theodore, Julia Fiske Parker, Amy Keaton, Sheri Passalino, Mary Kay Jaekel, Lisa Troller, Sue Wagener, Susie Athenson, Julie Eckert, Marianne Stride, Julie Thauer, Leann Asma, Leslie Habjan, Andrea Perino, Susan McMahan, Erin Foley, Kathleen Hanson, Amy Tswarhas, Lorraine Freedman, Midge Nelson, Tracy Matthews Hill

**Members Absent:** Cathy Dohnalek, Ruth Muscarello, Leeni Ellis, Mary Flagstad

**President, Linda Ganshirt** opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She thanked the board for all of the effort and work that was accomplished over the summer months in preparation for this school year. She shared that the new program to invite parents to volunteer in library this year was so well received that from our summer mailing there was a response of 60 parents who were interested. From that group thirty people have been signed up to come in and help. Open House is next Tuesday night and we will have an APT table set up in the commons and staffed by board members to answer questions and recruit more members. The senior class meeting is coming up this Thursday evening, September 8<sup>th</sup>. Linda introduced Jay Hoffmann.

**Principal, Jay Hoffmann** greeted the board and stated that it has been a very good start to the school year so far. He reiterated his excitement about the new library program and introduced Kerry Littel, Head Librarian who is also our faculty liaison to the APT this year. Classes are off to a good start and although class sizes are larger this year the teachers have handled it well. Early retirement was offered to support staff and eleven people took advantage of that option. Some may come back on a part-time basis. The enrollment last year was 1758 students and this year it is 1728 which is in line with projections. Deerpath is reporting some increase this year so we may have to adjust the projections for next year. Six teachers retired last year. The senior class has 455 students which is one of the biggest in years. We had an influx of 385 new (non-freshman) students this year. Dr. Merry Quinn has left to be the assistant principal of Lakes High School and Jim Thiel is taking over her role in the Counseling Department. Jay answered some questions about the resource centers. The Math Resource Center is staffed from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Director of Communications, Anne Whipple** sent a message from Dr. Griffith to say hello and welcome back. He is looking forward to joining next month's APT meeting. Joy Murawski has moved her offices to the west campus administrative offices and is just as available to help with questions regarding the web site. Anne stated that they would like to put together some focus groups to look at the web site and the e-communications and solicit feedback on ways to improve and there will be more information in the coming weeks. Anne announced that Dickinson Hall (home of the Lake Forest Senior Center) is trying to reposition itself and offer more events for people in their 50's. There is a three part series coming up that deals with transitions and caring for elderly parents.

**President, District 115 Board of Education, Sharon Golan** gave an update on the superintendent search which is on track to be wrapped up by February. The school board is involved with teacher negotiations and they are going well. The board is looking for a community member to serve on the Operations Committee. Applications can be found on the web-site and the deadline is September 19. Sharon stated that the best place to get correct information on what is going on with the board is either through her, Jay Hoffmann, Harry Griffith or the web-site.

**Director of Personnel and Instruction, Jennifer Knight** shared the story of the birth of her new daughter just three days after Prom last spring. Jen announced the upcoming Youth Summit which will be held September 15. Students from all three community high schools were selected to attend a one day conference put on by the Women's Health Advisory Board at Lake Forest Hospital to discuss the pros and cons of being a teen growing up in Lake Forest. Jen gave us an update on the Dean's office and stated that John Maher and Frank Lesniak have been recently added as deans and will join Bill Donlon and Laura Clegg. Jen explained that in her new role she is responsible for human resources, professional development, health, telecom, driver's ed, and she is also handling student programming, emotional wellness and prom.

**CROYA, Todd Nahigian** encouraged all to go to [croya.com](http://croya.com) to see the updates that have been made. The e-highlights have become a top ten list. Over the summer CROYA students participate in several community service activities one of them being a trip to Battle Creek, MI to help with a Habitat house. Coincidentally the trip came right after the area had been hit hard with storms so the students also assisted with the clean-up. The CROYA float took first place in the Lake Forest Days parade. Todd stated that CROYA is always open to any new activities that the students are interested in pursuing. He gave the example of some students who wanted to start a Quidditch league. The fall retreat will be held November 18-20 and sign-ups will begin sometime in late September or early October. Todd reminded everyone that Joanne Yarro is the high school staff person and shared the good news that CROYA has the approval to hire one more person to be on staff.

**Be True to Your School, Erin Foley and Kathleen Hanson** announced that this year's event will be held on Saturday, October 22 at the Lake Bluff Golf Course. The invitation will be going in the mail very soon. One change for this year is that there will not be a silent auction. There will be a live auction with items from each class. All of the proceeds will be split four ways and go to the students' class treasuries. This year there will be a paddle raise and the funds will go toward completing the Wi-Fi project to make the entire school wireless. There will be a booster store fashion show with students modeling the clothing available. This year the raffle prize is a box for a Bull's game and 600 tickets were already sold at Book Buy. There will be a "Heads or Tails" and the prize will be an I pad 2. In addition, the APT will provide a Wine Cellar auction item and Erin and Kathleen asked that all members donate a bottle of wine for the collection or a give a monetary donation for this item.

**Student Assistance Program (SAP), Deborahanne Reimer** explained that she is working with Districts 115, 65 and 67 on prevention efforts. She works with the schools and each of the school's social workers. Last year an example of what the program accomplished was the Positive Social Norms Campaign. The goal was to get positive information out to the students about what is actually happening versus what the students perceive is happening regarding social issues. This was accomplished through posters and the Letters to the Loo. The SAP program is student driven.

**Faculty Liaison, Kerry Littel** thanked the board and stated that the teachers are grateful for the breakfast the APT Hospitality Committee provided when they came back to school. Homecoming is in two weeks. A suggestion was made that Kerry ask the teachers to be aware and not schedule tests or assign a lot of work the night of the pep rally. The Senior Class will be selling homecoming t-shirts during lunch the week beginning September 19. Kerry reminded all that Parent Open House is next week and that the library will be serving refreshments that parents are welcome to enjoy when they have a break between classes. The President of Follett's Library division is a parent of a current student. He has generously agreed to donate a collection of e-books. Kerry stated that it was decided to choose books that are related to test preparation and would benefit a large number of our students. The Art Department reported that a large number of students helped out with the recent Art Fair in Market Square and some of our students even sold some of their own art. The Science Department recently received all new white boards. The Library Parent Volunteer program is up and running and training was last week. Teen Read week will be held the end of October. The school has purchased 30 Nooks which can be used for classes or students will be able to check them out of the library for their personal use.

**Hospitality Committee, Julie Eckert, Julie Thauer, and Marianne Stride** announced that they have hosted two events so far. A welcome lunch was provided for new teachers and a welcome back breakfast was served to the faculty. Upcoming events will be an open-house to highlight the Chinese foreign language program and also the APT will provide dinner for the teachers during conferences.

**LFHS Foundation, Denise Bunning** introduced herself as the Foundation's liaison to the APT this year. She explained that the focus of the Foundation has been on collaboration with all of the school organizations. This summer the Foundation produced and mailed home a brochure to all parents explaining all of the parent volunteer organizations at LFHS. The Foundation's fall fundraising efforts are underway and Denise expressed thanks to all who continue to give so generously. The Foundation had applications for over \$250,000 worth of grants last year. Last spring for the first time the Foundation hosted a luncheon and over \$60,000 was raised at the event.

**Prom Chairs, Lisa Baker and Sue Kutschke** announced that this year's prom will be held on May 19 at the Chicago Marriott. For anyone who would like to assist with prom, volunteers are still needed and welcome. There is a "Prom" link on the LFHS web-site. The first all-committee meeting will be held on September 26. Project Safe Prom is underway and is being chaired by Nadine Stow. There will be a sign-up sheet to recruit volunteers at Open House.

**Volunteer Committee, Susan McMahon** passed out an excel sheet to the board which lists the names of all parents who said they would like to volunteer this year. The list is generated from the mailing that went home this summer. The sheet is organized by the different events, committees and classes so that anyone needing volunteers can see the specific parents who said they would like to help out in a particular area. In addition to the hard copy an electronic version will be e-mailed to everyone. She stated that they are still receiving forms back in the mail and any additional names they receive will be emailed separately to the committee chairs to be added to the lists.

**New Family/Membership, Midge Nelson** reported that an orientation/coffee was held for all new families and was very well attended. Eight different people representing various areas of the school were invited to speak and give a brief overview to the new families and answer any questions that they had. In addition, each new family received a “welcome” binder of information to help orient them to their new school. The event and the binder were very well received and seem to be greatly appreciated by the families. Midge mentioned the fantastic job that Megan Miles and the Student to Student organization do in pairing up with the new students and mentoring them as they begin their time at LFHS. Midge and Mary spent the summer contacting new families.

**Directory, Leann Asma and Leslie Habjan.** Linda Ganshirt thanked the Directory Chairs for the amazing job they are doing. Leann explained that the cover binding is going to be different than in year’s past and will be less expensive. She thanked all of the board members who helped at Book Buy. More volunteers will be needed in October to mail the directories home.

**Parent Awareness, Susie Athenson** introduced herself and stated that in her role as the Parent Awareness Chair she primarily works with LEAD and is a liaison for the APT and the programs that the APT helps support. To date there are three confirmed presentations scheduled and the goal is to have one parent program every month. The first program is on October 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the DMT and guest speaker Jennifer Delahunty author of *I’m Going to College Not You*, which she co-wrote with Jane Hamilton will be the presenter. The next program is scheduled for November 2 at 7:00 p.m. in the RMA and speaker Dr. Wendy Mogul author of *Blessings of a Skinned Knee* and *Blessings of a B-* will be the featured guest. Then on November 19 at 7:00 in the DMT the APT will once again co-sponsor the “Parents, Teens and the Law” program for all LFHS parents and students.

**Corresponding Secretary, Barb Kesman** informed the group that she receives news of happenings within our school community and sends acknowledgement to the families usually with a card from the APT. She let the board know that if anyone needs APT stationary she has the supply and to please let her know.

**Treasurer, Jan Richman** reminded the group that she emailed them all the necessary forms to be used when dealing with APT funds. Over the summer Jan together with Linda worked to put together the proposed budget for 2011-12. The fiscal year ends July 31<sup>st</sup>. Each member has received a copy of the proposed budget and we will vote on it at our next APT meeting on October 5. Jan stated that through out the year we do have flexibility to make changes but if there is going to be any overage for any committee that it needs to be discussed with herself and Linda.

**Talent Show, Mary Kay Jaekel** informed the board that the Talent Show is scheduled for March 1-3, 2011.

**Recording Secretary, Michele Medzigian** explained that new sets of APT signs were printed and asked the Class Reps to be responsible for keeping them. She stated that she is still waiting for a few monthly reports and stressed that she needs to hear from each committee even if they do not have anything to report that month. She asked for approval of the minutes from the APT Board meeting May 25, 2010. A motion to approve was made and seconded.

The next APT meeting will be held Wednesday, October 5 at 9:00 a.m. in room 113.  
Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michele Medzigian  
Recording Secretary