

Lake Forest High School APT Minutes
October 6, 2010
East Campus Room #113

Members Present: Donna LaVitola, Ruth Muscarello, Michele Medzigian, Julie Eckert, Jan Richman, Germaine Arnson, , Linda Torcivia, Susan McMahan, Susi Rowe, Mary Flagstad. Barb Kesman, Linda Ganshirt, Karin Springer, Sue Wagener, Marianne Stride, Leann Asma, Lesley Guido, Pam Salm, Leeni Ellis, Justine Santello, Amy Tsarwhas, Nadia Walgreen, Lorraine Freedman, Mischelle Hopfinger, Midge Nelson, Tracy Hill, Mary Sanders, Sally Burns, Tracy Tolmie

Members Absent: Marcy Kerr, Julia Fiske Parker, Laura Cox, Laurie Sirus,

President, Donna LaVitola began the meeting by welcoming the board and all Members at Large and guests.

Principal, Jay Hoffmann gave an update on what is going on in the school. Homecoming and Open House were both very successful. He gave thanks to the Student Council for their hard work in planning and executing a very early Homecoming this year. Approximately 1000 kids attended the dance. There are two weeks left in the quarter and progress report grades will be mailed home at the close of the quarter.

Superintendent, Harry Griffith Greeted the board and introduced Board of Education member Nicki Snoblin. Harry explained that this year the board will rotate attendance at our meetings. Harry stated that there is a lot going on with the board in working on financial goals and coming up with a five year plan. He discussed his future retirement and informed us that the two boards are beginning their search. There will be parent involvement and they will keep us informed. Harry discussed a new project that he is heading up to provide college support to LFHS students who both cannot afford to go and need some help with the college process. Highland Park has a program that has been in existence for about six years called “College Bound Opportunities” The goal to start is to identify five LFHS students and grow from there. Harry is reaching out the community and other organizations and hopes to raise \$120,000 to begin helping these five students. If you want to learn more please check out the website www.CBO4edu.org

Director of Communications, Anne Whipple spoke to us about the social networking technology conference that she recently attended. The E-Highlights is continuing to be improved and they are always looking for ways to make it user friendly. She discussed “District Dashboards” a link that will provide cumulative data on what is happening both operationally and educationally in the district. She shared with us that there is now an app for iphones that will allow you to put the LFHS website on your desktop as a shortcut. The new and improved *College Planning Brochure* was handed out at the junior parent meeting last night. It is available in the Counseling Office. They are working on “Echoes in the Hall” which are oral histories about people’s experiences at LHFS.

CROYA, Todd Nahigian talked about the great response to the question and answer piece that went out to help dispel some of the myths and rumors about the recent changes at CROYA. Todd explained that although they are still working on the new website, the old website is still up and running and is up to date with information. They are interviewing to find a replacement for Caroline Hermes and hope to have someone by the first of the year. He discussed the upcoming retreat November 19 – 21 and said it is one of the most impactful things they do. There will be an Open House on November 14th from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of CROYA.

Grants, Sue Wagener gave an overview of what grants we provided during the 2009-10 school year. We gave four faculty grants and she invited staff from each department to show us what they are doing in their areas. **Kathy O'Hara** spoke to us about the “Big to Little” program. LFHS students are paired up with elementary students from North Chicago. Forty of our students go each week to the A.J. Katzenmeyer school and help tutor and mentor the 85 kids in their after school program. **Wendy Antrim** showed us the incredible student art permanent collection that our grant dollars helped create name labels for display. The pieces are selected either by the student offering to donate them to the school or the art department asks the student to allow them to keep it for display. The entire collection can be viewed on the web site. **Kerry Littel** told us about “Teen Read Week” which our grant helps to fund. This year the theme is “Books with Beat”. There is a different event each day during the week and we bring in various authors, artists and presenters. There is a great deal of participation and the students really enjoy it. She also walked us through the library web site and showed us all of the resources and services available to our students. There is a database for every area and discipline in the school. Kerry presented the board with a gift to be donated to the auction at Be True to Your School.

LEAD, Director Betty Frank Baily spoke to us about the “Speak Up” prevention coalition. The coalition was started in 2006 and it is run by a governing board. LEAD provides administrative and fiscal support. The mission is to significantly reduce the level of under age drinking and substance abuse in our community. The coalition recently received a \$125,000 a year grant for the next five years from the Federal Drug Free Commission. Betty spoke to us about prescription drug use and stated that 70% of kids who abuse prescription drugs get them from home. The Lake Forest and Lake Bluff Police stations now have drop boxes for disposing of unused prescription drugs. LEAD upcoming events are:

- 10/26 LEADERS lunch at First Presbyterian Church (2010 II. Youth Survey Results)
- 11/2 Life of an Athlete 7pm. RMA
- 11/7 Red Ribbon Race Elawa Farms 9:00 am.
- 11/11 Parents Teens and the Law 7pm. RMA

Betty informed us about the Life of an Athlete presentation with speaker John Underwood. Parents, students, athletes and coaches are all encouraged to attend. His talk focuses on Leadership, integrity, personal choices and their impact. We watched a short video with a preview of what the presentation will be about.

Committee Reports

President, Donna LaVitola briefly discussed our goal of getting athletics involved in the emotional wellness program. Donna and Michele Medzigian attended a screening of the movie Race to Nowhere. This documentary highlights the issues and stresses that our students face as part of our culture of achievement. LEAD is hoping to get the movie here for a screening by our community sometime in January. Donna is recruiting a team of APT Board members and friends to walk in the upcoming “Making Strides” walk for breast cancer on Saturday, October 17 at Independence Grove. A sign up sheet was passed around.

Vice President, Ruth Muscarello informed everyone of the upcoming Liaison Committee Meeting on October 18. Jay Hoffmann and Harry Griffith will discuss goals for the high school and answer questions.

Michele Medzigian, Recording Secretary, asked for an approval of the September minutes. The minutes were approved. She reminded the board to submit a report for their committee every month.

Sophomore Class Representatives, Linda Torcivia and Susan McMahon updated us on the Sophomore Class parent meetings. They are beginning to promote “Parents, Teens and the Law” the joint meeting with the Junior Class and LEAD. Post cards will be mailed out to promote attendance. It was recommended that audience members be able to write their questions on cards and have them passed to the panel to answer.

Junior Class Representatives, Sherri Passalino and Susi Rowe filled us in on the recent meeting for the parents of the Junior Class. The new Four Year College Planning Guide was introduced at the meeting and was very well received. 150 people were in attendance.

Alumni Wall of Fame, Tracy Tolmie, Sally Burn and Mary Sanders, stated that their efforts are underway to search for and solicit candidates to be included in this year’s event. They hope to have at least three candidates this year. Applications for nominations are on the web site and are due in early December. The event will be held on April 13, 2011 in the RMA. The committee is looking for ways to highlight the 75th Anniversary of our school this year. They stressed that they are looking for a variety of types of applicants.

Directory, Lesley Guido, Leann Asma informed us that the directory is almost finished and they hope to have it to the printer by the end of the week.

EKG Testing, Tracy Hill, Donna thanked Tracy for all of her hard work on this event. Tracy stated that the make-up testing day went very well. They determined that the reason for the scheduling glitch that occurred with the first event was due to students schedules that had been changed. Many students change their schedules in the first few weeks of school and they were going off the original schedules and not the most recent updated ones.

Treasurer, Jan Richman asked for an approval of the Budget for 2010-11. The budget was approved. Jan stated that in September we received a great deal of underwriting/donations for Be True to Your School. The APT made a donation to Dreams for Kids in memory of Brendan Touhy. Jan also informed us that she checks the APT mail box each week and also pays bills weekly.

Special Events, Julie Eckert, Nadia Walgreen Julie thanked Jan Richman for all of her help in processing all of the financial items for the event. She reported that we have 112 silent auction items. Julie thanked the APT members who donated wine to the APT Wine Collection auction item. Reservations for the event are currently at 245. The committee attended all of the class meeting to promote the evening. Julie also stated that raffle sales through the invitation have been phenomenal. Our auctioneer for the night is Ron Bernardi and he has waived his fee.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.