

Lake Forest High School APT Minutes
November 3, 2010
East Campus Room #113

Members Present: Donna LaVitola, Ruth Muscarello, Michele Medzigian, Julie Eckert, Jan Richman, Linda Torcivia, Susan McMahon, Sherri Passalino, Marcy Kerr, Linda Ganshirt, Sue Wagener, Susie Athenson, Julia Fiske Parker, Marianne Stride, Leann Asma, Lesley Guido, Pam Salm, Leeni Ellis, Justine Santello, Amy Tsarwhas, Nadia Walgreen, Lorraine Freedman, Midge Nelson, Tracy Hill, Mary Sanders, Sally Burns, Tracy Tolmie

Members Absent: Susi Rowe, Mary Flagstad, Barb Kesman, Karin Springer, Sarah Yarger Kienzle, Kathy Dasso, Laura Cox, Laurie Sirus, Mischelle Hopfinger

President, Donna LaVitola opened the meeting and introduced our guest, **Dr. David Clough** from the executive search firm that is helping our school board recruit a new superintendent, **School Exec Connect**. He conducted a focus group to solicit feedback which will help them understand what the parents in our district are looking for in a candidate. He is being assisted in the search by Linda Hansen. In January they will present to both the District 115 and District 67 School Boards a profile report with a recommended list of attributes that they believe will meet the needs of our school communities. There will be a total of at least 17 different focus groups between the two districts and the community. After the focus group Donna took the opportunity to thank all board members who participated in the breast cancer walk.

Special Events, Julie Eckert and Nadia Walgreen thanked all who attended and supported **Be True To Your School**. They stated that they successfully achieved their two most important goals 1) to create an identity for the event and 2) to have fun! Julie Eckert thanked Ruth Muscarello for helping her with the job of Corresponding Secretary while she was chairing this event. The event grossed \$136,000 and \$103,000 will be added to the student's class treasuries. This year the auction catalog was a new addition and was helpful in getting people to bid on the items. The "buy it now" feature was also very successful accounting for 42% of all the silent auction sales. The silent auction earned \$34,482, the live auction \$38,000, the heads or tails had a participation of 95% and raised \$2415 and the raffle earned \$6515. Teacher participation was high and very much appreciated. With the event earning more money we discussed that as a board we will begin to look at developing a new financial model that will define how the larger amounts of money will be utilized in the future.

CROYA, Todd Nahigian stated that the recent Leaders Lunch was a success and highlighted some of the things that were presented. Drugs and alcohol immediately affect the levels of testosterone in the brain. The long term effects of drugs were discussed and how there is a cumulative effect. It can take the brain over a year to recover from even a moderate amount of drug use. A brain scan was shown that illustrated how the teenage brain is over stressed and over programmed. Kids are not relaxing enough and letting their brain be quiet because they are always plugged in to either music or television or computers or phones. The new CROYA website is now up and running and is much easier to navigate. www.croya.com. The upcoming retreat 11/19 – 21 is sold out and there is a waitlist. 11/14 is the 30th Anniversary of CROYA and there will be a celebration from 3pm. to 6pm. in the CROYA Student Union. They will also be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the music school. There is a job search underway to find a

replacement for Caroline Hermes who is leaving after the retreat. There have been 300 applications received so far and the hope is to have a new person in place by January. Tonight, 11/3 there is a Kids Uganda fundraiser called “Drumming for a Dorm” funds raised will help build a new boys dorm for the school in Uganda. Also in memory of Brendan Touhy who was very involved with CROYA there is a campaign called “Text for Touhy”. Kids can text in donations which will benefit Brendan’s favorite charity, Dreams for Kids. They are specifically raising money to provide adaptive ski equipment. Text 85944 CROYA and reply “yes” to the confirmation. \$10.00 will be added to the donor’s phone bill.

Committee Reports

President, Donna LaVitola informed us that the documentary Race to Nowhere is being presented in our community on January 20th. We will get more details soon. Donna and Susie Athenson attended the Leaders Lunch. The “Life of an Athlete” presentation was very successful and there were more students in attendance than parents. Tomorrow in the library the speaker John Underwood will be conducting small group meetings with the students.

Directory, Leann Asma and Lesley Guido announced that the 2010-11 Directories have been mailed. As of publication date we have 1105 APT members and 1585 directories were mailed. The committee is looking into new updated software to use for next year which will simplify the data input process. Also, the distribution process will be reviewed to see if there is any way to save money on mailing.

Parent Awareness, Susie Athenson added to what Donna said about the “Life of an Athlete” presentation and stated that the theme of the talk was about lifestyle, choices and balancing one’s life. There is a link on the website on the “Athletics” page to John Underwood’s program. There will be focus groups going on in the next few weeks to discuss ways that we as a school can implement the program. Susie highlighted all of the upcoming LEAD programs and asked for our support for the upcoming Red Ribbon Race on 11/7, Parents, Teens and the Law on 11/11, Race to Nowhere 1/20. There are now receptacles in the police departments to dispose of prescription drugs. It has been suggested that a program for parents of seniors who will be going off to college be looked into. Susie told us about a book called Letting Go, by Karen Levin Coburn. We currently have a program for the kids called “Breaking Away”.

Vice President, Ruth Muscarello reported on the first Liaison Committee meeting. Scott Kraniak, Director of Safety and Security talked about all of the new infrastructure that was put into place during our last construction update such as new fire stairwells, hundreds of cameras, a loading dock and one way intercoms. Superintendent Harry Griffith spoke to the committee about teacher contracts and the new Dashboard system. The next Liaison Committee meeting is December 6th. Jay Hoffman will address LFHS goals and there will be a speaker to present the Applied Arts.

Hospitality Committee, Julia Fiske Parker and Marianne Stride invited us to the APT Breakfast Meeting and Holiday Celebration, next month on December 8th at 9:30 am. at the Southgate Cafe. Invitations will be mailed.

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

Treasurer Report, Jan Richman reviewed the financial statement for the month. The membership dues thus far were deposited. For now the class fundraiser monies are classified as income but we are just holding them until they are distributed back out to the class treasuries. Board expenses totaled \$600 and a new laptop was purchased for the Treasurer. Bank balances reflect the previous month. Also we made a donation to Dreams for Kids.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.