

**Lake Forest High School APT Minutes**  
**September 8, 2010**  
East Campus Room #113

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

**Members Absent:** Sherri Passalino, Sarah Yarger Kienzle,

**President, Donna LaVitola** welcomed everyone back for the new school year. She introduced our Members at Large: Pam Stanton, Liaison from District 67 Exec Board, Janet Hughes, Liaison from LFHS Foundation, Mary Beth Theodore, Liaison from DPM APT and Todd Nahigian, CROYA.

**Principal, Jay Hoffmann** stated that we are in week 4 of classes and so far we are off to a good start! He reviewed the schedule for Homecoming later this week as well as reminded us all of Open House next week. He let us know that freshman orientation went very well this year with 100 junior and senior students serving as mentors to the incoming freshman. Regarding concerns with safety as students come and go from school, he informed us that the City of Lake Forest is responsible for making sure that the areas around school are safe for the students. We are working in conjunction with the city to explore ways to make things safer. He discussed that there have been some tough decisions made with 25 employee positions cut over the past two years. We are short in a few areas and class sizes are larger but so far the teachers seem to be handling the difference. He addressed concerns about the Math Resource Center not being available to the students in the morning and stated that because of the amount of feedback that he has gotten and the apparent need, it will be reopened. Last year LFHS reached a record high ACT score of 26.3. In addition, over 900 AP exams were taken and we achieved the highest cumulative scores to date. The Social Norm Campaign has hung posters around school related to issues of teen drinking. The purpose of the signs is to get people talking. The search for a new superintendent is underway. Harry Griffith will be retiring at the end of the 2011/2012 school year.

**Dean, Jennifer Knight** thanked the board for our support with the Emotional Wellness walk last May and also for the grant that we gave to the event. The response and feedback about the walk was overwhelmingly positive. She discussed the future goals of the Emotional Wellness Initiative. One of the things that is currently being discussed is academic integrity. There is a program coming up on November 2<sup>nd</sup> called "Life of an Athlete". The Emotional Wellness Committee is going to follow it up a few days later with small group discussions on leadership.

**Post High School Planning Update/Counseling, Dr. Julie Cooley and Dr. Merry Quinn** informed us that recently retired counselor, Barbara Selvaggio returned on a part-time basis to help get some of the new counseling initiatives started. The college essay writing seminars over the summer attracted 80 students. There will be another seminar next Tuesday during lunch and also one on September 22. The counselors are busy rewriting the College Planning Guide that is given to every student. There will be several senior seminars this year where the counselors will meet with their students to assist them with the process. These will be immediately followed up with Senior Parent Seminars so that the parents know exactly what the kids learned in their meetings with their counselors and can ask questions. We are continuing to use Naviance as a tool for students, parents and school staff to work as a team. This year for the first time transcripts will be generated and sent to the colleges electronically through Naviance. It is also possible for teachers to upload their teacher recommendation letters for the students to the schools through Naviance. On late start mornings the counselors will be available to meet with students during that time. A Parent to Parent College Planning Network is being discussed where we would gather information on parents who have valuable knowledge about a certain school, either through their own child's college search process or perhaps the school that they attended and they can share it with other parents and answer questions. The counselors are going to initiate contact with the current 8th graders as early as possible and meet with them one on one. Kathy O'Hara is now located in the College and Career Resource Center. Last spring it was discussed that the counselors will try and develop a regional focus of expertise. This is still being looked at as to whether it is the best approach. The counselors meet every other Wednesday to brainstorm and share information and knowledge. After the parent meetings there will be a scheduled morning coffee for the counseling department to further answer questions.

**Teacher Representative, Carolyn Konz** informed us that she will be going on maternity leave soon and will return on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. She reported that the class sizes are larger, in some cases 25-26 students, although an adjustment, the teachers are rising to the challenge. She told us that Homecoming t-shirts are on sale this week during lunch periods and will also be on sale during the pep rally on Thursday night.

**CROYA, Todd Nahigian** shared with us that he is viewing this transition time with the departure of Kamy Daddano as an opportunity. He has met with the school administrators and everyone is on board to keep moving forward. Sixty students helped out with the Artisan project over Labor Day weekend. They also helped local seniors maintain their homes over the summer. They are currently working on improving the web site. Joanne Yorro will take the lead on working directly with the kids and someone from CROYA will be at LFHS every Wednesday to promote their meetings. Peer training is on hold for one semester as they work to align it with the Emotional Wellness Initiative.

### **Committee Reports**

**President, Donna LaVitola** informed us that due to health issues, Deborahanne Reimer will be taking a leave of her duties as Freshman Parent Rep. Donna will assist Germaine Arnson with the meetings until further notice.

**Recording Secretary, Michele Medzgian** thanked the board for getting their Monthly Committee Reports turned in. She is still waiting to hear from several committees and would like the reports by Friday.

**Vice President, Ruth Muscarello** announced that The Liaison Committee schedule of meetings will be published next week. Check the web site for more information.

**Directory, Lesley Guido and Leann Asma** gave thanks for all board members who assisted them at Book Buy. Leann has been busy updating all of the information and is almost done. This year there were five submissions of artwork for the cover. All of them were so good that they decided to ask the board for help in choosing. They presented the art work and asked us to vote for our favorite before the end of the meeting. The winner will receive a \$50 gift certificate from the LF/LB Chamber of Commerce.

**EKG Testing, Tracy Hill** expressed her gratitude to all of the parents who volunteered at the EKG testing last week. There were 600 students screened and six were identified as having results outside the norm and recommended for additional testing. Unfortunately 289 students who signed up did not make it to testing and there will be a make-up day scheduled soon.

**Special Events, Julie Eckert and Nadia Walgreen** stated that their committee has been working hard to plan our Autumn Parent Social “Be True to Your School”. One of their goals is to create an identity for the event and Julie Eckert showed us the artwork and promotional pieces that were created to help them publicize the evening. They are specifically designed to try and create an idea of “fun”. There are some exciting live auction items including the APT Wine Cellar, Oprah tickets for the farewell season, a Napa Valley trip and more... There will also be a “Heads or Tails” game in which the prize will be an IPAD. The band is Derrick Stout and the Turnstiles and there will be complimentary wine and beer. Invitations will be mailed out this week. Also, prior to the event an auction preview catalog or sheet will go out to the attendees so they can begin to think about what items they are interested in. The committee is still in need of the following donations: underwriting money, golf packages, electronics and vacation homes. There will be a special shopping day at The Perfect Setting in Lake Forest on Thursday, September 16 and they have offered a 10% discount if you bring in the card and also a percentage of all proceeds will go to “Be True to Your School”. Julie asked that any board members, who have not donated to the wine cellar, please do so as soon as possible.

**Volunteer Coordinator, Justine Santello and Amy Tsarwhas** informed us that they have finished compiling the list of parents who have asked to help serve as volunteers this year. Justine passed out hard copies to the committees that require volunteers and she will also send a copy via email.

**New Family/Membership, Laurie Sirus** explained the new direction the committee is taking this year with new families. They have worked hard to put together a welcome

package which contains information on the school, APT, a directory, etc. The committee will make contact with new families with phone calls to welcome them and answer any questions. **Midge Nelson** informed us that they have put the APT sign up sheet on the web site. In order to increase the identity of the APT they have come up with a card with a summary of what the APT does. There will be an APT table at Open House next week.

**Treasurer, Jan Richman** reviewed the proposed 2010-11 Budget. We will vote next week.

Meeting adjourned 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Medzigian  
Recording Secretary