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FOLPHS Meeting

LPHS Community Room, #112

December 19, 2023

Welcome and Call to Order - 6:00 pm

Officer Reports

Principal Dr. Steinmiller and Asst. Principal Ms. Theus– present

Note: in addition to Dr. Steinmiller’s normal report, there was general discussion regarding LPHS throughout meeting. Comments consolidated within this section.

Referenced new Smart Board in community room and provided examples of interactive capabilities (ex. Able to share screens).

Last week was awesome with several group concerts: band, orchestra & choir. It’s particularly interesting to watch students develop over time at LPHS. Winter break is in two days. Students are already scheduled in program for 2nd semester. First week after break, faculty and staff will be focused on how to better support ELL students. In February, students will start the process of scheduling courses for 2024/2025. LPHS counselors will be meeting live with every student.

Congratulations to Dr. Steinmiller on the LPHS extended contract. Dr. Steinmiller feels like his first couple years were devoted to laying the right foundation so he’s excited to spend the next years focused on getting where we want to go. He was overwhelmed with the support and feedback he received from parents, faculty, staff, and community. It’s invaluable input on where we want to collectively focus.

As reported in LSC meeting and last month’s FOLPHS meeting, our data is all trending in the right direction, particularly with our at-risk groups. We’re continuing to evaluate the different ways to engage our students. There are some new policies, specifically regarding cell phones which will be implemented after spring break.

English language learners will continue to be an area of focus. Our ELL group increased from 60 (previous school year) to 160. LPHS is in a good position to support ELL students based on percentage of multi-lingual staff. In addition to Spanish, we're seeing Russian, Ukrainian, etc.

As an update on Athletic Director, LPHS has the green light to hire a full time AD. Per Ms. Theus, surveys were sent out to be part of the process and appreciate the feedback. In addition to AD primary roles and responsibilities, it also assists LPHS administration to understand our students, parent, and community member priorities for position. Survey also allowed for additional comments if parent is specifically recommending one of the candidates. Communication was leading indicator, which wasn't a surprise. LPHS also needs to consider staffing structure of one AD supporting 2,000+ students without support staff. LPHS is confident with candidate pool. Resumes are being reviewed now and formal interviews will start the week of 1/8.

Q&A with Ms. Theus and Dr. Steinmiller:

Question regarding experience of basketball games and what CPS can do to better assist with facilities. In current gym, sell out is 200 which we tried to extend to 225 for parents. Good news/bad news: we're packed for games which adds the live excitement, but it's crowded and we're having to turn spectators away. Opportunity to identify an alternate facility and publicize to try to get to 1,000-person attendance. Ms. Theus has been working to identify alternate facilities. Some challenge as De Paul gym is currently under construction for entire year. They are not even accepting requests in late July/early August. Truman is under construction, NEIU doesn't have the capacity and we can't book at facilities requesting \$5,000 rental fees. Recommendation to check out Jessie White facility with CPD @ Chicago and Hudson. There may also be other park districts within reasonable distance and there is advantage as most have abundant parking. Michelle Berman can work with Ms. Theus offline as she has a contact.

Question regarding how we determine neighborhood enrollment. In conjunction with GoCPS, LPHS makes projections based on total 8th graders within our zip codes. For 2023/2024, we were targeting 525 Freshmen and ended up with 564. Our total student population is 2083 but heavier within lower grades. In general, LPHS would like to be within 500-550 across all four grade levels. In contrast, senior class is small, only totaling 434. LPHS continues to focus on generating interest from neighborhood students, including participating in Little Lincoln open house as well as our math and English partnerships with 8th graders.

Announcements:

Winter formal is scheduled for Jan. 27th @ House of Blues. Currently at 400 tickets and limiting to 1,500. There will be lots of opportunities for volunteers and fun venue. Seniors will once again have top floor. Students suggesting last year's winter royalty be present to crown this year's winners which could be new, meaningful tradition.

NHS had 1st meeting today and exciting to pick officers. Thank you to Ms. Theus for stepping in to be faculty sponsor. In spring, application process will open for Sophomores & Juniors, with induction in May.

Dr. Steinmiller is meeting with LSC Safety/Security committee on Thursday, Dec. 21st to discuss opportunities to create a secure mall area during school day.

Reminder that LPHS is hosting a CPS budget wide meeting on January 18, 2025. It is a great opportunity to pack the auditorium and bring additional focus on what our facilities are lacking.

Examples discussed:

- LPHS received a grant for a new mural. CPS recently changed restrictions that outside murals should be on metal so they could be salvaged if building was modified. Unfortunately, Home Depot just lost vendor status and there are no approved CPS vendors within iProcurement who have the materials. Moving forward, any wall painting is considered, “beautification.”
- Throughout LPHS campus, there are multiple shades of paint on same wall. CPS engineers do not have an annual budget for paint so any time they need to paint over graffiti or patch up a wall (i.e. Smart Board installation), they are using any paint they have. Eury works for Sherman Williams and will work offline with Dr. Steinmiller on any discounted supplies that FOLPHS could fund. General agreement that these types of cosmetic “fixes” go a long way with building up the perception of our campus.

President Sabrina Spitznagle – present

Pledge Drive is at \$72,000, not factoring recurring monthly payments of \$5,000. General discussion on where to invest additional funds. FOLPHS will continue to purchase Smart Boards with a goal of one in every classroom. Sabrina to work with Dr. Steinmiller on where there may be additional needs. Suggestions include:

- Steinmiller sending Sabrina quote to finalize bathroom investments (previously earmarked)
- With smaller senior class (i.e. COVID kids), is there opportunity to boost senior activities.
- Request to temporarily fund mural project until grant money can be processed. Total of \$2,300.

Co-Vice Presidents– Colin O’Brien – present **and Tracey Lazos** – not present

No official report.

Treasurer - Maiva Lozano – present **and Assistant Treasurer- Keeley Selko** – present

FOLPHS funds total \$120,000. Most recent expenses included GiveSmart membership, which is event management website for Spring party and initial deposit for Galleria Marchetti. Maiva is holding an additional \$5,000 misc. for spring party. Additional budget expenses include senior graduation activities/\$9,500 and incoming Freshmen events/\$4,500. There is \$40,000 as emergency fund and \$45,000 usable cash.

Secretary Sarah Portugal – present

Sabrina sent out November minutes via email. Sabrina moved to approve, and Colin seconded. There was not a quorum of voting members present at meeting so Sarah to follow up with November voting attendees via email.

*Dec. 20th update- November minutes approved via email. Voting members in favor: Maiva, Sabrina, Sarah, Tracey, Danette, Beth, Jessica

Committee / Director Reports

Pledge Drive and Corporate Sponsorship – Sabrina Spitznagle, Tracey Lazos and Lindsey Spivey – Sabrina present

Sabrina provided Pledge Drive update during president report. Tracey and Lindsey will provide corporate sponsorship update in January meeting.

Spirit Wear- Jessica Strang and Danette Fernando - not present

Last spirit wear sale is tomorrow, Wednesday. Sales total \$8,335. There is interim work to move spirit wear to cafeteria space. Committee may be looking for volunteers to move, organize and clean existing space. Grand Opening TBD!

Faculty and Staff Appreciation – Eury Chrones and Alexandra Solomon- both present

FOLPHS provided donation to annual staff holiday party. Next up will be Valentine's Day. Recommendation to consider faculty and staff appreciate activities to be balance between Freshmen and Main building. Discussion with Dr. Steinmiller on suitable Freshmen building space with recommendation to use Innovation Lab since teachers' lounge is small. Suggestion to divert funds towards improving Freshmen Teachers' lounge, specifically refrigerator, coffee maker, etc. CPS can support donated appliance items. Suggestion to consider adding as a spring party auction item.

Social – Keely Selko- present

Early January, we'll send out a Sign-Up Genius communication for Winter Formal volunteer opportunities. As reminder, prom is scheduled for May 18th (TBD – venue) and graduation scheduled for May 25th at Credit Union 1 arena from 10:00am-12:00am.

Referencing discussion in October FOLPHS meeting, Colin is following up with additional information regarding his idea to host a trivia night for LPHS. Marquee Lounge is available for free in January and early February. Based on LPHS calendar and group discussion, he'll focus on Jan. 17th (preferred) or Jan. 31st. Group will be completely segregated from normal bar area but because there is alcohol at event, Dr. Steinmiller would prefer to keep attendance to parents, community members and staff vs. open to students. Suggest entrance fee of \$10 to cover food platters and have cash bar. Aim for 5:00pm-9:00pm time-period. FOLPHS group voted in favor of hosting event.

Community Fundraising- Jodi Torzewski - not present

Jodi will work on scheduling fundraiser for spring semester.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Venecia Sanchez and Julie Molina - both present

DEI Corner submitted for FOLPHS website.

Brick Drive- Eury Chrones - present

Eury is interested in transitioning Brick Drive to another volunteer. If interested, please contact her. She met with athletic booster club to see if there is interest in sports teams purchasing a brick. Suggestion to finish up last push on brick sales and schedule spring installment of bricks already purchased. Eury will confirm break bricks sold up against break even amount to order and install.

Social Media- Jackie Gelb- not present

Marketing/Website/Graphic Design- Eva Ho – present and Chris Nelson- not present

Reminder for FOLPHS Board and committee chairs to submit head shot to update FOLPHS web page. Suggestion to keep past alumnae for at least a year.

IB Liaison- Sabrina Spitznagle - present

No report

LSC Liaison- Sabrina Spitznagle - present

No report

Communications- Colin O'Brien

If anyone is interested in assisting with communications, let Colin know. Nkosi White is no longer working on committee. Colin will partner with Spring Party committee on cadence of communication. Suggestion to use campaigns from last year and update themes/dates/logo.

Spring Parent Party and Auction- Sarah Portugal, Tracey Lazos, Lindsey Spivey, Keely Selko and Jodi Boutell - Sarah and Keely present

Event scheduled for Saturday, April 20, 2024, at Galleria Marchetti with a spring theme. Estimate start time 7:00pm and added to LPHS calendar. Based on 2023 feedback, using GiveSmart for event management vs. Qtego. We need to partner with Colin on communication through Constant Contact. Save the date will be sent early January. Donation form containing url and QR code distributed. Electronic version will be emailed to entire FOLPHS group. Request that anyone in FOLPHS with business contacts start reaching out for auction donations as websites are recommending 3 month lead time to review requests. Form links to Google form so any donation will be consolidated on spreadsheet with FOLPHS contact. General discussion on how best to coordinate with Corporate Sponsorship and other FOLPHS members so we're not duplicating requests.

Eva has future venue recommendation. Sales Force Chicago "Ohana floors"
<https://www.salesforce.com/news/stories/chicago-tower-opening/>.

General discussion on 2025 which marks LPHS 125th anniversary. Recommendation to budget funds for 2025 party as special occasion event. Discussed opportunity incorporate anniversary to Open House video, spirit wear, homecoming, etc. There is flexibility to move party to fall 2025 if that coincides better with alumnae. Sarah and Keely meeting with Dr. Steinmiller on Jan. 8th to further discuss.

Open House- Beth O'Connor and Michele Berman – Michele present

Beth and Michele will discuss budget needs, including potential update to video. Video is 2 years old but was updated to show students without masks. Drone footage is not outdated. Would like to work with other FOLPHS on knowledge transfer of Open House committee as they graduate out. Suggestion to potentially tie 150th in video. TBD

Yard Signs- Sara Byerly – not present

Yard sign ordering will occur in the spring.

Personalized Marquee Message- Rochelle Brophy

Recommendation to update marquee with Pledge Drive results as old "thermometer."
Recommendation to add a marquee message to auction as an item.

Old Business- none

Open/Announcements-

Next FOLPHS meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 16th at 6:00pm in the LPHS Community Room.

Adjourn – 7:33 pm

Attendees: Julie Molina, Venecia Sanchez, Michele Berman, Sabrina Spitznagle, Sarah Portugal, Keely Selko, Maiva Lozano, Thea Kachoris-Flores, Eury Chrones, Alexandra Solomon, Denise Morris, Florian Schropp, Ms. Theus, Dr. Steinmiller, Eva Ho, Colin O'Brien, Mary Endy Tookey, Jenise Johnson Powell