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FOLPHS Meeting

LPHS Community Room

April 16, 2024

Welcome and Call to Order - 6:08 pm

Introductions

Officer Reports

Principal Dr. Steinmiller – present

We've had a busy couple of weeks and is a little unique as we haven't had a full week of school since Spring Break. There's been professional learning, assemblies, LSC elections, parent/teacher conferences, etc. Re: LSC elections, there were 12 student candidates which is amazing! LPHS is still looking for one non-teaching staff candidate.

As discussed in last FOLPHS meeting, last Monday was official roll out of cell phone policy pilot. Goal of policy is to remove distraction, so students are engaged and learning. Shout out to Mr. Striker who attended department meeting and discussed his method for managing cell phone use and communication best practices. 81 classrooms have requested cell phone classroom "pockets." For teachers who were nervous, administration has been stopping by classrooms, monitoring adherence, feedback, etc. We really appreciate our teachers' buy-in, and pilot will help validate/improve policy adherence for full roll out at beginning of 2024/2025 school year. Question regarding escalation. Currently, pilot does not have escalation process in place. In future state, there will be escalation with parent notification, JJ's team involvement and eventually, student permanently losing cell phone usage at school.

Budgeting received last Monday under newly revised CPS budget process. Budget allots foundational positions and a teaching position for every 21 students. LPHS received funding for 99 teaching positions. Primary concern is allocation for diverse learners. Diverse learning cut happens every year. There is a baseline and then appeal process corrects. LPHS funded for 15 vs. 20 we currently have. May 3rd is appeal date. As example, if you need 4 diverse learning teachers for 9th-12th grade, that is 16 teachers so the 15 doesn't even make sense. How many students you have doesn't equal how many teachers you have. Elementary teaches 6 periods, we teach 5. Budgeting based 2097 total based on 2023/2024 attendance. Any growth isn't handled within budget until next school year. As curriculum needs are determined, there is benefit that all rising 10-12th grade students have enrolled so can fully account for those teaching needs. Dr. Steinmiller would also like to fund a Registrar position to take this workload off counselors. If available, will try to work into budget.

Hope to see everyone at Spring Soiree on Saturday. It's great that we can include our incoming Freshmen. Other upcoming activities: Freshmen "Saturday" diagnostic testing, Freshmen Welcome, Senior Selection Day, Prom, Graduation, end of year performances, etc.

Questions:

Graduation related:

- Length of graduation is expected to be 1 ½ hours as this is smaller class size of 432.
- There is area for spectators with disabilities. Call White Sox office for designated area or email Ms. Theus.

Incoming Freshmen class size:

- LPHS currently has 544 “Class of 2028” students accepted. It is doubtful that LPHS will even pull from waitlist as 544 does not include neighborhood attendance or new arrivals (which has continued to increase over last two years). Would rather be in 500 range. We are expecting more neighborhood students which is extremely positive.
- LPHS max is technically 1,999 but at its highest, had 2,400 students enrolled. Ideal is close to 2,000 but there is no cap on neighborhood enrollment.
- Suggestion to review March FOLPHS Minutes which outline similar detail

Update from Mr. Cabey:

As reminder, LPHS is the only school in Illinois and only one of about 5 states with public schools participating in the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology program. LPHS had the most students published at the convention in San Antonio. Grateful for the support from FOLPHS, including Hyatt hotel donation. During trip, some unexpected expenses related to transportation needs. Group was also able to visit San Antonio Zoo and have a celebratory dinner. Total is \$1,000. Sabrina has receipts and money was already approved. Mr. Cabey will follow up with Sabrina on breakdown of expenses between Mr. Cabey and other teachers so FOLPHS can Zelle reimbursement.

Mr. Cabey is planning for future years. For multiple years, the program has been funded through grants and discretionary budget. Moving forward, it may be underfunded. Want to make sure, “special education students feel just as good as IB students.” Next year’s convention is in Chicago but following year is Washington DC. Request to assist with funding 7-9 students for their senior year attend DC- flight, hotel, transportation, etc. Suggestion to table Washington DC funding discussion. Moving forward, FOLPHS is implementing a financial request form. Sabrina can send to Mr. Cabey for completion and he can actually help us validate process by being first person to submit request via form.

In near term, there may be opportunity to fund 3D printers. Printers are \$3-5k each. Our current printer is 12 years old with 4 yr suggested shelf life. Computer science has their own printer. We can mention at Soiree event. Mr. Cabey asked if students should come and present Saturday night? Spring Soiree has already planned to include JROTC, Orchestra and Choir and limited on space in cocktail room. Suggestion to include Mr. Cabey and students in Open House as broader audience is great way to showcase for LPHS. Recommendation to take further discussion offline and Sabrina will follow up with Mr. Cabey with final decision on students attending Soiree.

President Sabrina Spitznagle – present

General discussion on best practices regarding expense approval and documentation. Moving forward, any expenses approved will be discussed and documented during President report. As communicated on April 4th email, request to fund 50% of Mr. Ferguson’s escape room tickets (discussed in March FOLPHS meeting). Motion seconded and approved via email.

Thanks to Colin for creating the “Funding Request Form” via Google doc. Suggestion to add to FOLPHS website and providing copy to faculty and staff in early August so we can implement with upcoming school year. Note: LPHS Faculty and Staff will continue to adhere to internal LPHS expense review process prior to submitting form to FOLPHS.

Reminder that in next meeting, we will be discussing FOLPHS positions for 2024/2025 school year. As we have several senior parents graduating out, it's a great opportunity for some of our younger parents to get more involved. For anyone who is a current committee chair and does not want to continue next year, please inform Colin and Sabrina.

Co-Vice Presidents– Colin O'Brien (present) and Tracey Lazos (not present)– no report

Treasurer - Maiva Lozano – (present)

After expected expenses for 2024, we have \$50-60K available for school priorities. That may increase after Spring Soiree. Sabrina will discuss offline with Dr. Steinmiller regarding bathrooms. Confirmed approval to purchase 5 more SmartBoards. Other initiatives include: 3D printers (tonight's discussion), potential LSC recommendations on new security needs, library bookshelves and potentially furniture, half of score board and future support of LPHS 150th anniversary during 2025/2026 school year.

Secretary Sarah Portugal – present

Sabrina sent March Minutes via email to group and moves to approve. Colin seconded and unanimously approved.

Committee / Director Reports

Pledge Drive and Community Sponsorship – Sabrina Spitznagle (present), Tracey Lazos and Lindsey Spivey (not present)– no report

Spring Parent Party and Auction- Sarah Portugal, Keely Selko, Rochelle Brophy (present), Tracey Lazos, Lindsey Spivey (not present)

Extremely excited about the Spring Soiree this Saturday, April 20th. Revenue is already totaling \$33k. Shout out to Lindsey, Tracey and auction subcommittee. The auction already shows year over year improvement not only including total bidders/bidder activity, but auction funds raised. Ex. 206 users on GiveSmart compared to 76 active bidders in 2023 on Qtogo. Auction has already raised > \$11k with additional \$4k in online donations. Final planning meeting directly after FOLPHS meeting tonight.

Spirit Wear- Jessica Strang and Danette Fernando (present)

Hopefully, everyone has seen new spirit wear shop. We have seen good activity from incoming Freshmen. We will need plenty of volunteers for our 5/1 Freshmen Welcome event. Sabrina can send out Sign Up Genius. We're pushing online sales so some volunteers can assist with pick up orders and other volunteers focused on live sales.

General discussion on whether to set up spirit shop in main cafeteria for Freshmen Welcome event vs. Freshmen cafeteria. FOLPHS members present last year recommend 8-10 volunteers, adding "pop up" display in Freshmen building advertising Spirit Shop in main cafeteria, pushing online sales and need to order new inventory after event. Right now, think we are going to restock tshirts as well as order baseball caps.

New discussion regarding Freshmen Welcome bag. Welcome bag is not listed within Spirit Wear inventory. In past years, drawstring bags with "Class of xx" made. Contents included magnet, water bottle, etc. If need assistance, work with Sabrina. Mr. Stucky should be able to provide total count. Maiva will send Sabrina information on Freshmen order from prior year to further understand quantity, cost, etc.

Faculty and Staff Appreciation – Eury Chrones and Alexandra Solomon- (not present)

Sarah has \$6k donated gift cards from JoJo's Shake Bar for teacher appreciation coming up week of May 6th. Will email Eury and Alexandra to determine drop off. They are also using wallet cards and per Danette, they could pick

up 5/1 during Freshmen Event. Eury is handling 5/6-5/10 staff appreciation activities. Discussion on cost of event as it's offset by the \$6k gift card donation. Also need to follow up on reimbursement for lions. As Venecia has been helping, she'll try to follow up and copy Maiva and Sabrina. Eury had also planned to send out survey to faculty & staff to see what items/activities they prefer for future events.

Social – Keely Selko- (present)- no report

Community Fundraising- Jodi Torzewski – (not present)

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Venecia Sanchez (present) **and Julie Molina** (not present)

DEI page updated for April Autism Awareness Month. As Venecia and Julie are both senior parents, are looking for replacements.

Brick Drive- Eury Chrones – (not present)

Maiva received a couple Pay Pal deposits so sold a couple more bricks as that's the only program using PayPal. Sabrina going to send out one more email after Soiree. Plan is to close out Brick Drive by end of month.

Social Media- Jackie Gelb- (not present)

Suggestion to reach out to a senior and use social media as an opportunity to build resume. Potential to discuss with counselors or target clubs to identify candidates. Couple also help with Spirit Wear shop.

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

IB Liaison- Sabrina Spitznagle – (present)

Discussion regarding IB magazine renewal. FOLPHS paid last year, will agree to pay this year but not moving forward. Sabrina will forward Maiva the email. Sabrina communicated decisions to Ms. Tookey with cc to Maiva and Colin.

LSC Liaison- Sabrina Spitznagle – (both present)

LSC meeting this Thursday. Sabrina will be introducing Colin as new FOLPHS President. Will also remind everyone that Soiree is on Saturday.

Communications- Colin O'Brien– (present)

As we're all meeting new Freshmen parents, let's get them involved. Suggestion to add "express interest" form and/or QR code and post to Spirit Wear shop for 5/1 event. Colin to make QR code, send to Sabrina to share with Mr. Stucky.

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

As Beth is a senior parent, Michele is still looking for a co-chair. This is another opportunity as you meet new parents at Soiree or 5/1 event. Suggestion to add QR code to Soiree bookmark which links to FOLPHS webpage.

Yard Signs- Sara Byerly – (not present)

Sabrina distributing senior yard signs tonight.

Personalized Marquee Message- Rochelle Brophy – (present)- no report

Old Business- none

New Business- none

Open/Announcements-

Question regarding need for Six Flags transportation, like last year's unexpected expense. Sabrina to follow up with Ms. Theus. We are planning to provide graduation t-shirts during cap/gown practice.

*** Next FOLPHS meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21st at 6:00pm in the LPHS Community Room.

Adjourn – 7:44pm

Attendees: Jessica Strang, Rochelle Brophy, Jody Boutell, Keely Selko, Beth O'Connor, Venecia Sanchez, John Cabey, Maiva Lozano, Michele Berman, Colin O'Brien, Danette Fernando, Sabrina Spitznagle, Dr. Steinmiller, Suzanne Rovner, & Sarah Portugal