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FOLPHS Meeting

LPHS Community Room, #112

September 19, 2023

Welcome and Call to Order - 6:05pm

Officer Reports

Principal Dr. Steinmiller – present via phone

Principal Steinmiller joined via phone as not able to attend the meeting live due to recent biking accident. Per his report, he is scheduled for surgery this coming Friday and will not be back at school until next Monday. He is extremely frustrated not being up at campus but wanted to let everyone know how much he appreciates the outpouring of support from parents, teachers, students, and our community.

As updates:

Club-a-Palooza was a success. If your students were not able to attend, remind them to investigate the different clubs available. There is literally something for everyone.

Report card pick up is coming up. If students are struggling, check in with teachers. Progress reports should be viewable on portal Thursday. If you are unable to access online, come to school Friday and the staff will print for you.

Homecoming is coming up and wants to build up positive energy. Dance will be Friday, Oct. 13th at Soldier Field. There will be more information coming out from Ms. Theus.

Open House is scheduled for Oct. 14th. Schedule driven by GoCPS so not intentional scheduling Homecoming the night before Open House.

Question asked regarding need for bi-lingual (specifically Spanish speaking volunteers). LPHS was able to accommodate 30+ migrant students, predominantly in 9th and 10th grade. As a

challenge, there is no ESL support in high school. LPHS faculty and staff are working with students who only speak Spanish and haven't been in school for 6 years. LPHS is looking for additional volunteer support to not only assist students with the language but provide additional comprehension of academic content.

President Sabrina Spitznagle – present

Sabrina communicated all officer nominations to FOLPHS, including all voting members. Nominations include: Maiva, Jessica, Keely and Collin. Vote delayed into later in meeting as there was a voting member attending the college fair. Once that member arrived at meeting, Ellen made motion to vote, and Michele seconded motion. New officers were unanimously approved with 6 votes, representing quorum.

General discussion regarding need to fill Vice President position. Ellen provided further detail of the work Sabrina invests in FOLPHS but is a senior parent graduating out. We need a #2 who could partner with Sabrina this year with interest in taking over as president next school year.

Sabrina also indicated FOLPHS was taking a tray of taquitos and flowers to Dr. Steinmiller during his recovery. Taquitos graciously supplied by Julie Molina and Sabrina would like to post Julie's business on website as a thank you. Members in attendance agreed.

Vice President – vacant position

As reminder, FOLPHS is still looking for a Vice President so if you have interest, please speak directly with Sabrina.

Treasurer - Ellen Zickmann (Member at Large) and Assistant Treasurer Maiva Lozano - present

Ellen and Maiva are partnering together to transition Treasurer role to Maiva.

Ellen sent budget to Sabrina and they will work offline to finalize. As reminder as well as clarity to new parents, FOLPHS budgets conservatively. (i.e., we spend what we make). Primary annual expense is Open House, Faculty/Staff appreciation and Senior activities. Income is generated from Pledge Drive, Spirit Wear, Marquee, Brick Drive, and potentially Spring party. Currently, need to know outcome of Pledge Drive to help understand what may be above and beyond.

Discussion on LPHS priorities for FOLPHS focus. LPHS has existing goal of smart boards, and we need 18 more @ approx. \$4,500/each. We also are aware that there are always miscellaneous or surprise expenses throughout the year, particularly due to challenges with the CPS iProcurement system. In previous years, there was a wish list. Last year, it was moved to a pledge drive. Ellen has made several budget reporting improvements so difficult to directly compare wish list to pledge drive revenue as they were recorded differently. Much appreciation to Maiva as it's hard to find someone to fill Treasurer role, with existing knowledge of QuickBooks, etc.

As quick update, art department request was already filled, and teachers are using Donor Choose program for further special requests. FOLPHS will continue to partner with LPHS on priorities. We recognize there can be parent confusion with multiple fundraisers (athletics, performing arts, etc.) as well as lack of understanding of LPHS budget complaints, student fee challenges, etc.

Secretary Sarah Portugal - present

August FOLPHS Minutes were provided via email. Sabrina made motion to approve minutes and Keely seconded. Minutes were approved.

A couple parents are indicating they are not getting FOLPHS/LPHS emails. Sabrina can check Constant Contact.

Committee / Director Reports

Open House- Beth O'Connor and Michele Berman (Members at Large)- present

Open House is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 14th. Doors open at 11:30am with programs starting at 12:00pm. Parents are encouraged to come any time of the day from 12:00pm-3:00pm. The last presentation will be at 3:00pm.

Open House includes multiple sessions: Welcome/Principal overview, campus tours, educational sessions, and clubs/athletics. Brochures were updated, flyers visible on website, feeder schools have been notified, and Mr. Stucky is organizing teacher/student volunteers for tours. Attendees will receive insert in brochure and pen to take notes.

Volunteer sign up will be distributed ASAP in two hour slots. Beth and Michele are trying to complete most of the set up on Friday. Volunteers will receive t-shirt to wear at event and Michele and Beth will once again set up a Zoom prep call for volunteers prior to event as well as record for those unable to attend. Great opportunity and fun to volunteer. Last year, even with inclement weather, approximately 2,000 prospective parents/students attended.

Ms. Tookey distributed copies of US News Report rating LPHS. It's extremely positive for LPHS, who is even ranking higher than a couple selective enrollment schools. We're a very diverse population with a lot to offer. Report provides great information, particularly for open house volunteers. Report will be attached to minutes.

Brick Drive- Eury Chrones (Member at Large)- not present

If anyone interested in taking over brick drive, Eury is interested in transitioning. Group recommended sending targeted communication, particularly Freshmen. It also may be beneficial to send out prior to holidays and in spring for seniors. Installation is costly so need critical mass. Brick drive is ongoing so as soon as we sell x amount of bricks, we'll schedule installation.

Community Fundraising- Jodi Torzewski (Member at Large)- not present

Hopefully, everyone was able to get over to Jeni's today. Thanks to Julie for having the swim team go over.

Spirit Wear- Jessica Strang and Danette Fernando- present

From July-September, sales total \$6,300. Spirit wear was sold at all three Freshmen connections and again on Sept. 29th after school. General recommendation on potentially selling in hallway vs. classroom. Mr. Stucky will follow up on date/location availability. Discussion on potential to designate a pick up area within the school, potentially front office. Front office staff is not currently comfortable where they would store and keep merchandise safe. The only locked area in front office contains student records. Danette, Jessica and Mr. Stucky will take offline to organize schedule and discuss feasibility. Currently, there is an average of three orders/week. Jessica and Danette will also connect with Eva to make sure website is updated.

Pledge Drive – Sabrina Spitznagle and Suzanne Rovner (Members at Large)- present

Pledge Drive “adults only” kickoff party scheduled for next Tuesday, Sept. 26th at Blue Door after Freshmen Curriculum Night so approximately 7:00pm. There will be appetizers, cash bar, raffle tickets, magnets/prizes. Mr. Stucky will announce at Freshmen curriculum night. Parents can park in LPHS parking lot and walk over after event. Pledge drive will run for 6-8 wks and is targeting each family to donate \$500.

General discussion/recommendations:

- School event is Freshmen/new students only. Can we recommend changing event to full curriculum night for all grade levels next year? Mr. Stucky indicated that last time it was conducted school wide, teachers did not have a positive experience. It's optional for teachers to attend so would need broader staff buy in as well as learning from what didn't work last time.
- Create postcard with QR code so easy for parents to donate
- It would be great to have targeted communication to Freshmen authored by an actual Freshman parent.
- Add payment option (i.e., monthly)
- Ensure communication clearly outlines how donations will be used
- Remind families to check with employers on corporate matching programs.

If you are interested in assisting with targeted emails, let the committee know. Tracy and Lindsey are stepping in to assess opportunity to incorporate corporate sponsorship into Pledge Drive.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion – Venecia Sanchez – not present and Julie Molina (Members at Large)- present

Reminder to include DEI report in Lion's Roar newsletter. Report can be sent to Colin to submit to Ms. Walker.

Faculty and Staff Appreciation – Eury Chrones (Member at Large)- not present

There will be something scheduled for faculty and staff on report card pick up day.

Social Media- Jackie Gelb- not present

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

IB Liaison- Sabrina Spitznagle (Member at Large)- present/no report

LSC Liaison- Sabrina Spitznagle (Member at Large)- present/no report

Personalized Marquee Message- Rochelle Brophy -not present

Sabrina indicates there is a good uptick in messages.

Communications- Colin O'Brien – present and Nkosi White—not present

General discussion on potential to author quarterly newsletter for families and community. Would be great for any corporate sponsors.

Social – Keely- present

Homecoming dance scheduled for Friday, Oct. 13th @ Soldier Field. Cost is \$50/per person. Students may bring one non-LPHS guest if permission slip turned in. Any guest is also \$50. Ms. Theus is still working to schedule walk through and need to connect with her to make sure payments are working since some parents were having trouble.

Spring Parent Party and Auction- Eury Chrones, Sarah Portugal (Members at Large) and Jodi Boutell -no report

Yard Signs- Sara Byerly – not present

Old Business- none

Open/Announcements- none

Adjourn – 7:45 pm

Next FOLPHS meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 17th @ 6:00pm in the LPHS Community Room.

Attendees:

Maiva Lozano, Keely Selko, Alexandra Salomon, Beth O’Connor, Irma Krasnopolskaya, Jody Boutell, Leslie Gonzales, Ellen Zickmann, Colin O’Brien, Sabrina Spitznagle, Lindsey Spivey, Michele Berman, Robert Zanio, Danette Fernando, Jessica Strang, Mary Enda Tookey, Jenise Johnson Powell, Suzanne Rovner, Tracey Lazos, Jenny Perez, Sarah Portugal