



NOVEMBER 9, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

- 1) **Welcome and call to order: Sabrina-6:32 pm**
- 2) **Officer Reports:**

A) Principal-Dr Steinmiller:

Not in attendance. He is at the LSC Meeting which is occurring at the same date/time as the FOLPHS meeting due to the no school on 11/18 and 11/19.

Sabrina provided an update for Dr. Steinmiller.

The Parent Coffee event went well. They had their first event on November 2. They held the event outside which was a tad cold. The principal is looking for alternative locations for winter. Suggestions welcome! Attendees suggested Bourgeoise Pig on Fullerton or La Colombe on Armitage.

The Parent Social event was very well attended. It was so great to see so many of our parents and guardians and staff. Many of us had not met before in person.

There is a vaccination event on November 12 at LP.

The Open House went well. It was held on Saturday, November 6. Dr. Steinmiller prefers using Black Oak.

Sadly, a freshman student (female) passed away. It is tragic. She was well liked, and her passing has hit the community hard.

B) President- Sabrina:

Welcome to everyone especially those new to FOLPHS!

C) Vice President- Kristen Feurer: No report

D) Treasurer- Christina Sciarotta: not present. Christina was not present.

Sabrina provided an update. Christina does not have a student at LP anymore as her child graduated, but she has continued on to help out FOLPHS. So, we need a new Treasurer. Being Treasurer includes balancing the books, paying bills, distributing collected funds to LP groups such as Band, IB, etc., creating reports, filing all tax paperwork, working with Neon, and other accounting items. In the past, there has been a Treasurer and an Assistant Treasurer on the Board. Christina created a binder for the finances with details on the role and it is very organized.

Kevin Waco mentioned that he might be interested.

We do have money in the account and some of it is earmarked for renovating the school bathrooms. \$44,228 raised since June. Corporate donations total \$16,000. Wish list raised \$8,500. Spirit sales raised \$18,600. We spent \$19,000 on inventory (which helped us stock up for future sales). The Business Directory has raised \$600. Amazon Smile has raised \$172.

Please tell your family, friends and especially grandparents about shopping this holiday season on Amazon Smile.

Sabrina will send out the report.

Questions and Comments: Luisa asked if we could have an idea of what we spend to raise funds and what we actually raise? Sabrina said they will make a change to report these things monthly.

E) Secretary- Misha Mann:

Review of October meeting minutes. Sabrina made a motion to approve the minutes. Kristen seconded the motion. All voted in favor of approval and the motion passed.

3) Committee Reports

A) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion-Report only.

The DEI is looking into putting together an LP cookbook. They are getting quotes on the book. They sent out a survey to find out the interest level of the LP community. So far, they have had 69 responses. They will also ask about possible book names. They will need to order a minimum of 100, but 200 is cheaper. Cost is between \$5-10 per book. The sell price will be \$25 per book and 84% of the respondents stated that they would be willing to spend \$25 on the book. 16% were split on where they would spend less than \$25 on the book or whether they would purchase the book at all.

They are discussing having a student contest for the cover art. There would be a gift card as a reward for the winner.

The goal is to have the book completed so it can be a gift for Mother's Day.

The DEI Committee is going to meet the first Thursday of every month. The next meeting is Thursday, December 2 from 8 to 9 pm. They will put information about the meeting in the newsletter. The month of November celebrates Native American Heritage. In December we will celebrate Kwanzaa and Hanukkah in addition to Christmas.

If there are any suggestions for future events or meetings, please email deifolphs@gmail.com.

B) IB Liaison- Venecia Sanchez: Not present. No report.

C) Wish List- Sabrina Spitznagle:

The Wish List started at the beginning of November. It was suggested that a slide show be put together to show what was accomplished last year with the money raised from the Wish List fundraiser. Things are going well, and they are on a good path for raising significant funds. In past years we raised between \$60-\$80,000 for major fundraiser of the year.

The teachers are following the Wish List progress! A visual arts program was fully funded, and the teacher asked if they could get the funds right away!

Donations are tax deductible, and you should get a tax letter from the Treasurer after the donation.

Three items are fully funded including easels, garden supplies and printers for the Diverse Learners group. Misha volunteered to pick up the printer if needed.

Questions: Misha asked if there is a way for someone to sponsor multiple items without having to "check out". At this point, you can only select one item to sponsor, and you are forced to check out Sabrina noted that, and she would inquire about that.

D) Teacher Appreciation- Kristen Feurer and Sabrina Spitznagle:

They have passed out taffy apples to teachers and staff for Halloween. On report card pick up day, November 18, they will give out a coffee mug with Starbucks gift cards to the teachers. They will have 135 mugs to pass out.

E) Brick Drive- Eury Chrones:

The installation started on November 1. Bricks are complete and ready, but the installer had a delay. Eury has received lots of emails asking if bricks are still on sale. She asked if it is still being advertised on the marquee? If so, Sabrina will have it removed. Debra will share photos on social media.

F) Spirit Wear-Luisa Shortall:

Spirit wear sales made \$2,700 in two days: \$1,000 on Monday and \$1,700 on Tuesday. Sales were hosted in the Freshman Building. Dr. Steinmiller asked about selling masks in person. Luisa asked about sizes since everyone has different sized faces/heads. She has done some research. Price would have to be \$10 minimum. Sabrina said she is okay with online sales. Debra asked how many are currently sold online? Initially it was teachers that bought the masks online. Next month they will do a teacher and promote sales with a gift with purchase. Suzanne suggested selling winter beanies. She remembered that someone at LP sold these before. Yesi recalled the hats as well and said they were constantly selling out. Luisa did some research and sent options for the group to vote on for possible sales. The feedback from the group was universally aimed at one of the 3 options.

G) Social Media- Debra Sitar:

Debra is keeping up with posts. Would love to get more candid during the day from a regular school day and more athletics from Mr. Lezcano. She wants to help promote activities and events.

H) Marketing & Communications- Sara Schacter & Rebecca Eden:

Communications going out are: 11/10 for DEI, 11/11 for Spring Gala save the date and Amazon Smile next week. Sara will create an email regarding volunteer roles on FOLPHS. They will announce marquee messages at least once a month.

They have received help from Julie on the business directory. They raised \$600 with the directory. Rebecca has been working on this, but she is at the LSC meeting tonight.

I) Open House- Michele Berman and Beth O'Connor:

The virtual Open House was held on November 6 from 12-2:30 pm. Overall, it went very well. Robin who helped us host the event and the breakout rooms was very helpful and made the event “work”. She stated there were a lot of nice comments in the event chat.

There were 681 registered for the Open House this year resulting in about 400 attendees. Some families participated using multiple devices which would explain the 681 registrations versus the actual 400 attendees. Last year we had 460 registered.

There were two videos used in the Open House. They were great tools and can be used on an ongoing basis.

They did have a few hiccups during the breakout session. One group kept popping in and out of their breakout room back into the main room every 30 seconds. It was the IB room that was having the issues. Michele thought it felt like it was a long time that they were experiencing the issue, but Robin reported that it only lasted for 90 seconds. There were 117 people in the IB room.

The main room hosted the Advanced College Placement (formerly Double Honors) program.

They also had a few Zoom issues. Those who called in via phone were shutting down the room. Robin gave the group a discount for these issues.

The whole event was recorded.

Michele and Beth wanted to thank Sabrina, Sara, Julie, and Christy for all their help putting the event together. She will be debriefing Dr. Steinmiller and the team to see how things can be done differently to improve the event for next year.

LPHS will be doing, and has been doing, private, in person tours for small groups. Mr. Stucky is working with our feeder schools to set up these events. The events make the groups feel like VIPs. The last private tour group got to see a band performance. There will be two tours in December.

They will have a student only panel in December. There was interest by the group in finding out the break down of attendees from Montessori, CPS schools and private schools. Eury asked if there could be a “sports focused” tour? Someone stated that there is a band focused tour. Mr. Lezcano was on the Open House call, but they want him to focus on a wider range of sports topics in the future. We have so much to offer for sports and it could be a great feature for the Open House. Ms. Hilton, the Poms coach stated that there was no Poms team before she came 3 years ago. If teachers or students have the desire to create a program, the school is supportive. Wrestling is new this year. They have a GoFundMe for support. The basketball team is running an online fundraiser as well.

Sara said, “Great job!” Eury said she liked that the teachers and students had the opportunity to speak and share their experiences. As a parent of a potential future student, she was impressed. Kristen stated that a friend with an 8th grader at Oscar Mayer reacted positively stating that Dr. Steinmiller was always smiling and that the teachers and students did a nice job. Sabrina said that Robin was so helpful, and patient and her cost is reasonable.

Question: Luisa asked if there will be shadowing? There will not be any shadowing. They want to limit the mixing of outsiders with our staff and students.

J) Spring Parent Party- Suzanne Rovner and Kristen Feurer:

The fall party was a success. Attendees stayed until 9:40 pm! It was a good, diverse group. We raised \$2,000. Most people donated to the general fund.

The party is Friday, March 4. Sara is going to send a Save the Date email. She is working with Galleria Marchetti on the room size. The contract is now signed. They are going to use the DJ from the prom. It was suggested that they use Paperless Post for the invite. It is eco-friendly and elegant in format. The personal invites will go out after the holidays. They will be limiting the auction items. We will only have the decorated Lions and the paddle raise and the parking space and graduation seat tickets. They will focus on the community building aspect of the party. For entertainment, Mr. Cooper's choir will perform in person.

There was a lot of discussion about displaying a couple decorated Lions prior to the party to get a buzz going. There is concern about how and where to display the Lions without risk of theft or damage. Maybe there are other ways we can do some teasers? Sara suggested that the photography students take the photos and help us display them. We need to figure out a way to get the images in front of parents since they don't regularly come into the building.

The Lions need to be decorated by February 4 (one month before the event). Sabrina is hoping that one buyer who "wins" the Lion will donate it back to the school for display.

K) Community Fundraising-Jodi Torzewski:

Chipotle event was November 2 and we raised \$425. Everyone remarked at how good the food quality was. Jodi asked if we could create some communications about how much we raise and maybe have a running total of how much we raise with this event and others? Sara also suggested creating thank you notes for our fundraisers. Yesi asked if the promotion of the community fundraising and other fundraising events could also mention what we are raising money for?

The next fundraiser will be at Lou Malnati's on January 18. Locations include Lincoln Square, Lincoln Park and West Loop.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Jacob Fjare, Assistant Director of Bands/Arts Liaison, joined us to discuss funding the licensing rights for the Spring musical. The cost is \$3,000 and the vendor, MTI, is not a CPS approved vendor. The license will pay for the rights for the play Urinetown. It is a very funny play, and the Arts department is excited for the opportunity to host the play. Jacob has done the play before. The play would run at the end of March, but they will be finalizing plans for the play in the next couple weeks. Other costs to put on the production include props, mics, set, décor, etc. and Dr. Steinmiller has confirmed that LPHS is covering those costs.

The cost of the license is based on project ticket sales. Seussical the Musical sold 750 in tickets. Sara mentioned that there is \$1300 in the Drama restricted funds and \$870 in the Music restricted funds that can be distributed.

Sara made a motion to approve funding of the licensing up to \$3,000 for the spring musical production of Urinetown. Sabrina seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

Jacob will report back and update us for the next meeting to confirm that the rights have been secured.

Question: Suzanne asked if there was a used instrument donation program? Her 2021 grad had an instrument that they are no longer using, and she would like to donate it back to the school. Sara mentioned that she thought that FOLPHS should organize a donation program. She asked if the teachers could select a donation/drop off date? Sabrina stated she would email Kelley Gossler, Director of Bands, to discuss this idea.

Next meeting, December 14 at 6:30 pm in person at the library or Room 103.

Adjourn: 8:08 pm

Attendees:

Sabrina Spitznagle

Kristen Feurer

Misha Mann

Sara Schacter

Michele Berman

Eury Chrones

Debra Sitar

Luisa Shortall

Suzanne Rovner

Dr. Steinmiller

Ms. Tookey

Jacob Fjare

Anthony Calabrese- EY

Yesi Perez

Myrna de Jesus

Pamela Bishop

Ashanti

Kevin Waco