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### **FOLPHS Meeting**

LPHS Community Room, #112

April 11, 2023

### **Welcome and Call to Order 6:36pm**

### **Officer's Reports**

**Principal Dr. Steinmiller** – not present

Mr. Stucky was in attendance to provide administrative updates. Positive news regarding attendance numbers for upcoming school year. There have been 1,800 offers. As students may have more than one choice of high school, LPHS would expect no more than 1,550. Specifically for Freshmen, 471 students have accepted vs. prior school year of 350. Kuddos to Mr. Stucky and IBD for being so prompt with personalized welcome letters to incoming freshmen. Good parent reaction. Due to timing of Spring Break, we couldn't have a "YES Event" this year but incoming freshmen families will receive invites to the FOLPHS Cinco de Mayo event, spirit wear link and opportunity to purchase yard sign.

General discussion as to percentage of choice programs vs. neighborhood attendance. Based on how the metrics are currently reported, roughly 60-70% are choice with 30-40% neighborhood. That may be a little misleading as a neighborhood student may get accepted into one of our choice programs so counts so fall into choice totals. Additionally, students within LPHS attendance zones do not need to enroll through GOCPS so may not yet have verified totals until beginning of next school year.

3 of 4 Visual and Performing Arts programs are at capacity. Jenny Perez asked question about smoothness of process. Mr. Stucky indicated that a week before deadline, our LPHS Department Chair, Kelley Gossler noticed that "cut scores" were changed. It impacted all schools and still trying to determine why change was made. General discussion on rubric for visual and performing arts programs in future. At an individual school level, there is always opportunity to evaluate audition process to allow it to evolve with the diverse evolution of all of fields of art.

Suzanne had question about temporary fences going up on Oz Park as a vocal resident had posted negative comments on neighborhood website. Mr. Stucky will verify with athletics but

thinks fence will be put up and taken down around established games. The coaches did partner with Athletic Director, Park District and Alderman on temporary fencing system and were all in agreement. There is also obligation to provide safety from baseballs and softballs. As part of our ongoing partnership efforts, LPHS has also offered temporary fence use to Little League at Oz Park.

### **President Sabrina Spitznagle**

Reminder to group that we have a lot of very active senior parents whose students are graduating out. Please look for opportunities within group and well as extending FOLPHS groups so we can begin filling vacancies. We need to particularly focus on roles requiring specific technical expertise, like Indira's work on graphic design.

Ms. Sepulveda sent nice thank you note appreciating case manager breakfast to discuss IEPs with elementary feeder schools. As Dr. Steinmiller referenced in last FOLPHS meeting, LPHS invited case managers from our feeder schools to discuss the transition process of IEP from elementary to high school with goal of improving that process.

**Vice President Kristen Feurer** – defer report time to Spring Party

**Treasurer Ellen Zickmann** –

Ellen is continuing to track financial progress. The two main revenue generators this semester are brick drive and spring party. Brick drive sales are running under expectations. To drive sales, brick drive will be extended through end of semester, additional communication will be sent to graduating senior families and we've incorporated bricks into spring party family sponsorships and auction. Suggestion to also add brick drive information to incoming freshmen families.

For spring party, want to make our budget but how much we net has range of \$5k-\$30k based on ticket sales, sponsorships, auction items and paddle range. As reminder, we budgeted 2022/2023 based on where we know we need to spend. We'll need to see how the year plays out before investing additional funds into other priorities, like smartboards.

New spirit wear is in and continues to be a consistent revenue generator for us.

**Secretary Sarah Portugal**

Sabrina moved to approve last month's minutes. Suzanne seconded motion and vote was unanimous.

## **New Business-**

### **Stage Right CPS**

Suzanne Wychocki was in attendance to provide FOLPHS with an update on the Stage Right CPS Auditorium Renovation Project. <https://www.stagerightcps.org> and provided attached presentation.

Over last 3 years, Stage Right has been working with a local architectural firm and theater design firm to map out options to renovate LPHS auditorium. They received \$250,000 grant prior to covid but those funds have not yet been distributed. Currently assessed as a \$3M project. Challenge is procurement. Once project started, it could be handled over 3-4 month period during summer. Discussions have temporarily stalled over last 12 months. Now that we have new mayor elect, alderman, etc., Suzanne wants to refresh the dialogue and move project forward. Primary ask is that parents to get involved and allow their voices to be heard. Suzanne has been in conversations with Dr. Steinmiller and will be attending this week's LSC meeting.

General discussion on packet detail:

- Reviewing project renderings, existing challenges, and opportunities. Scope of project is focused on existing real estate footprint of that side of school but does encompass maximizing space, not just updating lighting and sound.
- As we're aware, every piece of equipment is obsolete. There is attached 8/11/2020 facilities assessment within distributed packet. Unclear of source nor how recommended replacement assessments were determined. The data is clearly incorrect, and we are already aware of what is out of code, cannot be replaced, etc.
- Potential opportunity to add four neutral bathrooms to that side of campus which would allow the school to rent auditorium out to other schools without needing to open entire campus. Space being discussed is currently used as choir director offices.
- Jenny asked about risk of raising concerns regarding code and prompting the city/CPS to close auditorium as hazard.
- Ms. Tookey made recommendation to discuss with Brad Kessler. Based on Suzanne's comments, Brad as well as some other members of the community may favor replacing entire building vs. working within existing real estate footprint. New building would be 7-10-year timeframe so any improvements by Stage Right (i.e. equipment) would most likely be obsolete and not transferable.



## Who We Are

In 2019, a group of Chicago Public Schools (CPS) parents established Stage Right CPS in response to the needs of performing arts students at Lincoln Park High School (LPHS). Through the community feedback process at LPHS and neighboring schools, the parents spoke to staff, students, educators, and families and identified a deficit in technology and equipment as a significant barrier to the success of the performing arts program within the school. As a response, Stage Right CPS is partnering with local schools and nonprofits to empower students in the performing arts through addressing the technology gap in performing arts programs across CPS schools.

Now, Stage Right CPS seeks to expand its partnerships with CPS schools to address the technological divide in performing arts programs throughout the city. Performing arts programs consist of drama, dance, and music, and typically all programs share a facility. Stage Right has identified multiple CPS schools facing barriers in their performing arts programs and seeks to partner with these schools to address their technology needs to provide increased access to performing arts programs, in line with CPS's Arts Education Plan.

Stage Right acknowledges that performing arts programs deeply impact students both inside and outside the school through improving self-confidence, increasing public speaking skills, and empowering students to learn new skills. Opportunities to work behind the scenes in performing arts programs also prepare students for future careers in sound engineering, lighting, and stage management. Yet without the necessary technology, resources and training skills, students cannot access the full benefit of these programs.

As a result, the mission of Stage Right is to transform CPS performing arts programs by equipping students with the necessary technology, resources, and skills to excel and meet the goals of the CPS Arts Plan. In partnership with students, parents, and local nonprofits, Stage Right CPS envisions being a part of the long-term solution to closing the technology gap in CPS schools, opening up opportunities for all students to access premier performing arts programs.

## **Misc. Expense Discussion**

Per prior meeting, any miscellaneous expenses will be added to meeting agenda for discussion sans urgent requests which would necessitate vote via email voting members. Sabrina would like to discuss funding for breakfast for French exchange students this Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. As reminder, LPHS has been part of French exchange program since 2005. Our students were just over there and now their students arrive tomorrow. Expense estimate was \$200. Dr. Steinmiller was discussing with Ms. Lopez and needs to clarify if still a request to FOLPHS. Sabrina made motion to fund if they still need and Suzanne seconded. Voting was approved unanimously. Note: Ellen was also working with them to provide some LPHS spirit wear.

## **Committee / Director Reports**

**Spring Parent Party** – Kristen Feurer , Ellen Zickmann, & Sarah Portugal (Voting Members)

Lions' Pride Cinco de Mayo Fiesta annual fundraiser is set for May 5<sup>th</sup>. Following up on Ellen's report, our opportunity to raise revenue will come from auction, sponsorship and paddle raise. We are hoping for 200 ticket purchases. Reminder that early bird pricing is coming to an end. Please help spread the word and get people excited. As reminder, ticket price includes food and open bar for evening.

Ellen, Sarah and Kristen revamped parent sponsorship packages and added opportunities for corporate sponsorships. Corporate sponsorships sold include @ Properties, Audi and Emmett Kyoshi/Art and Science.

General discussion regarding how parents who may be out of town for event still donate. Qtego site allows for straight donation. Reminder for parents to also register for event so even if remote, they can bid on silent auction items. We're excited to include families of incoming freshmen. There was general discussion on how best to include them whether that be name tags, special raffle, etc.

We are looking to expand staff willing to do cameos. Although general request was sent out to all faculty and staff, suggestion for each of us to individually ask staff, especially if we know they are favorites with the students. Jodi suggested Timmy Knudson or LPHS Super Hero. Please ask additional individuals and have them get in touch with Kristen.

Sarah will send out auction donation form with URL and QR code. Vast majority of donations have come from personal relationships with businesses we frequent. Request that everyone keeps form on them and as they are out and about, ask if a business is interested in providing a donation item.

**Yard signs- Sara Byerly – not present**

Sabrina indicated communication to purchase yard signs. There will also be targeted communications to seniors as well as incoming freshmen.

**Brick Drive – Eurydice Chrones (Voting Member)**

Continue to plug away. Currently, \$3,074 worth of bricks have been sold. Net profit will account for delivery and installation costs. Decision was made to continue brick drive through end of school year. Suggestion to communicate to new freshmen families.

**Community Fundraising – Jodi Torzewski (Voting Member)**

Jodi is partnering with Dave's coffee cakes and is hoping to organize something week before Mother's Day whether that be handout or delivery.

There are plans in place for another Jeni's ice cream social. General discussion on Cilantro's and Cedar Palace who are interested in continued partnerships. Jodi willing to assess if there are revenue opportunities. Depending on the arrangement, the volume doesn't create much opportunity.

**Spirit Wear –Therese Matheny – not present & Ellen Zickmann (Voting Members)**

New spirit wear is in and was displayed around table. Highlights include roll over shorts, cropped top, pj shorts and new logos. Will work with Mr. Stucky around new family orientation events and spirit wear will also be showcased at Cinco de Mayo Fiesta. Thanks to Ellen for organizing and labeling spirit wear storage cabinets.

**Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion– Venecia Sanchez – not present & Julie Molina (Voting Members)**

No update

**Faculty & Staff Appreciation– Un Sil Hwang (Voting Member) and Co-Chair Annie Heitman- not present**

Sabrina shared thank you note from Ms. Sepulveda.

**Social Media- Debra Sitar (Voting Member)- not present**

**Marketing- Rebecca Eden and Indira Williams (Voting Members)- not present**

Discussed significant need for someone to take over website and graphic design. Eury indicated her husband may be able to help in interim. There is also opportunity to identify new parent volunteers at Fiesta.

Ellen provided update on her efforts to revise website and add section highlighting our community business sponsors. We are also including the 4 business directory sponsors' logos on Qtego website.

**IB Liaison** – Venecia Sanchez (Voting Member) – not present

**LSC Liaison**- Sabrina Spitznagle & Rebecca Eden- not present (Voting Members)

Reminder that LSC meeting is this Thursday at 4:00pm.

**Personalized Marquee Message** – Sabrina Spitznagle (Voting Member)

One additional message was sold.

**Communications** – Sabrina Spitznagle (Voting Member)

Reminder to give any communications to Sabrina to be included in FOLPHS communication.

**Social Committee** – Kristen Feurer (Voting Member)- report deferred to Spring Parent Party discussion.

**Open House Committee** – Beth O'Connor – not present & Michele Berman (Voting Members)

Meeting this week to hopefully identify date for next school year.

**Pledge Drive** – Sabrina Spitznagle & Suzanne Rovner (Voting Members)-

Will continue to think about strategy for next year.

**Adjourn 8:07pm**

\*\*\*Next meeting scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Attendance:** Maura Burke, Eurydice Chrones, Jodi Torzewski, Jenny Perez, Beth O'Connor, Michelle Berman, Suzanne Wychocki, Mary Enda Tookey, Julie Molina, Suzanne Rovner, Sabrina Spitznagle, Ellen Zickmann, Kristen Feurer, Sarah Portugal, Adam Stucky

