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FOLPHS DECEMBER MEETING

LPHS Community Room, #112
December 13, 2022

Welcome and Call to Order – 6:34pm

Officer's Reports

Principal Dr. Steinmiller

Dr. Steinmiller highlighted all the activities this week including band, orchestra, and choir concerts. Reminder that finals are Monday & Tuesday, “non-student attendance” day is Friday, Dec. 23rd, and campus will be closed over the holiday break.

Last week, Chicago’s Deputy Mayor, Samir Mayekar and Alderman Timmy Knudsen toured LPHS campus, visiting classrooms, band room (i.e., old cafeteria with exposed drainage pipe), auditorium (i.e., “switchboard” lighting system with half the bulbs burnt out yet can’t be replaced, expired curtains, etc.), gym floor (i.e., exposed nails and held together with caulk, etc. As a positive, they were able to meet with students in cafeteria and hear their amazing student life experiences.

Funds available to CPS now are uniquely high and provide significant opportunity for long-term investments towards efficient facilities vs. patch fixes on non-sustainable systems. Example of old boiler system which requires 24/7 monitoring equating to 3 engineer salaries. Need our officials, including Aldermanic candidates to prioritize LPHS, understand correlation between quality of school and property value and desire to create a long-term relationship with our campus. LPHS could be a unique example of a premier neighborhood high school within an urban setting. We can build connections with our feeder elementary schools to create loyalty and excitement in becoming a future LPHS Lion. Ms. Sepulveda is building neighborhood connections with Oz Park, Wrightwood Neighbors, Chamber of Commerce, and local businesses. We can also learn from previous investment mistakes. General discussion regarding inefficiency of Freshman building configuration: garden space is wasted, gym is not regulation, flat roof is problematic, and parking could have been underground.

Academically, there is continued focus on what we're defining as our "instructional building blocks." Examples discussed:

- Incorporating more data with faculty and staff in decision making. Example: perception that a student admitted to a higher-level class would not be successful although there were only 3 instances.
- Partnering with department chairs to streamline programming as some course titles are misleading. Incoming Freshman will receive course catalog with two clear options: standard skill vs. honors class.
- Correcting 5.0 GPA scale. Historically, it's the same across H-HH-PDP courses. Goal should be getting students in classes which are the right fit for them. Under current scale, a student could boost GPA by enrolling in lower skill classes.
- Continuing to provide opportunities for students to gain college credit. Example: 292 enrolled in APUSH vs. 170 last year. Even if you don't achieve 3.0 as Sophomore, you may as Junior or Senior.

General discussion regarding funding. LPHS does not receive the same special federal/state level funding as other schools although roughly half of student body qualifies for financial assistance. We greatly rely on the percentage of students who pay \$450 student fee to support our basic needs. Eury discussed previous involvement with One School/One Community fundraising and had concern that \$20M was misspent toward short sighted improvements. Dr. Steinmiller requested we add campus investment to January FOLPHS agenda to continue discussions.

President Sabrina Spitznagle – deferred time to committee reports

Vice President Kristen Feurer – deferred time to committee reports

Treasurer Ellen Zickmann

Ellen recapped YTD financials (July 1st - Dec. 13th) and distributed detailed financial spreadsheet to attendees. Copies are available on request. Updates include:

- Total Revenue raised to date: \$58.6K down from \$74.4K last year. Pledge Drive generated \$40k of revenue.
- YTD shortfall doesn't impact "how we pay our bills or help to fund school programming, for examples open house, homecoming or teacher appreciation," but impacts the funds allocated to for "wish list" items like Smart Boards.
- Drop in General Donations, primarily driven by non-recurring large single donor donations last year:
 - \$9,800 – single donor whose student graduated
 - \$5,000- single donation- unknown
 - \$4,000- PepsiCo donation
 - \$1,000- Chicago Community Foundation donation
 - \$1,000- Fidelity donation
- A question was asked about the "General Donation" category in the financials and how it differentiates from Pledge Drive or Wish List. Much of this is a "general

donation” account from last year’s appeal, where donors could make a donation not tied to a specific item. Sabrina/Ellen to determine whether those cases general donation earmarked by donor should move to wish list donation account vs. general. That category also stems from donors who donated throughout the year and not part of the official solicitations from wish list (last year) or pledge drive (this year). Some of these donations are those parents make through their employers on a quarterly or monthly basis, or company matches.

- Product sales include spirit wear directly sold as well as commission we receive from the other website. YTD sales of \$12k vs. prior year \$19.6k. Online merchandise link launched 11/1 accounts for 15% of sales.
- Reduced cost of cookbooks to increase sales. Only 20% of inventory has been purchased.
- Marquee messages up from \$850 last year to \$1,600 this year. Nice improvement.
- Slow start to business ads. Only 4 ads sold this year. For future ad sales, Sabrina to partner with Rebecca on sending template out to donor.
- Brick campaign is additional revenue stream later in year.
- FOLPHS caught up on wish list purchases from last year.
- We resolved LPs ask to fund Model UN and will not need to pay that bill for the school as they found a way to pay the vendor directly within their budget.
- YTD Expenses total \$31k which include grant disbursements, fundraising, school programs, and operating expenses.
- General discussion on opportunity to further publicize FOLPHS support. Most of the community doesn’t realize FOLPHS’ organization/financial support for student events such as Back to School, Homecoming, Graduation, Prom as well as non-student related events such as Open House, Teacher Appreciation, storage cabinets, and Smart Boards.
- Although improved, there is continued opportunity to coordinate with other boosters, clubs, and faculty to reduce errant expenses being routed to FOLPHS. Dr. Steinmiller indicated there are OOS (Out of School time) funds of \$300,000 to support clubs. Opportunity for school community to improve consistency of fundraising efforts across all clubs/organizations. Some are strong while others have little to no efforts in place.

Secretary Sarah Portugal

Sabrina moved to approved minutes. Full approval

Committee / Director Reports

Pledge Drive – Sabrina Spitznagle & Suzanne Rovner

Pledge Drive raised \$40k. As referenced during financial update, we did lose some larger one-time donations. Suzanne shared parent feedback regarding timing of Pledge Drive up against Student fees, Athletic fees and/or other LPHS booster related fundraisers. Parents who are active with school activities do not think FOLPHS impacts their child directly and there are still a large percentage of parents who do not participate at all. Suzanne requested reporting on total number

of people who donated compared to last year. There is no clear way to compare based on reporting categories of Wish List up against the financial improvements made to categorize Pledge Drive. Ellen can confirm that there were 152 Pledge Drive which equates to only 10-12% of our student body.

General discussion on how not only to improve fundraising levels but increase overall parent participation in upcoming years. Suggestions include:

- Increasing visibility of FOLPHS involvement as well as improving communication/partnership with LPHS. Through-out course of the year, majority of events are highlighted as LPHS events yet financed/manpowered by FOLPHS (i.e., Back to School, Open House, Teacher appreciation, Homecoming, Graduation, etc.). Opportunity to promote through marquee as well as unused social media buttons on LPHS home page.
- Create Class Ambassadors to improve create additional communication channel and improve parent involvement within each class.
- Keeping donation button highly visible on both FOLPHS and potentially LPHS webpages.
- Similar to Deputy Mayor and Alderman visits, can we take potential donors on mini-LPHS campus tours to see some of the challenges.
- Increasing targeted communication to area businesses.
- Coordinate timing with Student fees, Athletics, etc.

Sabrina will roll out Pledge Drive results for communication to LPHS community. Discussion on allocating any percentage of donations towards Smartboards. Sabrina to partner with Dr. Steinmiller and Mr. Hardesty on any benefits of buying in bulk, checking with Ms. Lopez on existing orders and consolidating installation scheduled through CPS Tech Hubs. existing installation already scheduled through CPS Tech hubs. Sabrina and Ellen to determine final allocation. Recommendations will be reviewed and approved through FOLPHS voting members.

Spirit Wear –Therese Matheny & Ellen Zickmann

Spirit Wear will be sold in main lunchroom tomorrow and Freshman lunchroom on Friday. Both online store link and storage cabinets are amazing improvements. Therese and Ellen are still receiving holiday orders. Orders are bagged and parents are able to schedule campus pick up. Therese to work with group on any upcoming volunteer needs.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion– Venecia Sanchez & Julie Molina

Cookbook price reduced to increase sales. They will also be available via Spirit Wear link. DEI corner has been updated on website.

Brick Drive – Eurydice Chrones

As preparation, Eury has been in contact with fundraising brick company. They have ability to restart website any time. New idea to also offer replica bricks so someone can have their own

“mini-brick” that mimics one at school (sans LPHS symbol). Eury will circle back to Ellen on pricing, installation cost and updating website. Current plan is to start advertising in January. Suzanne brought up Oz Park playground renovation to make sure we’re not competing with any brick campaign scheduled. General discussion on whether to offer “group bricks” again and how to process purchase. Ms. Sepulveda can provide full list of active clubs who may be interested in group brick. Suggestion to also target local businesses as an advertising opportunity.

Community Fundraising – Jodi Torzewski

All first semester fundraising complete. Jodi is in planning stage for second semester.

Social Committee – Kristen Feurer

In addition to activities already scheduled, Kristen is considering Freshman/Sophomore party early in year.

Spring Parent Party –Kristen Feurer

Spring Party finalized for May 5th and will include new incoming Freshman parents. Kristen will determine budget goals with Ellen. General discussion regarding auctioning off artwork like big lions from previous year.

Faculty and Staff appreciation- Sabrina Spitznagle & Kristen Feurer

Sabrina dropped off coffee mugs, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate for faculty and staff on report card pick up day. Sabrina and Kristen are coordinating with Ms. Glunz, and we are contributing \$2000 to the faculty and staff holiday party, which will be on December 16. Kristen also supported breakfast and lunch for Robotics event held at LPHS. Great opportunity for LPHS to host event which included participation from all main schools. Sabrina will coordinate with Un Sil Hwang on transitioning committee responsibilities for upcoming year.

Social Media- Debra Sitar – no report

Marketing- Rebecca Eden and Indira Williams

Special thanks to Rebecca for completing the business directory on FOLPHS page. Although it has not yet been marketed, we have 4 businesses filing to be included. Rebecca is working to provide paperwork to everyone who has paid. Moving forward, she’ll partner with Sabrina on template which can be sent. Neon automatically sends receipt.

IB Liaison – Venecia Sanchez

Potluck remains TBD. Will coordinate with Ms. Tookey. Currently aiming for February.

LSC Liaison- Sabrina Spitznagle and Rebecca Eden

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday @ 4:00pm. New time suggested by students, faculty, and staff to accommodate schedules but some concern it prevents parents from participating due to work conflicts. LSC will continue to balance timing to best accommodate all schedules. Sabrina to follow up with Rebecca on any announcements.

Personalized Marquee Message – Sabrina Spitznagle

Marquee sales have doubled and continuing to go well. Agree to continue to promote as well as leverage for FOLPHS visibility.

Communications – Yelena Spector – no report

Open House Committee – Beth O’Connor and Michele Berman

Open House came in under budget. There are a few remaining expenses that need to be submitted. High turnout despite horrible weather. Pens and notepads were big hit and should be continued. Also received positive feedback regarding IB sessions and student panels. Opportunity to improve Athletics/Club participation. Suggested opportunity to sell excess tshirts on Spirit Wear site.

New Business - none

Old Business - none

Open / Announcements – none

Adjourn 8:24 pm

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 10th at 6:30pm in Community Room. Dr. Steinmiller requests adding Campus Investment to January agenda.

Attendance: Jodi Torzewski, Michele Berman, Eurydice Chrones, Sabrina Spitznagle, Kristen Feurer, Ellen Zickmann, Therese Matheny, Venecia Sanchez, Kevin Waco, Dr. Steinmiller, Rochelle Brophy, Suzanne Rovner, Beth O’Connor, Peter Talmers, Alicia Hernandez, Sarah Portugal