

# Parent CATS Meeting Agenda

September 7, 2023  
7:00pm in the LHS Library

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. President's Report – Megan Huber
  - a. Megan provided a warm welcome and an overview of Parent CATS and how easy it is to get involved.
- III. First Vice President's Report – Kristin Malek
  - a. Kristin was not in attendance; Megan introduced her.
- IV. Second Vice President's Report – Amy Neff
  - a. Amy shared that directories are available for purchase again this year; orders are due in a couple of weeks. She also explained she's the Parent CATS rep for the FAD-70 association.
  - b. Megan asked whether those in attendance had received information on the directory sale and asked for a reminder to be sent out.
- V. Treasurer's Report – Ann Rappa
  - a. Proposed budget and actuals are ready for review; need to be approved at the end of this meeting.
- VI. Secretary's Report – Becky Streff
  - a. Minutes will be posted. Dr. K will email Becky his slides to be included in the distribution of the minutes.
- VII. Guest Presentation – LHS School Nurse, Cam Traut (EKG Screening)
  - a. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> time LHS has offered this program and this is the last opportunity to participate for free. Students are pulled from PE, health, drivers ed and study halls for the screenings on Wednesday, 9/13. Zero-hour PE students will go at 8:30a so they can participate. The screening takes about 15 minutes. The providers are very conscientious about privacy and sensitive to gender identities. Students are separated into their own booths for each screening. Cardiologist on-site reads each screening and can do additional testing if something is detected.
  - b. Mrs. Traut shared example of a freshman lacrosse player whose genetic heart defect was identified through this program. Since then, the program has identified over 100 students with some form of heart condition that requires monitoring.
  - c. All students can participate; you do not need to be an athlete. Register at the link provided in the email blast or on school website.
  - d. The group thanked Mrs. Traut for her service because she's retiring at the end of the school year.
- VIII. Committee Reports
  - a. Activities – Meg Carter & Heather Mazzeno
    - i. 12 volunteers are needed to chaperone the Homecoming Dance; Megan will distribute a sign-up email from Parent CATS. No other support is needed at this time.
    - ii. Dance is 7-10p; theme is "Sweet Homecoming Chicago".
    - iii. Communication with all Homecoming information will be sent on 9/8.
  - b. College and Career Resource Center – Ann Rappa
    - i. Met with CRC leaders (Erin Murphy or Sara Cardinelli) to organize the year and volunteer spots are already full.

- ii. There are a few events they may need a few more volunteers: Daring Day, and Where Are You Now (11/8) Day. This is after the 11/1 college application deadline, and they want support for decorations and treats.
  - iii. The CRC will also hold Senior Day in the spring and the awards ceremony; both may need volunteers.
  - iv. The group discussed the limited number of volunteer spots and the inability to give early access to the Parent CATS members.
  - v. CRC encourages juniors to go to at least one of the college rep visits. There is a Google form that students have access to sign up. Dr. K said it's rare that a visit would become full, but it does happen if they can't relocate to a larger room. The college visit schedule is on the CRC website and in their newsletters. The CRC newsletters are a MUST READ for a parent of a junior or senior. Email Erin Murphy or Sara Cardinelli if you need to be included in the email distribution.
  - vi. Visits also include trade schools, military presentations, and other post-secondary options.
- c. Community Outreach – Sonja Causemaker
- i. Homecoming Window Painting will be 10a-2p on 10/2 – flyers with QR codes were distributed to downtown merchants where they can sign up to participate, make requests, and make donations.
  - ii. The biggest concern from merchants is that the volunteers don't return to remove the paint and the group discussed whether we needed to change this. Dr. K shared that we would not be able to do it this year and there are a variety of reasons why they do not clean the windows; he shared that it's difficult to secure volunteers for painting and some merchants have very specific requests.
  - iii. Ann offered to create a special check-out link on the Square site so that the merchants have a record from Parent CATS for tax deduction purposes.
  - iv. Ann shared that there is a budget of \$550 for Homecoming Events that is likely all for the window painting because there are no other Parent CATS homecoming activities. Sonja will prepare an estimate and submit to Ann for consideration.
  - v. Parent CATS will email out a sign up for volunteers, including chaperones.
- d. Fundraising – Trish Graditor
- i. Plan to do a "Dine and Donate" every 8-12 weeks; goal is that every other time will be marketed to seniors at their lunch time and the rest of the community in the evening. Payback rates vary by business and range from 10-25%.
  - ii. She's also hoping to sell treats at lunch time. Dr. K needs to review cafeteria contract to make sure there's no infringement or conflict; he also shared that a lot of the clubs use that available time for their fundraisers. He will review the contract and inform Trish.
  - iii. Will push out more information about the brick sale.
- e. GOAL Award – Michele Westphall
- i. No activity until the spring. Looking for volunteers to assist with this committee and selection. Volunteers read around 50 applicants and select 2-4 winners.
  - ii. GOAL scholarship celebrates examples of overcoming challenges.
- f. Gym Uniforms – Jennifer Tepper & Carina DeCroes
- i. Nothing finalized yet; online stores around \$6000. No total from the Spirit Store yet.
  - ii. Discussed that sales of shirts outpace the shorts because they have options for shorts.
  - iii. Another sale will ramp up with the start of a spring semester.

- iv. Sales through Sports 11 do not benefit Parent CATS.
  - g. Hospitality – Donna Griffin & Christine Merrild
    - i. Will do three events in first semester.
    - ii. “Carbs and Coffee” after the Open House: Panera served to staff until first period. \$1000 spent.
    - iii. Next event is student treat day. Last year was Lee’s Donuts for Homecoming; would like to do that again if the budget permits.
    - iv. Final event is All Staff Luncheon funded through community donations. Last year was Dos Amigos and Sunset Food sandwiches. Budget permitting.
    - v. Will need parent volunteers also.
  - h. Social Media & Communications – Rebecca Gaples
    - i. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, tried Threads but it was difficult to maintain/post.
    - ii. Parent asked whether the volunteer emails could direct people to donations if the sign-up spots are already filled. Discussed whether this would result in fatigue so the idea was tabled for future consideration.
  - i. Spirit Store – Michelle Sieks & Christine Trowbridge
    - i. Open on Fridays 10a-2p; very busy. Most of the inventory has already been sold but should be restocked soon.
    - ii. Inventory is taken to Cook Park during Homecoming window painting.
    - iii. Online stores are offered 1-2 times a year.
    - iv. Also open at home football games.
    - v. Many forms of payment are accepted.
  - j. Website – Karen Cordes
    - i. Not in attendance; Megan shared that website pages are getting cleaned up.
- IX. Principals Report –
- a. Back to school update (see slides)
    - i. School year has started out fantastic; this is the first year that feels pre-COVID “normal”. Still managing learning loss and other impacts of COVID but kids are getting healthier and more school-resilient.
    - ii. Welcomed new parents and explained the purpose and goals of Parent CATS meetings. He will present information that is helpful to parents and will encourage them to engage with students at home.
    - iii. 14 new staff members this year with a wide variety of experiences
    - iv. Tightened up a few things this year: hall passes, cell phone hotels in classrooms, emphasizing attendance (for the first semester, seniors will be exempt from finals if they have an A or B and less than 5 non-school-related absences)
    - v. D128 strategic plan has three focuses.
      - 1. In October, Dr. K will focus on Explore Multiple Paths with programs that feature new potential career options. The district’s new resource for this program will present at the October Parent CATS meeting.
      - 2. At the November meeting, Dr. K will talk about Equal Opportunities Schools partnership with high schools who identify kids with high potential but have not signed up for AP classes. This partnership works with school and parents to get the kids signed up for these AP and honors classes. Research shows taking at least one AP class increases success in college. Dr. K shared an update on the new IL Accelerated Placement requirement placed on schools which automatically enrolls students with strong PSAT results for advanced coursework. LHS students are already highly-enrolled with honors and AP classes so they’re trying to figure how to avoid over-programming students.

3. Later this year, he will present on the new grading/assessment pilot and inviting staff who have been involved to share their experiences.
  - vi. The school board has approved a new cafeteria; plans will be presented to Parent CATS at a future meeting. Parent CATS donations to the school for capital improvements are for projects that benefit all the students; not just a specific grade or program. Project team has been discussing how to best utilize Parent CATS funds in this project. Target is August 2025 completion.
  - vii. District is moving to an operational calendar which removes religious holidays. These days would be class days, but students will be excused to spend it with family. Any changes will be effective with the 2025-2026 school year.
  - viii. The bell schedule committee is looking at how the school day is structured by time periods; models will be presented to the school board this year for discussion and consideration.
  - ix. Spotlight on AI: students are using it and teachers are being trained how to detect it. LHS will not block the technology but need to determine guidelines for its appropriate and productive use. Dr. K asked that we talk with our students about the appropriate way of using AI as a supplement for learning, not a substitute. Teachers are setting expectations and parents should reinforce them.
  - x. October 10<sup>th</sup>, Daring Day at the CRC
  - xi. Health & Wellbeing continues to be a focus. Staff being trained on Teen Mental Health First Aid. Also continuing the Green Dot program to counter bullying and interpersonal violence; 25 staff members being trained as trainers.
- b. "Ask Dr. Koulentes" submitted questions:
- i. What does "Sko Cats" mean? Explained it means, "Let's Go, Cats!"
  - ii. Will extra bleachers be added to the football stadium? They are not expected to be permanently added but portable bleachers will be added to the end zones and students relocated to those areas. The school is considering updates to the visitors bleachers but the budget needs to be appropriated. Weight limits are monitored closely and they work with police; gates will be closed when attendance reaches 4000.
  - iii. Will the foreign exchange program return? It has never ended but there are very limited host families available. One exchange student can be hosted per year. The world language exchange programs can exist if the language teachers are willing to make it happen. There are several student travel options available also.
- X. Old Business / New Business – Libertyville Connect
- a. The purpose of the program is to empower the community to engage on youth substance-abuse prevention. It was started when there was higher than average alcohol use with LHS students. This usage has decreased but mental health issues have increased.
  - b. The program partners with a wide array of stakeholders in Libertyville. More information can be found on social media or [LibertyvilleConnect.com](http://LibertyvilleConnect.com)
- XI. Upcoming Events
- a. Directory sale deadline – late September
  - b. Window painting (10/1, 10/2) – volunteers needed (Sonja Causemaker)
  - c. Homecoming dance (10/7) – volunteers needed
  - d. DARING Day – volunteers needed
- XII. Adjourn – Next Meeting – October 4<sup>th</sup>, 7pm in the library
- XIII. Budget reviewed and approved