

Parent CATS Meeting
Wednesday, February 7, 2024
7:00 pm

1. Presentation by Mr. John Woods, LHS Athletic Director, on the Wildcats Will program
 - a. Held 7:45-8:30a every Friday in the Studio Theatre; open to everyone, not just athletes
2. President's Report – Megan Huber
 - a. No comments to share
3. First Vice President's Report – Kristen Malek (not in attendance)
4. Second Vice President's Report – Amy Neff
 - a. Most recent FAB meeting was focused on the new elementary (ELA) curriculum that is being rolled out; there are mixed views and reactions as they acclimate to the new program. Institute Days will be dedicated to allowing teachers to collaborate on the new curriculum.
 - b. Question was raised about the status of the environmental study in the Copeland area. There has been a cluster of kids diagnosed with brain cancer in recent years. The group asked for an update at the next meeting.
5. Treasurer's Report – Ann Rappa
 - a. Spirit store is generating income.
 - b. Megan said that cash is being saved for commitments made for library tables and cafeteria improvements.
 - c. Parents inquired whether funding could be provided to expand bleachers at the football stadium. Megan relayed the reason and history of the current situation and agreed to keep the subject in front of Dr. K in future periods.
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Activities – Meg Carter & Heather Mazzeno
 - i. Winter dance volunteer sign-up has received 3 volunteers; please help if you're able on 2/24. It was posted on social media on 2/7.
 - b. College and Career Resource Center – Ann Rappa
 - i. Everything is now filled
 - c. Fundraising – Trisch Graditor
 - i. New things will be presented to Michelle and Megan at a later date
 - d. GOAL Award – Michele Westphall

- i. Essays are due Friday, 2/9. Five Junior parents have volunteered; need one more volunteer from the board. Winners need to be identified to the school by March 8th.
 - ii. Discussed whether the awards should be distributed evenly between boys and girls; in 2023, the number of awards doubled from 2 to 4 and were not distributed by gender. Michele shared that she has a goal to award based on the relative distribution of genders (e.g., if girls are 75% of the applicants, she hopes to achieve 75% of the awards going to girls) but names and genders are not be displayed on the submissions that volunteers select the winners from.
 - iii. On April 18th, winners are announced at a breakfast.
 - e. Gym Uniforms – Jennifer Tepper & Cariina DeCroes (not in attendance)
 - i. Activity will increase later in the spring when registrations are made for the 2024/2025 school year
 - f. Hospitality – Donna Griffin & Christine Merrild
 - i. Hot cocoa day 2/23 – LHS cafeteria will supply the hot chocolate; volunteer sign-up will be sent out in a few days
 - ii. Staff luncheon in May; donations will be asked for
 - iii. Student Treat Day TBD (near the last day of school)
 - g. Social Media & Communications – Rebecca Gaples
 - i. Large increase recently in followers on X; assuming it's incoming 8th graders and their parents.
 - ii. Megan complimented Rebecca's work because there was a large increase in engagement with the Valentine's Day post from last year.
 - h. Spirit Store – Michelle Sieks & Christine Trowbridge
 - i. Academic orientation was a busy night. The club/extracurricular fair is also expected to be very busy. And there may be a special event for incoming 8th graders closer to the end of the current school year.
 - ii. Discussed the potential of offering a special Homecoming t-shirt through the Spirit Store; perhaps in the class colors. Megan agreed to reach out to the planning committee to explore the idea.
 - iii. Trish asked whether there was the potential of having a t-shirt design contest to sell at the Spirit Store. Megan share that such a contest was held in the past and agreed to consider this idea in the future.
- 7. Principals Report (absent due to illness)
 - a. "Ask Dr. K" questions:

- i. Can student parking be expanded?
 - 1. There are no plans at this time; campus safety team reviews parking plan and needs every year.
- ii. Can the signage at the entrance to the high school be more visible? Often covered by bushes and grass.
 - 1. Marquee was no longer operational and cost-prohibitive to replace, plus it was not compliant with village ordinances.
 - 2. No plans to update or change the entrance; he will ask the grounds crew to keep the plants maintained so the sign is no longer obstructed.

8. Old Business / New Business

- a. Senior Graduation Committee update – Chairs Walt Melcher (walmelcher@gmail.com) & Trish Graditor (tlejman@juno.com)
 - i. Transportation, venue, and entertainment are under contract. Soliciting prizes and donations.
 - ii. 2/16 is the first Senior Treat Day; size of the committee should fill all volunteer needs. Megan suggested that they extend an invitation to all senior parents; Trish agreed to do so when the details and needs were firmed up.
- b. Libertyville Connect
 - i. Bi-annual IL Youth Survey produced by U of Illinois was administered at school on 2/6. The LHS health department uses the results to know where to focus their efforts for the next two years. Results expected in April.
 - ii. Wildcat Summit: 65 LHS students participated, ½-day event held at lake warming house. Topics: healthy relationships, and others. Thanked the planning committee for their work before and during the event. Feedback was positive from attendees. Dr. Nelson is soliciting feedback from parents.
 - iii. 2/9 is First Aid for Alcohol Poisoning course is already filled. Hoping to offer another one soon.
 - iv. 2/15 LHS will host a youth advocacy training program from 5-7p; questions should be directed to Dr. Nelson.
 - v. Operation Snowball for LHS, Wed 3/6 held at YMCA Camp McQueen in Burlington, WI. \$50 charge. More information given to students soon.
 - vi. Paw Street Journals posted in the bathrooms. Shares health and well-related information, schedule of events.

vii. Asked whether Parent CATS would be interested in a Narcan and/or alcohol-poisoning first-aid training at a future meeting. Dr. Nelson is offering; the group agreed there is strong interest and Rebecca will coordinate with Dr. Nelson.

9. Upcoming Events – volunteers needed

a. Hot cocoa day – 2/23

b. Winter dance – 2/24

c. 8th grade orientation – 3/12

10. Megan asked whether the group is interested in holding a future meeting at the Transitions Pathway facility to get a tour before/after the meeting. There was interest and Megan will explore with Dr. K.

11. Adjourn – Next meeting is March 6 at 7:00 pm in the Library