

Parent Cats Meeting Notes
November 6, 2019

Board Member Attendees: Dr. Kourentes, Melissa McGrory, Joy Bach, Laura Ciezadlo and Jenny Quilty

Melissa McGrory, Parent Cats President, welcomed the group and updated us on the student directories, they were sent in the mail and if you haven't received them, you will soon. There are also a few for sale in the Spirit Store.

D128 listed as the safest schools in the state (Libertyville and VHHS). Eric Maroscher will present the security strategy for LHS.

Board Reports:

Joy Bach, 1st VP report: No report, if volunteers are needed please contact Joy. The WHMW has a student panel on 11/13 at 6:30 in room 149 and the goal of the panel is for parents to understand the perspective of students. There will be questions submitted via FB.

Laura Ciezadlo, Treasurer: Shared the Year to Date Financials.

Jenny Quilty, Secretary: Motion to approve October minutes. All approved, motion carried.

Principal Report, Dr. Tom Kourentes:

Correction: Dr. Kourentes clarified that there isn't a specific question on the Common App for "what club have you started", there's a space to complete but not a specific question. The Real Talk event is on 11/12- topic is alcohol, vaping and marijuana and the goal is to provide information based on the health risks that they pose and the lack of clarity on the new marijuana laws. Judge Christopher Stride will speak to the law. Brenda Nelson and Nate Biggs, from the Lake County Health Department, will also present. There will be an interactive event for parents. We encourage students to attend and they are raffling 5 prizes of weeklong parking spaces for the second semester for those that attend. The interactive session starts at 6:30 PM and the formal presentation starts at 7:00 and will go to 8:15.

10/16 Daring Day – Feedback via survey to from all staff and students that participated was very positive. Reviewed every comment and have begun to think about ways to improve next year. 77% attendance rate for students who were required to attend, and 240 students took the PSAT.

Eric Maroscher presented the safety measures at the school, including presenting the security cameras that the school uses. LHS wants the building to be physically and emotionally secure – so it's not something that the students should be concerned about. Teachers present Lockdown drill videos, all employees (including subs) must review the video. The lockdown video was shared at the meeting. There are two lockdown drills per year and the second one is not announced, and it is where they learn opportunities for improvement. The State requires 1 drill per year, LHS does 2. 1st drill the date and time are announced, the 2nd drill the week of the drill only is announced. Blue strobe alarms are turned on when there is a lockdown in case employees or students cannot hear the alarms. There are security pilons up front and safety film on the entrance windows which are difficult to penetrate and delays the entrance into the building allowing police response to intercept the intruder. There is one key via key fob that will control all the doors. It takes Libertyville police 2 minutes for rapid deployment. Entrances

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are secured with a 2-stage entry system and Raptor program. The resource officers have video, and radio with all staff and Wayne Kincaid has direct access to the Libertyville police. There are 189 cameras throughout the building and additional are being added every year. There are security signs that alert students that they are on camera and subject to search. Staff FOBS can open every door. There are emergency call buttons in classrooms and 9 alarms that can be activated by staff throughout the building to activate a lock down. LHS has a talented and experienced security staff which includes 4 retired police officers (2 are from the Libertyville Police Department). SRO assigned to the building, Wayne Kincaid, is from the Libertyville Police Officer.

LHS has an Emergency response team and crisis team as well.

Training is held every year and monthly SRO meetings. The LST is critical to help keep LHS safe, they receive safety bots, if you see something, say something. LHS is working on a standard text that they can send to parents during a drill or an event. Parents and visitors need an appointment to come into the building.

Wrigley, the Wildcat, LHS therapy dog will start on November 12. The Parent CATS paid the scholarship fees for Wrigley to go to the best training program in the country. Wrigley is a 2-year-old Black Lab, she will have an office in the library. She's had 3 months of intensive training. She will work with the 3 social workers and will have a slower schedule until Thanksgiving and will work up to a full day schedule in December. 3 days a week, she will go to the LST and the Library 1/week. She will be allowed to go to classrooms if she has purposeful work to do – for example she could attend classes were students are giving public speaking and reading to dogs helps students of all ages. She can work with individual students for emotional support. Student and staff can follow her on Twitter @LHSWrigley, or @wrigleythewildcat on Instagram.

Committee Reports:

- Gym uniform: Extra items should be delivered tomorrow so will be in the Spirit Store soon.
- CRC: Need volunteers for 12/9 event for seniors and scholarships
- Hospitality/Activities: Nothing to report
- Newsletter: November is out and next one is in December.
- Spirit Store: Open Fridays 9:30-3:30 and need a lot of volunteers, it's easy and we'll provide instructions and training for volunteers. Please let Megan know if there a specific event where we can sell or have a pop-up store.
- Community Outreach: If anyone has ideas on community outreach, please reach out to Jim or Joy.
- Website: Susie Erdal revamped the website. The meeting minutes are now posted.
- GOAL Award – We received a scholarship application that we'll send out.

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- D128 Report - Support the BIG Event on 11/8! Mickey Finns 7-11. LHS is re-thinking learning spaces to make them more effective and conducive to learning and are reviewing spaces in this building to make updates, district meeting next Tuesday 11/12 at 7PM at VHHS.
- Old business/new business:
 - Senior Graduation Party – need parents to volunteer to organize the party. Contact Melissa McGrory directly. It is not a Parent Cats sponsored event. We'll send out a communication and solicit volunteers.

No meeting in December, please send topic or Ask Dr K questions to Melissa or the Parent CATS email.

Ask Dr. Koulentes:

- **Why is there an increase in the athletic pass from \$50 to \$75?** Dr. Koulentes will investigate the increase in cost.
- **The mosh pit at Homecoming can be dangerous, how can you stop it so that students don't get injured?** The most frequent injury at our events are students getting stepped on. For formal, we are initiating a public service announcement to get the boys to wear gym shoes because their hard heel shoes do cause injury. We do patrol at the dances and stop it when we see it but will start a public service campaign to continue to discourage the practice and encourage all to wear appropriate footwear.
- **How can we learn about the travel programs for different classes, clubs, etc.?** The District is creating a calendar for educational travel opportunities; Dr. Koulentes has an informal one so if needed please email him and he will share that with you. They are working on a system to update one.
- **Incidents in the press regarding assistant coaches at different schools not having adequate background checks is alarming, what are we doing at LHS?** Anyone that works here with students in any capacity have a District background check including fingerprints. Everyone has been screened in an appropriate manner.
- **What is the school's philosophy on hiring coaches and how are coaches evaluated?** All coaches are evaluated every year, students/parents can provide feedback via the end of the season survey, it's anonymous. Coaches are not evaluated on wins or losses but are evaluated on the process and whether the students are having a good experience. We have a shortage of coaches, we prefer in building coach over external but we don't have enough of in building coaches so we go externally.
- Feedback form visitors that the visitor benches in the stadium are overgrown by branches – Dr. Koulentes said he'll investigate having them trimmed.