

Parent Cats Meeting Notes

October 2, 2019

Board Member Attendees: Dr. Koulentes, Melissa McGrory, Saba Lausch, Laura Ciezadlo and Jenny Quilty

Melissa McGrory, Parent Cats President, welcomed the group and invited the team to attend the Wildcat Health and Mental Wellness meeting (WHMW) on 10/16 at 7 pm. It is for all parents and Dr. Koulentes encouraged all to attend.

Board Reports:

Joy Bach, 1st VP report: No report

Saba Lausch, 2nd VP report: Finished orders for Directories. We advertised more and sold them at the Open House, but sales are down from last year (248 vs 278). Extra copies are ordered and will be sold through the office. The directories will be available by the 3rd week of October. We'll advertise when we have the extra copies for sale.

Laura Ciezadlo, Treasurer: Shared the Year to Date Financials. We currently have credit that will help offset the balance and WISH list items that the Parent CATS are funding.

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

Principal Report, Dr. Tom Koulentes:

- Homecoming – 1276+ attended the dance representing 74% of the students; great spirit all week and the students loved it and were very energized all week. Dr. Koulentes thanked all for their support and volunteering. He posed a question, “Do we want to set a time that students need to arrive and/or leave the dance?” Other area schools have these mandates. However, early departure is not an issue and the clear majority stay until to the end. If they leave before 9:30 pm, students must scan out. LHS will continue to monitor arrival and departure times at events and will make recommendations if changes may need to be made. LHS will also create a quiet space in addition to the dance (gym), the lounge and cafeteria to accommodate students that may be overwhelmed by the sensory overload or crowd. LHS informs Freshman that they do not need to have to be a date to attend the dance. Link Crew leaders, teachers, counselors, and coaches reinforce this message. Based on a suggestion, Link Crew leaders and counselors will help investigate if they should create a known meeting area for those that arrive individually where they can find friends or join a group.
- LHS Special Attendance Day, October 16 – Student Daring Day. 8:45-12:30 (no food service) and no regular classroom instruction. There is specific curriculum for each grade. Messages were sent to parents via mail and email.

9th grade- LST Academic Identity Program (2 hours)

Learn ESSA & CCRI Requirements

Learn how to use XELLO

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10th grade – LST Career Program (2 Hours). SEL Program, Art Impact Project (1 hr 45 mins)
LST: Learn about ESSA & CCRI Requirements, learn how to use Xello (software for documenting CCRI experiences), connect with counselor or social worker. SEL Program: participate in a creative art project to gain insights into their own emotions and identities and to gain empathy and understanding for those of others.

11th grades – PSAT/NMSQT tests (NMSQT is a test for National Merit Finalist Scholarship qualification, it's optional for 11th grade only)

12th grade - Seniors will explore and discover personal journeys to meaningful post-secondary pursuits. They should take this day and use it to focus on what they want to do post LHS. They do not need to attend school, but MASH and CRC will be open to help review college essays, applications, etc.

This is part of ESSA (Every student Succeeds Act), it's a change for IL. ESSA holds schools accountable for student learning, cultivating a growth focus, using multiple measures and is supportive. New state report cards will demonstrate all the measures identified in ESSA.

ESSA essentials: Measures student academic growth which are tied to state standards, measured through SAT suite (PSAT- SAT). ACT will no longer be an IL State Test. It evaluates multiple measures of school success: 5 Essential Survey Data, School safety and student attendance, college/career readiness indicators (CCRI) (NEW).

All students will be divided in rooms and room assignments for all students. Freshman and Sophomores bring Chromebooks, those taking PSAT will bring a calculator and pencils.

Athletic practices will not occur until after school (regular time) if they are happening.

D128 Foundation – raises money to fund innovative programs for D128. The Big Event is 11/8.

Real Talk Events are starting again. There are 2 per year, one in Fall and one in Spring. Tuesday, November 5 Studio Theatre will be the Real Talk for the Fall. The topic is "In Plain Sight" and is for parents only – It will be informative, and they are setting up a student's bedroom for parents to identify paraphernalia for drug, alcohol, tobacco (vaping).

CCRI Indicators (College and Career Pathways)

Student experiences that build the knowledge skills, and "adaptive competencies" necessary to be successful in post -secondary pursuits.

- Career Development Experience (formal or informal)
- Industry Credential
- Military Service or ASVAB score (31>)

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- Dual Credit course
- Maintaining employment (12 months>)
- 25+ hours community service
- Participation in TWO or more extracurricular

The school must document this so that is the challenge for LHS. Daring Day will help us accomplish this, but the school is supportive and led the way on this prior to the state adopting these standards.

Committee Reports:

- Gym uniform: Extra item sales are closed. PE uniforms are still for sale in the Spirit store.
- CRC: Volunteer assignments are filled through October, but would like volunteers on November 5, CATS to College for Juniors. 4 Volunteers are needed.
- Hospitality/Activities: The coat check was successful, great volunteers! Appreciation lunch is on 10/15, still have opportunity for items.
- Newsletter: Monthly newsletter, please provide story by 10/25 and if you didn't receive one, please subscribe.
- Spirit Store: Sales were good at the football games. Researching online stores including a teacher 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. We are working to re-stock by the end of the week.
- Community Outreach: Had a successful window painting, more than 30 businesses and student organizations. Looking for a new co-chair for next year.
- Website: Susie Erdal revamped the website. Will add the newsletter and the minutes to the Parent CATS website.

GOAL Award – No report

D128 Report - Support the BIG Event on 11/8!

Old business/new business:

Senior Graduation Party – need parents to volunteer to organize the party. Contact Dr. Koulentes directly.

Ask Dr. Koulentes:

- Book Recommendation: The Years that Matter Most, How College Makes or Breaks Us; Paul Tough
- *Will LHS use eLearning Days?* Yes, we have 3 days build into the calendar, the first 2 will be Snow Days, anything beyond that will be eLearning Days. They have been approved by the Board and will only be used if we have exhausted snow days and are at risk of extending the school year.

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- *What is our philosophy on AP courses?* Research shows that students that take at least 1 AP course have a better chance to be successful during their freshman year in college than those that don't. It only takes one class; the benefits are negligible after 1 class. The test doesn't matter, it's the curriculum because they learn college level work, strategies, etc. The test doesn't have any bearing or impact on the school, so it's entirely up to the student. Some teachers incentivize the test due to scholarships available to the students who gain a 4 or 5 on the test but every college is different.
- *When will the new wrestling room/dance studio be completed?* The official date is next year but we hope it will be available for use this year.
- *Is Latin in jeopardy due to low enrollment?* Yes, we do not have enough students to offer Latin 1 this year, but we'll offer it next year but it's an elective and dependent on enrollment. We'll continue to support students that are in the program.
- *Does IHSA redistricting impact other sports or just football?* It only impacts football and there's no change to all the other sports.
- *What about the therapy dog?* The dog is being trained and is working every day and doing very well. She should be available in November as our new staff member if she successfully completes the course. She will have a working schedule.