

**Parent CATS Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2022**

Board Member/Committee Attendance:

President: Kristen Christensen	Community Outreach Director: Saba Lausch
1 st Vice President: Melissa McGrory	Hospitality Director: Susie Erdal
2nd Vice President: Shannon Gordon	Spirit Store Directors: Stacie Herman, Megan Huber
Treasurer: Sarah Roe	Website: Karen Cordes
Secretary: Jennifer Quilty	Social Media Director: Jodie Benton
Activities Director: Meg Carter & Beth Kraft	GOAL: Vanessa Stalter
Career Resource Center: Colleen Scopacasa	Principal: Dr Thomas Koulentes
Gym Uniform Director: Jennifer Tepper & Carina Decroes	Fundraising Committee: Majbrith Brody

Board Reports:

Kristen Christensen, President Report:

Welcomed everyone to the meeting and mentioned that we will review committee roles for continuous improvement. We have to cancel the 2/4 fundraiser for Parent Cats due to COVID. The basketball team is collecting for the food bank and she provided bags for people to donate.

Melissa McGrory, 1st VP report

Melissa will ask committee chairs and board members for their interest in remaining on the board for next year and asking others if they want to be involved next year. If you know anyone that may want to be involved or if you want to be involved, please contact Melissa.

Shannon Gordon, 2nd VP: The directories are still available. You can order on the Facebook and Parent Cats Page. If you pre-ordered you must order it online and pay for it. They directories will be a digital download (pdf) instead of a physical book. We will collect via Venmo, Zelle and check for payment for the directories. The email would come from LHSDirectories@gmail.com. We could revisit paper copies next year with sponsors. The FAD70 minute is this week and she will represent the Parent Cats.

Sarah Roe, Treasurer: The budget can be found at the Parent CATS website.
<https://www.d128.org/lhs/parents/parent-organizations/parent-cats/documents-forms-and-newsletters>

Jenny Quilty, Secretary: Minutes for each meeting will be posted on the Parent CATS website
<https://www.d128.org/lhs/parents/parent-organizations/parent-cats/documents-forms-and-newsletters>

Committee Reports:

- Gym uniform: Les from Sports 11 will buy back our unused inventory and the proceeds will go to the Parent Cats.
- CRC: Extremely busy to meet the November 1 deadline, thank you for the volunteers. Resume workshop was a success.

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- Hospitality: We hosted a lunch for coaches, activity, and club sponsors on October 21st. Thank you for donations, it was well attended and appreciated by everyone. We had \$4151 in donations, \$1000 will be used for a student treat day in November, date to be determined. We are working on hot chocolate days if they can bring the drinks to class and if not then we'll have candy days that they can take on their way home. \$1378 will be used for a luncheon for the Spring.
- Activities: There were a hot chocolate day the week from Friday and had a cookie day before Winter break.
- Spirit Store: The Spirit Store is open every Friday from 10-2 and is open to parents.
- GOAL Award: No new report.
- Website: Updated to have the new link to the directories. If you need anything updated, please contact Karen Cordes.
- Social Media: No new report. Follow the Parent CATS on Facebook and on Twitter @LHSparentcats
- Community Outreach: No new report
- Libertyville Connect Coalition: We focus on alcohol prevention and just hosted an event at Highland last week and spoke to parents on how to have difficult conversations on substance use and abuse. LHS students spoke about how they had an alcohol-free lifestyle. You can find them on their [website](#), or the Libertyville Connect Facebook Page or Twitter. Most recent efforts in the past two months were focused on Highland Middle School. At LHS, they will provide information on Social Host Ordinances that is enforced in Libertyville.
- Wildcat Health and Mental Wellness:
- Fundraising Committee – The Friday 2/4 Mickey Finn's fundraiser will be postponed until a later date due to COVID. More information to come.

• **Dr. Koulentes Report:**

- We were very fortunate to start the week of the 10th and are happy that we have the staffing to accommodate in person learning. In person learning and activities is his primary focus. We had 60-70 students out on Monday due to covid related issues, we had a handful of staff out. We are being hit with the Omicron wave in terms of higher student absences. We are doing our best to monitor the situation. We did make a tough decision to move the 8th Grade Orientation to virtual, but we will reschedule the activity and athletic fair to late Feb/early March. We will create a link to the spirit store in the orientation zoom.
- Student course registration (grades 9-11) has begun. This is the only time that we can guarantee that a student can be in the class, after their registration week we can only put them in the class if space is available.
- No school on Monday, 1/17, Martin Luther King National Day of Service.
- Dr K is sending an email to all parents and seniors regarding graduation location, and it was selected as the NOW Center. The parents were split 50/50 on location, the students were 2 to 1 at the NOW Center. The main issues were protection from the weather and the ability to bring more than 5 people to graduation. The letter will communicate the

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location decision, graduation party is a tradition but not an LHS event. Senior parents need to coordinate and it's the night of graduation and there will be a form where you can volunteer. Melissa McGrory is leading the effort and is looking for chairs and co-chairs to help and looking for chairs to do special things for seniors for second semester. The group meeting will be Tuesday, January 25 at 7 PM at LHS, room 1107.

- Wish List requests: focus on 3 areas, capital projects: Next year we will renovate the library and the cafeteria, and this summer we want to upgrade the family consumer labs, it will be update and more attractive to students. The wish lists that the students have are furniture changes in the cafeteria, to create a more comfortable and flexible space and comfortable furniture options (i.e. pub tables), and recreate the entrance to the cafeteria with digital display walls for student announcements, etc. We are pricing out LED walls and panels. Both would enhance the student experience in the building and will help the students more comfortable and engaged.
- We have implemented a new Wed schedule where the flex period is added to the beginning of the school day. At the course of the first semester, we found that from parents, students and staff on feedback that this year is more challenging than last year, and we need some extended periods to catch up, do retakes and utilize office hours. It was very valuable last year to both students and educators. We are reviewing our overall schedule but wanted to make an adjustment this year and create the office hour period and flex period. We needed it to be once a week for consistency for students. We built it with maximum flexibility, many will use it to meet with teachers, all resource areas will be open, all staff will be in the building. Students can use the time to how they would like to utilize it. Not all teachers are available every Wednesday, however they will make time during the week to be available. This doesn't affect the bus schedules; the bus will remain on the regular daily schedule.
- We have hired a math interventionist to help math teachers and students get caught up on math. We should review the student directed math teacher that requires students to retake tests multiple times.
- The resource centers will be staffed with teacher assistance during the flex period.
- We will review the opportunity to host a presentation on curriculum, grading, etc in a future meeting.
- Covid: New guidance has been received, if you are close contact you can return in 5 days, if you test positive (under certain conditions) you can return in 5 days. If students are over the age of 18 and have their vaccine and not boosted, they have to quarantine for 5 days. If they are non-vaccinated, they have to quarantine for 5 days. Test to stay, if exposure is at school only and masked, if they test on day 1 or 3 if test positive. They do not have to quarantine if over 18 and have been boosted. If your child had a confirmed covid test in the last 90 days and they are a close contact, then they don't have to quarantine. Our nurses are up to date with the latest guidance and any changes. They can return to school in 5 days but can't return to sports or performances in 10 days. It's the new IDPH school guidance. [Quarantine Guidance \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.idph.gov/About-IdPH/Pages/Quarantine-Guidance.aspx) Students have to eat in the social distance cafeteria.

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Ask Dr. Koulentes:

Please send topics and questions for Dr. Koulentes to the Parent Cats email.

- Can we add other grades to the activity fair? Yes, we can add them.
- Why would teachers use the flex time to meet among themselves instead of meeting with students? Teachers may use this for any number of activities, the expectation is that the teachers are available for a student at some time during the week.
- Can the teachers send out retake policies for their class to parents? Yes, they should be available.
- Is there a requirement for the teachers to have zoom links ready? Yes, students should have access to zoom classes. Any student absent for covid related reason should have access to content and teachers have 24 hours to connect with the student and prepare the materials. We've asked students to assume that students are out for covid. The updated information is on [Index | Culture of Care \(d128.org\)](https://www.d128.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=128&Itemid=128).
- Where are we on the replacement for Amy Belestria? Candidate screening has begun, and formal interviews will begin in February. Ole will ask this group if anyone wants to participate in the formal interviews.
- Are we having turnabout and prom? The Winter Dance (formerly Turnabout) is February. We are having prom at AON Center in April.

Next meeting is Wednesday, February 2 at 7 PM.