

**Parent CATS Meeting Minutes
October 6, 2021**

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, introduced Majbrith Brody as the new Fundraising Committee Chair.

Melissa McGrory, 1st VP report

Thanked the parents for volunteering during Homecoming (window painting and at the dance). We had a great a great turnout at both events – both in students and volunteers.

Melissa shared information regarding the first meeting of the year for the Wildcat Health and Mental Wellness group. The meeting is on Wednesday, October 20th at 7PM at LHS in room 151. The topic is “Helping Teens Navigate our New Normal” and will feature speaker, Gina Tober of Get Psyched Wellness. She will help our parents navigate the new normal and lead a discussion on how to thrive in this new world. Each child has been affected differently during the continuing pandemic and Gina will provide tools to help us address their challenges. For more information, please go to the Wildcat Health and Mental Wellness Facebook page.

Shannon Gordon, 2nd VP: The directories will be going out next week. They directories will be a digital download (pdf) instead of a physical book. We will collect via Venmo and Zelle for payment for the directories. More information to come regarding payment and download process.

Sarah Roe, Treasurer: We had first day expenses for decorations and food, and the spirit store remodel. We received \$17,000 inflow for August (direct donations, Spirit Store and gym uniform sales) and had \$10,000 in outflow for Spirit Store remodel, LHS Wishlist items, 1st day spirit decorations and activities. 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>

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Committee Reports:

- Gym uniform: We currently have a lot of inventory and will sell some for students for second semester. We are going to have to determine how to reduce the inventory for next year.
- CRC: Application deadlines 10/15 & 11/1. We had a resume workshop today for students. We will continue to provide drop-in times.
- Hospitality: We will host a lunch for coaches, activity and club sponsors on October 21st. 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.
- Activities: Homecoming coat check went well, thank you to the volunteers.
- Spirit Store: Sales at the football games and Window Painting event were very good. We will have an online store and are looking for a location for a pop-up store for holiday sales. We could partner with the Stans Donuts event and with Mickey Finn's for 1st Friday and Holiday Vendor Faire. As a reminder, the Spirit Store is open every Friday from 10-2 and is open to parents.
- GOAL Award: No new report.
- Website: No new report. 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: Homecoming Window Painting was very successful; we had the largest number of clubs and stores participate ever with 42 clubs and 43 windows. We had bands from the School of Rock entertain the participants, volunteers, and the community during the event.
- 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. They are partnering with WHMW and are looking for more parents to join their group. The end of October is Red Ribbon Week, and they need volunteers to talk about health and wellness topics. If you are interested, they are looking for a 30 second interactive activity with individual or small groups of students during the LHS health fair.
- Wildcat Health and Mental Wellness: The first meeting is on 10/20 at 7PM at LHS in room 151 (please see description in 1st VP report)
- Fundraising Committee – Majbrith Brody is the chair for this new group. She needs volunteers to brainstorm ideas and create fundraising activities and events. She is currently working on a few events, including the Stan's Donuts event on 10/13 and a Mickey Finn's event in February. More details to come via email or future meetings. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact Majbrith.

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Dr. Koulentes Report:

Dr. Koulentes introduced Ole Stephens, Director of Student Services. We had an outstanding month of September with so many events for our students. We had a wonderful Homecoming; the Freshman class was most involved that he has seen in the last 5 years of Spirit Week. The Freshman class is the largest class in the school. We live streamed the event so that parents could view it. Students and staff had an option to watch the live stream from the auditorium or attend live in the main gym. Friday night was the soccer and football games, and the atmosphere was phenomenal. The parade was fantastic, and we had great support from the Village. The dance was great and well attended and moved indoors due to the weather. We had 1430 students and it was the largest attended dance so far which is over an 80% participation.

Homecoming Court changed and included girls and boys and our Homecoming Wildcat that was voted by the students was Bobby Kallieris. He represents the best of LHS.

In October, we emphasize our fine arts events on Thursday nights. This Thursday is Choir, 10/14 is Fright Fest, 10/28 starts the musical Matilda. Tickets will go on sale soon and get your tickets early because they do sell out.

Changes to Fall Testing:

11th Grade will now take PSAT/NMSQT as an optional; if they signed up for it they will take the test and if they have not signed up for it they will have the day off.

LHS Daring Day (10/13)

Each class has a different schedule designed to meet the needs of each class. The seniors have the day off to work on applications, visit colleges, catch up on schoolwork, etc.

ESSA – Every Student Succeeds Act replaces No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. ESSA created several changes to the ways in which public schools in IL are evaluated for state accountability.

ESSA Essentials:

Measures student academic growth

- Tied to State Standards
- Measured thru SAT Suite (PSAT--SAT)--No more ACT as State Test.

Evaluates multiple measures of school success--New School Report Cards (2021)

- 5Essentials Data
- School safety & student attendance
- College/Career Readiness Indicators

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College Career Readiness Indicators (CCRI):

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

Under ESSA, schools must PROVIDE & DOCUMENT these experiences for all students.

Student experiences that build the

CCRI Indicators:

- Career Development Experience
- Industry Credential
- Military Service or ASVAB score (31>)
- Dual Credit course
- Maintaining employment (12 mths>)
- 25+ hours community service
- Participation in TWO or more extracurricular

DARING DAY:

Seniors DARING Day Experience; *explore & discover ...*

Time to:

- Complete college/job applications
- Complete FAFSA forms
- Write college essays (MASH open)
- Visit colleges, meet with military recruiters
- Catch up on schoolwork

Daring Day Experiences

Juniors: “We prepare to thrive in our studies, careers and life”

PSAT – NMSQT

Sophomores and Freshman this is a required day for Freshman & Sophomores. They start at 12:05 and it ends at 3:25 – the students will have ½ of the session with the LST Career Program and the second half is the SEL Program with Michael Donahue and participate in a program designed to build empathy and help students create a healthy and inclusive LHS culture and community.

Amy Belestra is retiring this year. Ole discussed how they are going to search for her replacement. She builds programs and provide opportunities that are unique.

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Calendar – Jen Tepper presented the calendar for 2022-2023 DRAFT Calendar. The next steps are for the Board to review it.

Ask Dr. Koulentes:

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

- Where are we having graduation? We will pursue options for graduation and creating a draft of letters to the senior class and their parents, Sears Center or at Libertyville High School. We need to make that decision prior to winter break, we have it reserved but can break that contract if the parents and students prefer to have it at LHS.
- Can we replace Amy with multiple individuals as other schools do? We need more and LHS can support that. Ole is building the talent profile for the role. Would like someone who is an expert in admissions. Please inform Ole if you are interested in being included in the interview or selection process to select the correct candidate.