

LMC Lecture Hall, 7:00 PM

Attendees:, Ed Grzeda, Christine Magliocco, Christine Vitale, Laura Beeker Lawlor, Alison Jones Allen, Kristina Leonardo, Jenn Jacobsen, Sue Voltz, Ann Cimmino, Greg Hatzis, Carolyn Trabuco, Suzanne Miska, Chrystal Moynahan, Janice Mayeran, Ron Wilklow, Chris Spearing

I. Call to Order**II. President's Report – Alison Jones Allen**

- a. **Where Have We Been Most Active?** – Alison Jones' Power point presentation on the PTA's areas of focus at the beginning of the school year.
 - i. **Helping Teachers** – PTA purchased archery equipment with teacher grant funds.
 - ii. **Helping Parents** – ~25 attended the PTA organized a free study skills workshop for parents presented by S4 Study Skills.
 - iii. **Helping Students** – weeknight programming for students at FLHS.
 1. PTA purchase of Senior internship software
 2. AlphaPrep SAT & ACT prep classes
 3. Next St. Driving School
- b. Weekly Email Newsletter
- c. Headmaster Coffee Refreshments – PTA provides refreshments at these presentations / Q&A sessions with Mr. Hatzis for parents. One session conducted for each grade.
- d. Membership Update
 - i. Alison Jones Allen is currently summarizing the results of a membership study conducted over the summer. Results will be presented at a future PTA meeting.
 - ii. Total membership is >6% above last year at same time (748 memberships this year vs. 704 in 2015-16)
 1. Family & Parent membership is up almost 10% (+58) offset by slightly lower Staff membership (-14).
 - a. 80% of memberships were completed online. This is a huge shift over previous years.
 2. Staff membership will be addressed through targeted emails and announcements.
 3. Total membership still only comprises ~51% of total households at FLHS.
- e. Treasurer's report

III. Volunteer VPs

Motion – Christine Vitale moved to approve the election of Sue Voltz and Christine Magliocco as co-Vice Presidents of Volunteers.

Second by Suzanne Miska

Motion passed 14-0.

- a. Volunteers currently needed for upcoming events:
 - i. Freshman Forum – Nov. 17. 3-4 spots left, including set-up and breakdown
 - ii. Alumni breakfast (prior to Thanksgiving)
 - iii. Holiday Staff Lunch
- b. Changes to volunteer Sign-up procedures – Sign-ups are available through MySchoolAnywhere.com. Since this is the first year, a dedicated *Falcon Flash* may be necessary to get out the word and provide instructions.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Motion – Christine Vitale moved that the FLHS PTA approve the minutes of the 6/6/16 meeting, the 6/21/16 meeting and the 9/8/16 meeting.

Second by Ed Grzeda

Motion passed 14-0.

V. Treasurer's report

- a. **Income** – Currently above budget projections
- b. **Expenses** – Higher cash balances have allowed increases in a number of important programs and initiatives, including teacher grants and expansion of Alcohol Prevention presentations.

VI. **Scholarships** – Discussion on the fairest and best way to distribute the approved increased funding in senior scholarships.

- a. 2016-17 budget includes \$5,000 in total scholarship dollars. The 2015-16 budget was \$1,250.
- b. Initial discussion focused on both increasing scholarships to Valedictorian/Salutatorian and expanding scholarships to include the Falcon Award winners and next highest gpa's.
 - i. Mr. Hatzis reviewed the Falcon award procedures, which include nominations from teachers, a vote among all seniors and a PTA-led committee.
 - ii. Discussion on how close the top gpa's in senior tend to be. The third through tenth highest gpa's are typically separated by <.10.
- c. Suggestions for how to distribute the additional funds included:
 - i. Subject Area awards – a practice currently followed in a number of subjects that are strictly honorary and have no scholarships attached.
 - ii. Expansion of the Falcon Awards to include "honorary mention"
 - iii. House Awards

VII. **Academic Expectations** – Overview with Headmaster, Greg Hatzis

- a. **Standards-Based Reporting** - Concerned with 21st century skills, as opposed to subject area knowledge, important for students to achieve before leaving FLHS.
 - i. **Critical & Creative Thinking**
 - ii. **Communicating and Collaborating**
- b. Four levels of achievement – 1 (Below Standard), 2 (Developing), 3 (Achieving), 4 (Exemplary).
 - i. Students progress through these levels throughout HS. Goal is to have all students at 3 (Achieving) by graduation.
 - ii. These measures will be administered alongside letter grades in all core subject areas.
 - iii. Goal is to provide feedback to students and parents alongside test scores & grades.
 - iv. Will not be part of the current student transcript and not part of a graduation requirement.
- c. 2016-17 is a foundational year – performance-based tasks are under development and goal is to begin implementation in the spring.
- d. Development of these standards a requirement for accreditation within the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).
- e. These standards will be imbedded into curriculums.

VIII. **Expansion of Funding of Anti-Defamation League Presentation** – Current program is for three freshman class. Looking to build on and continue programming for sophomore class. Spring 2017 timing.

IX. **Christine Vitale – Nominating Committee Update**

- a. **Executive Board**

- i. Co-VP Volunteers positions filled by Sue Voltz and Christine Magliocco
- ii. President-Elect position remains open.

X. Announcements

- a. **Upcoming PTA meetings** – scheduled for 11/3/16, 12/8/16 and 1/5/17.
 - i. **1/5/17 meeting time changed to 6:15 PM**
- b. **BOE Town Hall Meeting** – 10/24/16 at 7:30 PM in Fairfield Warde Lecture Room.

- XI. Motion to Adjourn** – Motion by Christine Vitale, second by Ed Grzeda. Motion passes 14-0.