

Parent Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

From September 24, 2018

Attendance: Principal Jim Wygonik, Vice Principal Jeanne Manfredi, Co-Presidents Jess Videll and Dottie Wells, Secretary Lori Montazella and 7 parents.

National Honor Society:

- The application process is very time consuming.
- The NHS advisors will have a meeting with students and parents, possibly in January, to explain the process.
- The applications will be given to students in early February and they will have a month to complete the application and get all necessary documents and recommendation letters.
- The NHS induction ceremony is held in May.
- It is a very subjective process.
- The committee is made up of 2 advisors, Tracy Lenz and Mary Beth Schreindorfer, and 6-8 staff members.
- New committee members are chosen by the advisors and are added as old members leave.
- Any student with a GPA of 90 or above at the end of Semester 1 of Junior year is eligible to apply.
- The committee looks at four areas when making their decision:
 - Academics
 - Leadership
 - Character
 - Service
- Only things that are on the application are considered by the committee when making their decision.
- Students are judged on their behavior and performance at school.
- The committee tries to get input from teachers and club advisors about students' commitment and contributions.
- All faculty is welcome to give input.
- Students who sign up for a lot of clubs, sports or committees but don't actually attend most meetings or contribute in a meaningful way to those activities will not be rated as highly as kids who may be involved in less things but really demonstrate commitment and make contributions to those activities.
- There is no minimum or maximum number of students who can be accepted into NHS each year.
- Each NHS chapter can have their own requirements and it is a VERY SUBJECTIVE process.
- Colleges may or may not be interested in a students' NHS membership.
- There is an appeals process if a student or parent wants to appeal a decision by the NHS committee.
 - Appeal is heard by Principal Wygonik
 - It is limited in scope and will only look at the validity of the process
 - He will not try to change the subjective opinion of the committee

- Mr. Wygonik said the committee works hard to do right by the kids.

-A parent brought up a concern that it is difficult for students who have sports and activities that are not at LOLHS to gather information and references in the short amount of time that students have to finish the applications.

- There was a suggestion to remind students to get references at the time they finish their volunteer work, etc. so that they are not searching for what they need at the last minute.

-The parent also said that students who have sports and volunteer work outside of school are at a disadvantage because those coaches and adults are not consulted in the same way that LOLHS teachers and club advisors are.

- Mr. Wygonik stated that ANY coaches or mentors may write recommendations for the committee to consider.

-It was suggested that it would be beneficial to get the NHS information to parents when students are entering LOLHS so that they can help their children set their coursework and volunteer opportunities early if they are interested in eventually applying to NHS.

- Administrators said that they will try to incorporate NHS information into Freshmen Orientation.
- Ms. Manfredi said that students learn about leadership and character in advisory.
- Administrators said that the application process should really be taken on by the students themselves, not parents.

Parent Access to Canvas:

-Tammy Noyes is available to help parents access Canvas.

-She will be at Parent Nights and Report Card Night.

-There is information available under the parent link on the Region 18 website, about how to access Canvas.

-Parents must be invited to join Canvas by their child.

-If you have multiple children, each child must invite you to view their Canvas and get the code, but you will have only one Canvas account which will be linked to your email.

-This is the third year that Canvas is in use.

-Some teachers put everything on Canvas, others do less.

-More will be required of teachers by next year.

-When you look in Canvas, you will have access to: a class syllabus, resources, the "whole school" calendar, advisory stuff, student meetings, field trips, club activities and more.

-Parents will not be able to access student grades or other students' work.

-You are considered an "observer" on Canvas.

-Parents can communicate with teachers through Canvas.

-Announcements will be posted to Canvas.

Homecoming:

-Saturday, September 29th, 7-9:30.

-Student Leaders will be having a "Spirit Court".

- There will be a King and Queen of Spirit for each grade
- There will be lots of food: pizza, chips and soda in the Commons.
- There will be a dj and dancing in the gym.
- Tickets are on sale all week and at the door for \$5.
- The administration tried to make this a more structured dance this year.
- Girls usually dress in semi-formal dresses; Administrators would like boys to wear business casual as opposed to shorts and t-shirts as they have done in the past.
- Students will be allowed to invite a friend from another school but they must fill out a form in advance.
- There will be 11 Chaperones as well as a police presence.
- There is no outside area available for students at the dance.
- Once students arrive at the dance, they must stay inside until they are leaving. If they exit the building, they will be required to leave the dance.
- Doors will be monitored.

Topics of Interest:

- Faculty and administrators are working with clubs to make sure that kids who sign up for clubs, follow through with their commitments and show up.
- They are asking for parent support to encourage their children to show up for their activities and for special days at school like Wellness Day.
- Teachers look forward to these days as a way to interact with students in a relaxed setting to have fun and make connections.

Parent Representatives:

- Suzanne Wnec and Anna Silberberg have agreed to be Parent Representatives for the PAB. If anyone else would like to be a Parent Rep, please contact a PAB officer. If you have questions or issues that you would like to discuss at a PAB meeting, you may contact any PAB Officer or Parent Representative.
- Jess Videll, Co-President, mommy.videll760@gmail.com
Dottie Wells, Co-President, drw214@gmail.com
Lori Montazella, Secretary, lori.montazella@coldwellbankermoves.com
Suzanne Wnek, Parent Representative, suwnek@gmail.com
Anna Silberberg, Parent Representative, silbera@comcast.net

Parent Questions:

- A concern was raised that Spanish Honor Society meetings are now in the afternoon and that is not fair to students who have off campus sports like swimming, hockey and football.
 - Mr. Wygonik said he would discuss the issue with the Spanish Honor Society advisor.
- A question was asked about how classes are scheduled.
 - Mr. Wygonik said the process is as follows:
 1. Students make course requests
 2. Counselors send a copy home to check for errors
 3. The information is entered into the computer and the computer makes a schedule

4. Then counselors go back into the system to schedule classes by hand to address any issues or changes that need to be made
- Mr. Wygonik said that in a school with a small population, it can be difficult to schedule sometimes because they may only have 1 or 2 sections of a particular class. This can cause conflicts in student schedules.
- Administration also takes into account things like the male/female split in a certain class, as well as taking teacher schedules into account.
- They try to average with 20 kids per class.

The next PAB meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 17th at 6:30 pm in the
LOLHS Library Media Center.