

TSA Members Present:

Laura Sokil- Lower Merion TSA
Andrew Sy- Lower Merion TSA
Jake Delman- Lower Merion TSA
Phil Hayes- Harriton TSA
Alex Hunt- Harriton TSA
Liza Atillasoy- Harriton TSA
Mr. Weaver- Welsh Valley TSA
Mr. Lehman- Harriton TSA
Ms Kiley- Harriton TSA
Ms Lapinski- Bala Cynwd TSA
Ms Ochiogrosso- Harriton TSA
Ms Ochiogrosso- Harriton TSA
Dr Pron- Lower Merion TSA

When the meeting first began, some advisors were unaware of what LMSD TSA students were trying to accomplish for the American Cancer Society so Laura gave a brief explanation. She said it started when a group of students went to an ACS meeting at this past year's TSA National competition where they made banners pledging to raise money for the society. Originally LMSD planned to raise \$5,000 but when a member drew a "smiley face" next to the total, it was interpreted that they pledged to raise \$50,000. The group of students thought the best way to raise the money was to hold the district's own relay for life at Harriton High School.

Andrew announced that he had emailed LMSD operations on reserving the track with first choice being at Harriton High School because of new facility. The second choice was Lower Merion High School.

With this information, the advisors had many questions. Mr. Weaver and Mr. Ochiogrosso wanted to know if LMSD was bound to this pledge. Laura made it clear that they were not; it was only an ideal goal to reach. Mr. Weaver wanted to know if the reason LMSD was taking an interest in ACS was because of his own diagnosis of cancer last year. Jake and Alex said that the idea of holding one mainly came from the growing issue of cancer and

our area's abundant resources to help combat it. Mr Lehman wanted to know if anyone actually researched the difference between holding a relay for life and participating in one. No one had so Mr Lehman suggested the group should conduct research on the distinction between the two. Ms Kiley suggested that they ask TSA state officers about their experience in participating in relays. Ms Ochiogrosso suggested they visit relayforlife.com for helpful information in planning one and if they were to go through with the idea to see where other relays were being held as to not interfere. Ms. Lapinski and Mr. Ochiogrosso said that the idea to hold a relay wasn't thought through enough to put into action. They briefly discussed what went into holding a relay for life:

Vendors

DJ

Security

Parking

Media coverage

Etc..

When it became apparent that this was not the most efficient way to raise money for ACS, Jake and Phil shared the group's other ideas:

-Silent auction for stuff and people's services (example would be people buying services like Phil mowing lawns)

Ms Ochiogrosso said the LMSD community was very angry at the idea of selling people for services as this auction was held in the past. People considered it to be slavery. Mr. Weaver also brought up concerns of liability.

-District-Wide Picnic (similar to the Taste of Lower Merion event)

-Contacting famous residents of LMSD, asking them to give a speech and charging admission

Dr Pron and Mr. Weaver mentioned the issue of stars demands and how they would be hard to fulfill.

Instead, Mr. Lehman suggested the idea of having LMSD TSA walk together as a team to raise money. Mr. Ochiogrosso said that when you looked at the efficiency rate it wouldn't make a difference in profit between holding a relay and participating in one. He said it might actually save money to walk in one. The group agreed that this was a reasonable way to raise money for ACS. Ms Kiley shared that she had experience with participating in walk-a-thons and so she could help register a team. Ms Ochiogrosso went to relayforlife.com and found dates of races that LMSD could participate in:

Philadelphia- October 11th, 2009

Villanova- April 14th, 2010

Manayunk- may 23rd, 2010

Springfield-June 4th, 2010

Montgomery County- June 18th, 2010

Next the members and the advisors present compiled a to-do list to be completed in the coming months.

Plan from here:

- Pick a date and contact the people who organize the event
- Get administration approval because of the usage of the LMSD name
- Decide to have TSA members and families walk and just have LMSD students help with fundraising?
- Start committees to plan who is in charge of what
- Register a team with the chosen event
- Create letter/flyer explaining what we're trying to do and put it in elementary school Thursday Folders and distribute around the community
- Encourage TSA members to walk (survey chapters, ask everyone to walk and then get family members to join)
- Get coverage and media attention just by participating in a relay
- Create a team roster
- Make team t-shirts and make a profit of them, and possibly make a profit off them
- Decide who's team captain
- Approach stores and restaurants for money, food or supplies
- Choose other minor fundraisers to set up

*Important- Need to get the word out now about LMSD TSA participating in a relay as to not interfere with other community members' obligations and to get as much publicity as possible to raise more money for ACS.

Recorded by Liza Atillasoy, Harriton TSA Secretary