

## **Frost MS PTA Meeting Minutes**

**Date: October 9, 2019**

**Secretary: Susanne Fitch**

**Present:** Suzanne Peeler, Kim Parks, Kathy Carothers, Karen Moss, Susanne Fitch, Maura Stevens, Kokeb Kassa, Kathleen Cashin, Rhonda Finberg, Kirsten Reddish, Mindy Lee, Jason Monroe, Stephanie Murphy, Gillian Kimura, Jackie Cranford, Rhonda Anderson, Mekdes Beri, Annette Labiano, Ellen Ingson, Becky Mancuso, Kathy Hughes

1. **Meet the Candidates:** Introduction of the Candidates for Braddock District Representative to the FCPS School Board

Candidates Zia Tompkins and Megan McLaughlin were each granted five minutes to make a statement.

**Meeting called to order: 7:17 PM**

### **2. Review of September's Meeting Minutes**

- There was a motion to approve the September minutes, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

### **3. Principal's Remarks**

- Mr. Harris was pleased to introduce Ms. Kenya Champ as Assistant Principal. He explained that he was very happy to get a such a highly qualified candidate even though the search and hiring process occurred late. Ms. Champ comes from the Woodson pyramid and is an excellent educator. She has been warmly received by staff and students alike.
- Ms. Champ took the floor and talked about her background and education. She started her career in PG county and in DC. Most of her experience has been in elementary education. She was on staff at Olde Creek, which is a Frost feeder school. Ms. Champ feels that working at Frost MS is an extension of her learning which enables her to see things from a different perspective. She is happy to see lots of familiar faces from Olde Creek and is looking forward to getting to know everyone. Ms. Champ explained that she is happy to be of service. Her door is always open and she is available by email as well.
- Mr. Harris spoke about his plan for the next three years which focuses on "Engagement." The concept includes engaging students, engaging professionally, and engaging the community.
- Mr. Harris explained that archivists visited Frost to speak to the 8<sup>th</sup> graders about the in-school community service project they are currently working on. The students are transcribing documents for the National Archives. The kids are doing valuable, quality work, and are enjoying the fact that they are contributing.
- Mr. Harris spoke about the work that all staff members are doing as part of committees. Each staff member participates in one of eight or nine different committees, such as Falcon Focus or the Social Committee. This participation gives teachers and staff a sense of collective ownership as well as collective efficiency.
- Teachers also signed up for learning circles to foster their professional development.
- Mr. Harris pointed out that next week would be Frost planning day.
- Mr. Harris was invited by a nearby neighborhood to participate in National Walk to School Day. Photos were posted on social media. He enjoyed getting to know some kids better, as he walked to school with ten or twelve kids.
- Ms. Champ attended the recent pyramid chorus event at Woodson.
- Parent Learning Series: Mr. Harris is working on finalizing the logistics of the next event.
- Students in the Family Consumer Science class are looking forward to having a guest speaker, Mr. Michael Platt, who is renowned for his cupcake business. He has been profiled in many media outlets. For each cupcake his business sells, he donates one to people experiencing homelessness. His work ethic reflects the values of Frost MS.

- The upcoming Falcon 5K Run is the only fundraiser for the school. Last year the school raised \$15,000. Mr. Harris requested that PTA members encourage friends and neighbors to participate. He noted that he purchased labels to apply to technology and other items to indicate that they were purchased with funds raised through the Falcon Run.

#### 4. Officer Reports

##### A. President: LaTisha Elcock

- LaTisha solicited suggestions on how to best manage the PTA's social media accounts. The Frost PTA maintains a Facebook page which is edited only by PTA administrators. The page is private; it is limited to those who request membership. When one requests to join, two question prompts appear: "Do you have a child at Frost MS? Are you a member of the Frost MS PTA?" The reason for keeping it private is to provide a "safe" forum for chatting among members. LaTisha has not admitted those who ignore the invitation questions or who answer no to these questions. LaTisha requested input from PTA members about this policy. Various potential options were discussed. Mr. Harris stated that he is not sure how it is done at other schools. He is not sure he is comfortable providing verification of who is a student at Frost. Mr. Harris prefers to keep the group closed so that the PTA can verify membership. Members expressed concern about making it generally accessible. The conclusion was to keep it closed while continuing to pursue avenues for making it as accessible as possible and while still verifying the credentials of new members.
- The PTA is seeking a volunteer to chair an international night to coincide with the spring book fair.

##### B. Treasurer: Suzanne Peeler

- Suzy reviewed the financial report and stated that the year is off to a great start.
- The ending cash balance is \$24,460.

##### C. Vice President: Kathy Hughes

- Kathy presented packets outlining all the grant applications received as part of the PTA grant program.
- The goal of the PTA grant program is to award grants to proposals that benefit as many members of the Frost community as possible.
- There is \$12,000 limit for the year. So far ten applications have been received, totaling \$8000. Two of the applications would be better served with school funds, which left eight applications to review tonight.
- All eight of the PTA grant applications were discussed and ultimately unanimously approved.

#### 5. Committee Reports

##### A. Membership: Ellen Ingson

- As of September there are a total of 520 members. That is more than the total for all of last year
- Online memberships are desirable because they bring in additional donations.
- In response to a question, Ellen explained that the only difference between a family and individual PTA membership is the level of support to the PTA.
- LaTisha thanked Ellen for doing an outstanding job.

##### B. SpiritWear: Becky Mancuso

- Becky distributed a report and proposal for an additional purchase of inventory.
- Becky proposed an increase in the SpiritWear expense budget of \$1500 in order to meet the anticipated demand for hoodies at the Falcon Run as well as at lunchtime sales.
- There was a motion to increase the budget which was seconded and unanimously approved.

### **C. Food4Thought: Maura Stevens**

- a. Volunteers are needed for work for approximately 1.5 hours on Fridays to pack food.
- b. The goal is to set up teams of two people who would be assigned for one month at a time.
- c. There is still a need for plain black cinch sacks to send home with kids. These are discreet and also affordable.
- d. The program has an Amazon wish list so that families who wish to donate can have items directly shipped to the school or so that they can see needed items and purchase them elsewhere.

### **6. Upcoming Events**

- Restaurant Night at PJ Skidoos is this month for both dine-in and carryout. Flyers will be issued and information included in News You Choose.
- Skate night is coming up in November.
- There is still interest in hosting an International Night at Frost. A chair is needed for this event.

### **7. Old Business**

None

### **8. New Business**

- Parents expressed appreciation to the PTA for hosting an evening meeting which allowed a different pool of people to attend.

### **9. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM.