

Frost MS PTA Meeting Minutes FINAL

Date: December 11, 2019

Secretary: Susanne Fitch

Present: LaTisha Elcock, Susanne Fitch, Jill Kiss, Anthony Harris, Suzanne Peeler, Kathy Hughes, Kathleen Cashin, Maura Stevens, Boshra Zawawi, Becky Mancuso, Pam Edwards, Karen Moss, Karen Cheng, Rochna Tauch

Meeting called to order: 9:36 AM

Welcome: LaTisha Elcock, PTA President

1. Introductions
2. There was a motion to approve the November minutes with corrections, which was seconded and passed unanimously.

Principal's Report: Anthony Harris

Mr. Harris turned over the floor to Ms. Danielle Hornbecker, Director of Student Services. She provided an overview of the academic advising season, which is just about to begin. Counselors will meet with students one-on-one to review their schedules for the coming year. Rising 7th graders will visit Frost in January, and the Frost Family Festival will take place in February. After the winter break, Woodson counselors will come and meet with 8th graders. The counselors will provide an overview of classes and options for Woodson. Students' assigned counselors will meet with students individually. Course selection sheets will be sent home in Jan/Feb. 7th graders will have the opportunity to watch the feed of the counselor's session with the 8th graders during Falcon Focus. Teachers will also advise the individual students on course selection, based on their grades but also their areas of interest.

1. Ms. Elcock noted that she has received inquiries from parents of 5th graders inquiring about how to best prepare for middle school and wondered how to respond appropriately. Ms. Hornbecker noted that counselors do meet with 6th graders, so Frost is addressing this need for information during the elementary years. Ms. Hornbecker recommended that if parents feel there is something that teachers should know about their kids regarding the transition to middle school, such as undesirable kid pairings, they should notify current teachers and counselors.
2. Mr. Harris added that Frost had hosted a parent meeting for feeder schools, but it was not well attended. An additional meeting will be rescheduled for the spring. Meetings for parents new to FCPS are yet another forum for informing parents. Summer programs also help to prepare students. There is a one-day program for new students, and the Jump Start program is designed for kids who need a little extra time. Mr. Harris noted that Frost really prepares kids in a variety of ways for a smooth transition into middle school.
3. A parent asked a question about how hard her child should push herself during middle school. Mr. Harris explained that Frost promotes taking a balanced approach to school. Middle school is a safe place to take academic risks. It is better to try an honors class and not get an A, if the course presents an appropriate challenge. At the same time, kids should not take on a load that is overwhelming to them. Parents know their kids best, and can determine what number of honors classes is appropriate.
4. A parent suggested informing parents about which honors classes are prerequisites for certain science and math classes in high school. Mr. Harris pointed out that information would be available soon about Woodson Parent Night, Cav Kickoff, and other events that foster a smooth transition to high school.
5. Mr. Harris said that he is grateful for all the FCPS honors nominations of Frost teachers and staff. Following were the in-house top nominees:
 - Outstanding Teacher: Rachel Rubio
 - Outstanding Professional: Jennifer Zabel
 - Outstanding Operational Employee: Angela Aldave
 - Outstanding New Teacher: Samantha Jalajel
 - Outstanding Leader: Linda Shannon

Samantha Jalajel and Linda Shannon will represent the Woodson pyramid in the regional round of FCPS honors. The application packets are due on February 28.

6. Mrs. Hansen was recognized for FCPS cares. A pizza party for staff was held in her honor.
7. Mr. Harris said an 8th grader approached him about designating Frost "No Place for Hate." The student wants to have a town hall-style meeting after school to provide students a forum for talking about bullying. The event is scheduled for January 17.
8. On January 9, Mr. Harris will host a parent learning meeting focusing on technology. Topics include: SiS, Blackboard, Google Classroom, and social media usage. A member suggested that the invitation be extended to parents of 6th graders as well. Mr. Harris agreed that would be a great idea.
9. The school is preparing for FCPS One-to-One, although it is not clear if and when that change will happen.
10. SGA Officers were recently announced.
11. Mr. Harris noted that the bond initiative passed in the November elections. He has not yet received any communications about the timing of the Frost renovations. Ground breaking is anticipated for Spring 2021.
12. Ms. Elcock asked if a hospitality breakfast for staff/teachers would be welcomed before the winter holidays. Mr. Harris said he would welcome a little breakfast on the Thursday before break.
13. Mr. Harris requested \$300 to \$400 in PTA funds for another staff happy hour in the spring for either February or April.

President's Report: LaTisha Elcock

1. Ms. Elcock noted that the local unit bylaws for Frost MS have finally been approved. She provided letters to show what issues the Virginia PTA advocates for, which include support for the SNAP program, and funding for the Poison Control.
2. A sign-up will be sent out for the teacher/staff hospitality breakfast.
3. The PTA is seeking recommendations for speakers for future meetings that would be relevant to the Frost community, on topics such as the upcoming school renovation, firearm safety, and anxiety in teens.

Treasurer's Report: Suzy Peeler

1. Ms. Peeler reviewed the year-to-date financial report.
2. Ms Peeler reviewed the following proposed budget amendments: 1) Add an expense line item of \$100 for International Night, 2) Add an expense line item for \$200 for Food4Thought, and 3) Increase both the revenue and expense line items of Membership by \$500. There was a motion to increase the budget according to Ms Peeler's suggestions. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed.
3. Member Karen Cheng requested a budget increase for the Reflections program at Frost MS for the next budget year. She pointed out that the Mantua budget is \$450 and suggested budgeting \$300 to \$350 at Frost for next year.

Assistant Principal's Report:

None

Vice President's Report: Kathy Hughes

1. The Spring Grant program will soon be underway. Ms. Hughes stated her intention to get the application process going after the start of the year so that applications could be voted on by the membership at the March meeting. The application deadline is in February. Mr. Harris and the PTA will try to get the word out about the program in order to solicit applications from more and different teachers. A Q and A session with current grantees might provide the necessary encouragement to new applications.

2. Ms. Hughes noted that the cabinet off the cafeteria is filled with hospitality supplies such as paper goods, napkins, and cutlery. Pam Edwards, Maura Stevens, and Kathy Hughes will organize the hospitality supplies and work on addressing storage issues.

Membership Report: Ellen Ingson

1. The Frost PTA currently has 540 members, and memberships continue to trickle in.
2. A potential membership chair for next year has been identified.
3. All the student directories have been distributed to PTA members.

Committee Reports:

Spirit Wear: Becky Mancuso

- \$400 was generated from spirit wear sales at the Falcon Run.
- There is a lunchtime sale scheduled for this Friday.
- Ms. Mancuso is looking for other selling opportunities. She is exploring potential websites for online spirit wear sales, particularly for during the renovation when there may not be space at the school to store spirit wear.
- The spirit wear committee made a donation of apparel to the Falcon store.
- Spirit Wear is a great stocking stuffer idea. The committee should promote spirit wear sales in the future before holiday time. Selling gift certificates for spirit wear among the elementary schools for kids to pick up at the Frost family Festival is one idea.

8th Grade Celebration: Boshra Zawawi

- The committee is looking for help in selecting a theme for the celebration.
- Work will begin right after the winter break.
- The event has always been a moneymaker for the PTA.
- It is required to have a school resource officer on site at the event that the PTA will have to pay for.
- Ms. Elcock recommended keeping the language about the event neutral; it is a party, a celebration, not a dance, not a gala, in order to increase boy attendance. The event has been very well attended in the past two years.

Upcoming Events

- Restaurant Night is scheduled for January 31 at Noodles and Company.
- International Night will be in February 2020.
- Another Skate Night will be held in February.
- The Reflections award ceremony for Frost and Mantua will be held at Mantua ES on January 6.

Around the Table

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.