

Frost MS PTA Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Date: June 10, 2020

Meeting called to order: 7:02 PM

Present: Susanne Fitch, Ellen Ingson, Kathy Hughes, Becky Mancuso, Suzanne Peeler, Karen Moss, LaTisha Elcock, Kokeb Kassa, Pam Edwards, Gillian Kimura, Hind Alaoui Zaki, Hanh Michel, Anthony Harris

Welcome: PTA President (LaTisha Elcock)

- Ms. Elcock asked members to review the minutes from the March PTA meeting. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes. There was a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Principal's Report: Frost MS Principal (Anthony Harris)

- Mr. Harris expressed his thanks to the PTA board. The year has been a whirlwind, and he really appreciates all the support of the PTA.
- Mr. Harris is looking forward to the awards presentation. It will be recorded. All students will be recognized. There will be icons/ badges/medallions to represent the various recognitions, such as upward trending grades, honor roll, and all As.
- Not every child will be recognized with an icon, but Mr. Harris wanted to show the faces of all students and showcase their accomplishments. The presentation will also include statements from teachers and will wrap up with Mr. Berret.
- Along with the Frost yard signs for graduating 8th graders, Mr. Harris hopes these efforts will display his caring for all students and his pride in their accomplishments over these past two years.
- A faculty meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at 5 PM. It will provide space for faculty and staff to talk about how they are feeling and to give them a platform to discuss what went well, to celebrate, and to decide what needs to change or be eliminated.
- Mr. Harris mentioned the student townhall meeting that was held in January. It was a powerful experience for him, and issues were raised at that meeting that he would like to address in the next school year. Many things are going great for kids in middle school, but many students are dealing with issues they should not have to deal with. The student townhall was a platform to voice opinions and share experiences with the goal of creating positive change. Mr. Harris would like to host something at the start of the school year to give students a similar forum.
- Staff who are retiring or leaving will be recognized for their years of service at the year-end faculty meeting. There will be a drive-in lunch for staff. As a final gift to students, the traditional wave goodbye to students will be captured on video to share with families.
- It is unfortunate that the year has to end this way, but staff are working hard to put a positive spin on it.
- Ms. Elcock asked when the videos would be shared with students. Mr. Harris replied that he hopes they would be sent out by the end of Friday or first thing on Monday.
- Mr. Harris explained the current thinking regarding the 2020-21 school year. There are three scenarios:
 - Distance learning
 - In-school learning once or twice each week
 - Hybrid learning plan with social distancing

There are many logistical problems to solve with each of these options. The school system needs to support families who want to send their kids to school as well as those who will not send them under the current conditions.

- Mr. Harris is participating in a workgroup on childcare issues as part of FCPS Return to Learn. It is one of six workgroups. They will give a final presentation to the school board next Monday. In his opinion, no decisions will be made about the next school year until well into the summer. There will be more surveys of parents and teachers. There may be many teachers who do not want to come back to work.
- Mr. Harris explained that he is trying to decide whether to continue with the Virtual Coffee conversations with parents over the summer to keep the dialogue open. He may schedule virtual events with the parents of rising 7th

graders and invite some teachers to join. Ms. Elcock stated that she thought such events would go a long way to address parents' concerns and comfort levels.

- In terms of the school renovation, everything is still a go. The process might actually be speeded up since no one is in the building.

President's Report: PTA President (LaTisha Elcock)

- The school year was very successful and ran smoothly until March 12. Ms. Elcock thanked all the PTA volunteers, committee chairs, and board members. She stated that she is looking forward to seeing what the PTA team will accomplish next year. Ms. Elcock gave a special thanks to Ellen Ingson for managing memberships so competently and efficiently and to Suzy Peeler for being "on the money" as Treasurer.
- Kathy Hughes thanked Ms. Elcock for serving as PTA President.

Treasurer's Report: PTA Treasurer (Suzanne Peeler)

- Ms. Peeler reviewed the financial statement for May. There was a \$ 22,233.40 cash balance on May 31.
- The audit committee is in place. Books should be handed over to David Lee, incoming PTA Treasurer, by the end of July.
- Ms. Elcock asked if Ms. Peeler had any recommendations for the coming school year. Ms. Peeler replied that the PTA is in good shape for next year. There will be about \$20K to start the year, in comparison to \$8,000 or \$10,000 in previous years, since we were unable to pay out grants due to the school closure.

Vice President's Report: PTA Vice President (Kathy Hughes)

- Ms. Hughes explained the PTA grant program. There are two grant processes during the school year, in spring and in fall, with total grant funds of \$12K.
- There are approximately \$9000 remaining in unspent funds.
- Some of the funds will not be spent at all, such as the Under the Sea Science Presentation and the Debate Club applications. Other funds will be rolled into next year's budget to be available in early fall. \$6500 will be rolled into next year.
- Groups who did not receive approved funds will not need to reapply for it next year. The board will have to figure it out. At this time it is unclear what next year will look like in terms of grants and fundraising.

Membership Report: PTA Membership Chair (Ellen Ingson)

- Looking ahead to next year, Ms. Ingson predicts shortfalls in traditional fundraising efforts such restaurant nights.
- The PTA may need to appeal to the membership directly to make donations. If the message is delivered right, she thinks that families will step up to make donations.

Spirit Wear: Becky Mancuso

- Ms. Mancuso may have a co-chair for the coming school year who will work with her. Once she is familiar with the processes involved in stocking and ordering spirit wear, she will be in a good position to take on the position in the following year.
- Ms. Mancuso has started to populate the Frost page on Squad Locker. She will send a link for the online store to board members, but it is not public yet.
- With virtual learning a real possibility for the fall, we will be in a good position to sell spirit wear through Squad Locker, which ships directly to parents.

Frost PTA Election

- Ms. Elcock stated that the PTA held a virtual election on June 8th and 9th. David Lee was elected as Treasurer. Approximately 50 people voted.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM.