

Frost MS PTA: Virtual Meeting Minutes

Date: January 12, 2021

Secretary: Susanne Fitch

Meeting called to order: 7:03 PM

Present: Anthony Harris, Jen Zabel, Stephanie Piatt, Terry Aliabadi, Yonas Asrat, Carol Zabel, LaTisha Elcock, Alex Lantis, Mandy Lloyd, Stephanie M., Pam Edwards, Kathy Hughes, Kathleen Cheon, Cranford, Kim G., Alicia Welling, Saundra Honeysett, Premkala, Beth Byron, Melanie Porter, Maura Stevens, Amy DeCarlo, Mr. Berret

Welcome: PTA President (LaTisha Elcock)

Ms. Elcock welcomed PTA members.

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

- Mr. Harris reported that there has been a lot going on over the last few days. The school board met to work on Return to School on January 5. On January 6, we experienced the events at the Capitol. Return to School is currently on pause pending an expected update from Dr. Brabrand. He will report to the school board on by February 2 with an updated plan for Return to School.
- Vaccination plans are underway for teachers and staff as part of group 1B. There will be a special registration process for teachers to get vaccinated.
- Mr. Harris explained that, like many, he was shocked and appalled by the events at the Capitol on January 6. He is proud of Frost teachers, staff, and students for their response to the events. Mr. Harris emphasized that although the events took place on just one day, the effects on students can be long lasting. Frost offers many ways to support families through its counselors, social workers, and school psychologists and families should not hesitate to reach out should they need help.
- Mr. Harris had some good news to share. The official program for 2020 FCPS Honors took place last Sunday. In the meantime, Frost nominees for the 2021 FCPS Honors have already been announced. They are: Mrs. Ann Hartman, Outstanding Professional (Frost speech therapist); Outstanding Secondary Teacher, Mr. Alex Lantis; Outstanding New Teacher, Mr. Jorge Blanco; and Outstanding School-based Leader, Ms. Danielle Hornbecker, Congratulations to all of them. The Woodson pyramid principals get together and decide who they want to represent them. Mr. Alex Lantis has been selected to represent the Woodson Pyramid Region Five.
- A communication will be sent to families soon regarding some changes to the grading policies. This year there was an increase in D and F grades over last year. Students and families also expressed concern about the amount of work students were being asked to do during distance learning. FCPS listened and

implemented policy changes with the goal of improving mental health, reducing student work load, and striving to achieve equity concern distance learning. The first change is that student will no longer issue grades of zero. The minimum grade will be 50%. Codes will accompany the grade to indicate whether or not a student turned in the work. The second change reduces the minimum number of assignments from nine to six. Teachers may assign more if they wish to do so. The third change is that no assignment can be worth more that 20% of the grade within the quarter. The final change addresses late work on major assignments. If there is a penalty for late work, it cannot be greater than 10% of the grade. Furthermore, late work will now be accepted up to one week before the end of the quarter.

- On Thursday, Mr. Harris will meet with the design and construction team for the school renovation.
- Orientation for rising 7th graders will take place on Thursday night. Eighth grade students will get information about high school during Falcon Focus.
- Mr. Harris expressed that he is excited to try two new things. One is Frost Thirty. These are mini announcements of thirty seconds or less on topics such as Monday attendance, completing work, using office hours, and health and safety. These video announcements allow kids to see his face more regularly. On February 4, Mr. Harris will host a Principal Chat and Chew. This is a chance to say hello and hang out with Mr. Harris. These will take place on the first Thursday of each month.
- There will be no school on Monday, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Tuesday will be an odd day schedule. There will be no school on Wednesday for Inauguration. Thursday will be an odd day. Friday will be a two-hour early release day on an even day schedule. Thursday and Friday will be catch-up days for students.

Ms. Elcock introduced the evening's guest speaker, Dr. Jennifer Zabel.

Featured Presentation: "When Should I Worry About My Teen's Behavior?"

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Jennifer Zabel, Licensed School Psychologist, Frost Middle School

Questions from the Membership

There was move to adjourn the meeting that was seconded and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Next PTA Meeting: Tuesday, February 2, 2021, 7:30 PM