

Frost MS PTA: Virtual Meeting Minutes

Date: March 2, 2021

Secretary: Susanne Fitch

Meeting called to order: 7:34 PM

Present: Anthony Harris, Susanne Fitch, LaTisha Elcock, Kathy Hughes, Stephanie M., Sandra Honeysett, Jinhee Kim, Joseph Berret, Sujata Sahgal, David Lee, Julie Minde, Amy Stirnweis-Schumer, Dr. Zabel, Alex Lantis, Kim G., Pam Edwards

Welcome: PTA President (LaTisha Elcock)

Ms. Elcock welcomed PTA members.

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

- Mr. Harris reported on the first day of in-person learning at Frost, which was today, March 2. He explained that overall, it was a great first day and that everything went smoothly from a health and safety perspective. He highlighted the following points:
 - The buses arrived on time.
 - Breakfast was provided to those kids who wanted it. Mr. Harris reminded families that all FCPS meals are free this year.
 - Upon arrival students headed right to class to maintain social distancing.
 - Mr. Harris explained that about 600 students plan to return in person. Today there were only about 150 students in the building (half of the in-person 8th graders). The 7th graders will return to school next week.
 - In the cafeteria kids face in one direction. They may use their personal devices during lunchtime since social opportunities are limited.
 - Teachers were able to use their technology efficiently for concurrent learning with just a few problems.
 - Students and staff sign in and out of classes electronically on a Google form for contact tracing purposes.
 - There are two classroom monitors with two more currently receiving training.
- Mr. Harris concluded by pointing out that students had been out of school for 11 ½ months. Most were very happy for a change of environment and many seemed a little dazed or tired from waking early and putting in a full school day.
- Mr. Harris is looking forward to more feedback from parents, students, and staff to see how things went from their perspectives. Staff members had the opportunity to provide “glows and groans” after the first day of instruction.
- Mr. Berret reiterated Mr. Harris’ positive reports about the first day.
- Mr. Harris answered questions from the membership regarding the following topics: restroom breaks, large instrument storage, FCPS safety protocols, absentee alerts for students who are learning in person, and student orientation.
- Ms. Elcock suggested that parents reach out to thank a teacher to show that all their work and planning is appreciated.

Treasurer's Report: PTA Treasurer (David Lee)

- David Lee presented the treasurer's report. He highlighted some positives and negatives, while pointing out that the positives outweigh the negatives. General donations to the PTA are still under projected amounts. Spirit wear is also in the red. However, business sponsorships are coming in higher than projected. The family photo sessions also exceed expectations. The Readathon PTA fundraiser brought in nearly \$6000 (about \$5000 more than projected), which made up for the other shortfalls. As a result, the PTA has surpassed its fundraising goals for the year.
- Mr. Harris noted that Frost MS has one of the highest circulating libraries in the county, even compared to some of the high schools, which may help explain why the Readathon was so successful

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

- Kathy Hughes shared a document outlining the fall and spring grant applications for the 2020-21 school year. Some of the grant applications were carried over from last year, when school closed in March 2020.
- Ms. Hughes shared updates from the fall awardees, explaining how the PTA grant funding was positively impacting students and staff alike through: a staff recognition program, the circulation of e-books purchased by the library, the spelling bees, and the Frost Mind Matters afterschool club.
- There is \$5000 in available funds for spring grant applications and three grant applications have been received. After approval of these applications \$2700 will remain.
- Ms. Hughes suggested opening a third round of grant applications. Due to the intense preparation for return to school, teachers may not have focused on submitting an application. Also, they may discover new needs now that they are back in the building.
- Ms. Hughes pointed out that no funding was needed for sewing machine maintenance, as the machines were not being used this year.
- There was a motion to approve the 2021 spring grant applications as submitted. The motion was seconded and the grant applications were approved.

President's Report: PTA President (LaTisha Elcock)

- Ms. Elcock explained to members that a nominating committee would be formed to recruit new PTA board candidates for the 2021-2022 school year. She encouraged the membership to think about who would be a good fit for these board roles. Both the PTA president and vice president will be moving on from Frost.

Approval of PTA Meeting Minutes

Ms. Elcock asked members to review the minutes from the February meeting, which were shared on screen. She asked for a motion to approve the minutes. There was a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded. The minutes were approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Next PTA Meeting: Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 7:30 PM