

Frost MS PTA: Virtual Meeting Minutes

Date: September 22, 2020

Meeting called to order: 7:30 PM

Present: Anthony Harris, David Lee, Susanne Fitch, Kathy Hughes, Joe Berret, Kenya Champ, Larkin Gibas, LaTisha Elcock, Meghan Short, Melanie Porter, Pam Edwards, Rasita Vishnuram, Trish Ramirez, Amy DeCarlo, Beth Byron, Gillian Kimura, Gregory Frantz, Hongliang Cui, James Paik, Kathleen Cheon, Kathy Phillips, Lauren Guiffre, Melissa French, Stephanie Murphy, Sujata Sahgal, Tina Cariola, Amy Vailikit

Welcome: PTA President (LaTisha Elcock)

Ms. Elcock welcomed teachers, parents, students, and staff to the first PTA meeting of the 2020/21 school year. She encouraged families to support the PTA so that the PTA can better support Frost MS.

Student Panel

A panel of 8th grade Student Ambassadors shared strategies for academic success with new and returning students and their families. Participants included: Saffron, Callum, Annette, Sophie, Madison, Heidi, Sonan, and Nichole.

Approval of PTA Meeting Minutes

Ms. Elcock asked members to review the minutes from the June PTA 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 unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: PTA Treasurer (David Lee)

- New PTA Treasurer David Lee introduced himself.
- Mr. Lee explained the annual PTA audit process, which was conducted over the summer. The audit was conducted by three independent, non-board volunteers. The committee's only actionable finding was a check from early spring 2020 which had not been cashed. The PTA, in keeping with standard business practices, will make checks void after a period of 90 days to address the issue of uncashed checks.
- Mr. Lee presented the proposed PTA budget for the 2020/21 school year. He noted adjustments made in light of the changing circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic. He responded to questions from the membership.
- Ms. Elcock asked for a motion to approve the proposed budget. There was a motion to approve the budget which was seconded. The budget was unanimously approved.

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

- Mr. Harris introduced the following members of the admin team:
 - Mr. Joe Berret, Assistant Principal. Mr. Berret announced that school renovations are likely to start ahead of schedule.
 - Ms Kenya Champ, Assistant Principal. Ms. Champ is looking for a parent volunteer to be a part of the equity team.
 - Ms. Meghan Short, Instructional Coach
 - Ms. Melanie Porter, Assistant Principal. Ms. Porter introduced the Frost Learning Hub, which will go live on October 2. The landing page will be found on the school web site.
- Mr. Harris expressed his thanks to the student ambassadors for sharing such relevant and useful information with the PTA about good learning and study habits, interacting with teachers, and strategies for success.
- Mr. Harris was pleased with the recent virtual Back to School Night. He thought it went well given the circumstances.
- There are now ten to twelve trailers lining Pickett Road outside the school in anticipation of the upcoming renovation project. The building will be cordoned off in sections.
- Mr. Harris is pleased to announce that Frost MS has received an award for Continuous Improvement for Absenteeism. This award is one measure used to determine if a school receives accreditation.
- Staff and teachers are working hard to help students build connections during virtual learning. Mr. Harris has established a Virtual Student Engagement Committee. One of their tasks is to generate ideas for fun events. Teams of teachers are also reaching out to students who need connections during the third block.
- Mr. Harris praised teachers for their hard work. Even some very experienced teachers feel like it's their first year again. They are spending hours and hours preparing.
- The admin team is working to collect required forms from parents. The Parent Permission for Technology form has been sent out in numerous ways. There is a grace period for completing the form until October 30.
- Ms. Stephanie Pepper is the lead of the Frost Equity Committee. This committee will include student and parent representatives. The committee is looking for a parent volunteer to fill this role. There are plans for a second town hall-style meeting at Frost. The goal is to have the school receive a "no place for hate" designation. There are required steps to achieve this goal. It is important that we teach kids how to respond in the face of racism.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Next PTA Meeting: Tuesday, October 6, 2020, 7:30 PM