

Frost MS PTA: Meeting Minutes

Date: September 9, 2021

In-person/ Virtual

Secretary: Susanne Fitch

Meeting called to order: 7:30 PM

Present: Susanne Fitch, Alexa Krezel, Melissa Fabrizio, Deb Metzker, Tom Page, Pam Edwards, Allison Pugsley, Anthony Harris, Jessica To-Alemanji, Kokeb Kassa, Margaret Kehl, Sandra Lukic-Dapoiny, Erwan Dapoiny, Joe Berret, and virtual attendees

1. Welcome: PTA President (Allison Pugsley)

- Ms. Pugsley welcomed Frost parents and staff, some of whom attended the meeting in person and some of whom attended virtually by Zoom. She encouraged everyone to join the PTA, as memberships are a major source of PTA income which in turn supports the school and student activities. She explained that all the current PTA board members have students in the 8th grade, so the active participation of parents of 7th graders will be very important for conveying institutional knowledge of the PTA moving forward.

2. Treasurer's Report: PTA Treasurer (David Lee)

- Mr. Lee reviewed the recently completed annual PTA audit for the membership. This year two individuals completed the audit, which resulted in several recommendations. The first finding was that a detailed narrative report would provide a more complete picture of the finances than financial reports alone. The second suggestion is to include a monthly budget statement with the monthly meeting notes. The third and final suggestion was to provide a more detailed summaries of the PTA membership dues paid as well as the fees assessed by the PT Board software. The PTA will adopt these recommendations going forward. The PTA President and Treasurer will sign the audit, and it will be forwarded to the Virginia PTA.
- Mr. Lee presented the proposed PTA budget for the 2021-22 school year. He explained that the 2020-21 budget was lean due to the Covid, as many of the regular activities from previous years were not held. For example, Bingo Night and Frost Family Festival are being worked back into the schedule. There were no costs incurred for events such as Skate Night, International Night, and 8th Grade Celebration. This school year, events will be held as circumstances permit.
- The proposed budget shows a net loss of \$4000. Mr. Lee is comfortable with this figure, as he conservatively estimated PTA income and was more aggressive in estimating expenses.
- There was a motion from the floor to approve the draft budget. The motion was seconded, and the budget was approved.

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

- Mr. Harris welcomed parents to the new school year and stated that the year has gotten off to a great start. The kids are happy to be back five days a week and teachers are excited as well. Mr. Harris introduced him and assured parents that their children will be well cared for at Frost Middle School. Mr. Harris explained that nine schools and nine school cultures feed into Frost and therefore it is particularly important that students work hard to widen their circles.

- Mr. Harris introduced Ms. Laura Reed, School-Based Technology Specialist, who spoke to the membership about Schoology, the software which has replaced Blackboard and Google Classroom as a learning management system. Ms. Reed addressed the following points: parent access to Schoology, the differences between Schoology and SIS gradebooks, tracking and submitting of assignments, the Schoology calendar, and contacting teachers. To access Schoology, the following link specific to FCPS must be used: lms.fcps.edu.
- Mr. Harris introduced Ms. Deborah Metzker, who runs the Frost MS afterschool program. She distributed a flyer of the afterschool clubs for the fall semester and explained how students can initiate new clubs. Ms. Metzker explained where families can find information about the clubs. Most clubs are open on a drop-in basis without commitment, so that students can try different clubs in their areas of interest. Late buses are available on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.
- Mr. Harris introduced Mr. Berret, Assistant Principal, who spoke about the ongoing Frost renovations. Work is currently right on schedule. There are three phases to the renovation: the current construction phase, which involves the construction of two large additions; the renovation phase, starting in Fall 2022, during which classes will be moved to the new construction so that the older parts of the building can be renovated; and the third phase, beginning in Summer 2023, when the cafeteria and gym will be renovated. Once that work is completed, the students will move from the trailers and modulars into a brand-new Frost MS. Mr. Berret stated that the staff is very impressed that the school year has gotten started without a hitch in terms of disruption from the construction work. Noise was the greatest concern of the admin team, but there have not been complaints. Mr. Harris explained that bottlenecks do form in the entrances between classes since the number of entrances has been reduced from five to two. Students have seven minutes between classes and they are usually where they need to be in five minutes. Not having lockers saves a great deal of time moving between classes.
- Back to School night is next Tuesday. It will be a fully virtual event. Teachers are creating flip-grid videos to introduce their classes. There will also be two live sessions with members of the admin team, so families can attend the one that better suits their schedule.

4. President's Report: PTA President (Allison Pugsley)

- In the interest of time, Ms. Pugsley deferred to PTA Vice President, Pam Edwards.

5. Vice President's Report: PTA Vice President (Pam Edwards)

- Ms. Edwards explained that the PTA website currently is being updated, so families can turn to it as a resource. Her next project will be the PTA grant program, which will be discussed at future meetings.

6. Approval of PTA Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the June meeting were reviewed. There was a motion to approve the minutes which was seconded. The minutes were approved.

7. Around the Table: Questions and Suggestions

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.

Next PTA Meeting: Tuesday, October 5, 2021