

Frost MS PTA Meeting Minutes

Date: January 15, 2020

Secretary: Susanne Fitch

Present: Susanne Fitch, Suzanne Peeler, Janine Taylor, Alexia S. Grimes, Karen Cheng, Anthony Harris, Pam Edwards, Hanh Michael, Ellen Ingson, Jennifer Rade, Becky Mancuso, Kathy Hughes, LaTisha Elcock, Jennifer Cooper, Rhonda Finberg, Jackie Cranford, Susan Johnson

Welcome

Introduction of Guest Speaker: Dr. Jennifer Zabel, Psychologist, Frost Middle School

Mr. Harris introduced Dr. Jennifer Zabel, Licensed School Psychologist. Mr. Harris noted that Dr. Zabel is featured in the Parent Learning Series offered this year to engage the Frost community. The second installment was last week; about 15 to 20 parents attended. The topics for the series include:

1. How to do Middle School (October 2019)
2. Digital Citizenship (January 2020)
3. Social Emotional Learning (upcoming)

Dr. Zabel took the floor and presented “An Overview of Teen Stress and Anxiety and What Parents can do to Help their Children.” She addressed the following questions: What are typical social emotional changes in the middle school years? What behaviors are concerning? What is typical? What is atypical? What are the next steps if your children need extra support?

LaTisha Elcock, PTA President, called the meeting to order at 10:20 AM. She noted that the minutes from last month would be reviewed at the end of the meeting.

Principal’s Report: Mr. Anthony Harris

- Mr. Harris explained that a student had recently experienced a medical emergency while at Frost, and that staff reacted immediately and appropriately to the situation. The staff members were recognized by the school superintendent for their heroic actions. Without hesitation, staff jumped in, relied on their training, and performed life-saving actions to support the student. Mr. Harris conveyed that he feels comfortable that staff will respond in a caring way and will take all the necessary steps to protect students.
- The second installment in the parent learning series was recently held with a decent turnout. Mr. Harris would like to see a greater turnout. He has spoken with pyramid principals and is interested in hosting a parent series pyramid-wide.
- The January 2020 issue of Northern Virginia Magazine included an article about Finance Park and kids learning about financial literacy. It was a nice article with lots of cool pictures.
- Mr. Harris is looking forward to one-to-one (one laptop per student) next year at the middle school level. However, nothing is set in stone. The school board still has to vote on one-to-one at the middle school level. If parents feel strongly about this issue they should reach out to the school board. Each student having his or her own device will make things easier. However, it is important to recognize that a laptop does not replace the teacher. Students will need to learn how to navigate the digital space.
- Renovations to Frost MS are scheduled to start in Spring 2021, sometime between March and June. The building will be completely renovated from top to bottom at a cost of about \$60 million. The renovation is projected to take four years. When completed, the school will be able to accommodate 1400 students. This is in contrast to the current building, which was intended to hold 900 students. The trailers are necessary to deal with these space constraints. After the renovation, the school will have both interior and exterior cameras.
- January 27-28 are student holidays.

Assistant Principal’s Report: Ms. Melanie Porter

- Ms. Porter noted some upcoming events: Rising 7th Grade Parent Orientation, Frost Follies, and the end of the quarter on January 24. There are also upcoming orchestra and band district events.
- After winter break it is necessary to have a refresher on student policies and behavior and to review what Falcon Focus should look like.
- School-wide incentives and recognitions continue. The first Falcon Store was held in November; the second one will be in February. Thirty-five students have been recognized as student-of-the-month. The administration is

reminding staff and teachers to recognize positive traits and to award Falcon cards for exhibiting growth and progress and for going above and beyond.

President's Report: LaTisha Elcock

- The PTA is seeking members to form a nominating committee. For the coming school year we will need a membership chair, committee chairs, as well as a new treasurer for the PTA. The role of the nominating committee is to identify potential candidates and to reach out to them by phone, email, and in person.
- The Fairfax County Council of PTAs is looking for board members and committee chairs.
- International Night was originally tied to the Book Fair. That is too soon to pull something together. The Book Fair coincides with the Frost Family Festival on February 20th.

Treasurer's Report: Suzanne Peeler

Ms. Peeler noted that December was a quiet month. She reviewed the current income and expense report for the membership.

Vice President's Report: Kathy Hughes

Ms. Hughes reported on the PTA Grant Program. The spring application period has just opened. About \$5000 remain available from the \$12,000 budget. Ms. Hughes read aloud the titles of applications which were granted funding in the fall. Teachers who were funded are asked to submit a short report, which will be shared at the February membership meeting. The PTA will vote on the spring applications at the March meeting.

Membership Report: Ellen Ingson

- At this point there are 541 PTA members.
- Ms. Ingson is looking for a replacement as membership chair. She is happy to work as much as needed with the new chair to ensure a smooth transition.

Committee Reports and Upcoming Events

- Restaurant Night is January 31 at Noodles and Company.
- **Bingo Night:** March 13 is Bingo Night. **Stephanie Murphy** is the chair. There will be many great prizes, including tickets to the Thanksgiving Macy's Day Parade, also Ski Liberty passes, Glory Days gift cards, escape room tickets, Air Pods, and movie tickets. The evening will feature bingo, raffles, and a silent auction.
- **Spirit Wear: Becky Mancuso.** Spirit Wear will be sold at the Frost Family Festival, at Bingo Night, and at some lunches depending on inventory. Ms. Mancuso is considering offering a survey to see what kinds of items kids and staff would like to see in the future. She is also considering some online spirit wear sites for future use, in particular when renovations are underway.
- Planning is moving along for the 8th grade celebration.

Around the Table

Approval of December Meeting Minutes

Membership reviewed the minutes. Adjustments were suggested. There was a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded and passed.

The meeting was adjourned.