

## **Freedom Parent-Teacher Organization Meeting Minutes for *November, 12, 2019***

The November 12, 2019 Freedom PTO meeting was called to order at 7:13pm. The meeting was held at Lynnfield Community Center. 17 people were in attendance, including Principal, Mr. LaPorta, 3 Assistant Principals: Ms. Sage, Mr. DiBilio, and Mr. Cecchini, Acting Assistant Principal Mr. Ayre, Neighborhood President Roy Ortiz, 5 staff/district employees; 3 Executive Board members, Representative Steve Samuelson, and 3 additional attendees.

**Rep. Samuelson:** The Congressman made remarks regarding state budget increases (up 2.5%) for basic education, special education, and early childhood education. He spoke about the Fair Funding Formula, which is a formula designed to equitably distribute state education funding across the districts. Two bills are currently in the House and Senate.

### **PTO President, Wendy Simpson:**

- Special thank you to Mr. Roy Ortiz from the Lynnfield Community Center, for hosting our meeting and providing hospitality.
- October Meeting Minutes-a motion to approve by Nikki Testa and seconded by Deanna Webb.
- PTO page on Freedom's website is up to date.
- 1 new PTO member this month
- Mr. Bachman from IT helping the PTO with information sharing using Naviance.
- PTO will distribute \$3000 to help departments who shared their "WishList" proposals. 6 Proposals were received; PTO was able to provide for the following:
  - ART department: Maple Table
  - Guidance: \$ for clothing/food pantry
  - English: 16 copies of blended learning materials
  - Phys. Ed: Portable Lifeguard chair

- Language: screen, tripods, microphones.
- Math: IT Smart View

Treasurer's Report: Jason Testa

- \$2 statement fee and \$250 distributed to each grade level + band for Spirit Week (\$50 each)
- Ending balance \$4582.78. Motion to approve by K. Sweeney and seconded by Nikki Testa

**Principal, Mr. LaPorta:**

- Thanked the PTO for their donations for the department Wish Lists and all they do for the Freedom Family.
- Hired PT Hall Monitor to help with Activity Busing
- Equity in School Safety: Recent grant has afforded the school a part-time hall monitor position. Hours for this position will be during the afternoon and after school hours, providing supervision during after school sports activities. There will also be a possibility for a 5:30pm activity bus (pending).
- Trauma Informed School: Know about home situations/adverse experiences/trauma and give support.
- Introduced Vivian Robledo

**Vivian Robledo**, Director of Student Services & Minority Affairs at Bethlehem Area School District:

- Professional development:
  - encourage teachers to reach out to community
  - work to increase parent engagement
  - break down barriers re: race, complacency, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm