

Freedom PTO Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2021

PTO President Wendy Simpson

-Welcomes everyone, including our rising 9th grade parents/guardians. Our hope is that we can give you helpful information tonight and answer any questions you may have.

-50 participants via Zoom

- PTO meetings via Zoom platform have been working well and results in increased attendance. May be something we continue for future meetings.

FHS Principal Report Mr. LaPorta:

-Thank you to Assistant Principals Ms. Sage and Ms. Leeson for attending tonight's meeting.

-***Transition information for rising 9th graders:*** Many things are happening at the middle school level in terms of getting them ready with curriculum and instruction. Normal transitions that have happened in the past are not able to happen this year due to Covid-19. We have been directed not to hold an in-person moderated schedule or activity fair because of the inability for proper social distancing.

-Meetings with the principal have happened over at Broughal Middle School; East Hills Middle School will be visited on 4/27, 4/28, 4/29, & 5/5. The message to 8th graders from the Freedom administration involves 3 key elements:

*Get involved.

* Build Positive Relationships (teachers, counselors, etc.)

*Transcripts (attendance, grades, good pattern of behavior, community service, etc.)

-New principal will have their own set of transitional pieces as well.

-Course verification was completed with the students' counselors. Selections were mailed home and accompanied with a letter. In that letter it states that questions or course changes be directed to the Freedom School counselor that will have your child. (a student's counselor is assigned alphabetically by last name and can be found on the Freedom website.)

-Course changes are due by *May 3, 2021*. Master schedule will be mailed in July.

-Ms. Leeson stressed the importance of parents encouraging students to be prepared, set goals, and not to procrastinate as they enter high school.

-Mr. LaPorta hopes the first day of the '21-22 school year will look as close to normal as possible. (In the past, freshmen arrive on the first day of school at the regular time, and 10th through 12th grade have a 3-hour delay.) We will need to wait for guidance from Dr. Roy and Dr. Silva when that time gets closer.

Q: Will 8th grade E-learners have an opportunity to meet with the Principal?

A: Yes, most likely will be in a Webinar format. More info to follow.

Schedule of upcoming events:

Athlete Signing Event on 4/30/21 @ 1:30 in the Main Gym

Athletic Awards Ceremony 5/26/21 at 6pm in the Gym. The only attendees will be award recipients.

Band & Choir Concert: 5/12/21 @ 6:30 pm at the Levitt Pavilion at Steel Stacks

Spring Musical – BASD Stadium on June 5, 6, & 7 at 8:30pm

PROM – Seniors only; combined with Liberty HS on 5/14/21.

To be held outdoors at Steel Stacks from 6-8:30 pm. Participants are required to attend, at a minimum, their 1st and 2nd block classes that morning.

6-6:30 arrival

6:30-8:30 Event, including Christmas City Studio photographers taking pictures, grab & go box dessert, and drinks. 3 separate tents will be set up for distancing/socializing.

Academic Awards Ceremony – Invitations will be sent to those receiving an award(s). Mrs. Bianco will be conducting a virtual ceremony to be broadcasted on Service Electric/RCN/BASD TV on May 18th. Participants will receive a time as to when to attend the recording event. This event will take place on May 11th. Parents are welcome to attend the taping of their child's award.

Graduation – Friday, June 11, 2021 at the BASD Stadium at 6pm. (Raindate 6/12/21)

- Each graduate will receive 6 tickets.

-1 rehearsal will take place on FHS turf field + possibly 1 rehearsal at BASD Stadium the morning of graduation. Still yet to be decided.

Ms. Leeson, Asst. Principal:

No final exams this year.

-details forthcoming regarding the end of year schedule/last class/final assignments, etc. Will be modified days.

Q: What is the price for a prom ticket?

A: Working on a theme, talks are on-going with the class officers and prom planning committee. Parent link letter next week.

There will be fees from Arts Quest, tent rentals, etc. We are hoping to keep it around \$55-65.

Q: Will the band be performing at Graduation?

A: No, house music will be used, along with the Fife and Drum Corp only.

Regular Business:

Treasurer's Report: Jason Testa

Previous balance/current balance is \$5,642.52. Motion to approve Kathleen Sweeney; 2nd by Nikki Testa

Secretary Report: Kathleen Sweeney

Motion to approve 11/2020 & 3/2021 Meeting Minutes by Nikki Testa, 2nd by Pam Marakovits

PAC Report: Pam Marakovits

Meeting from 3/18/21 :

-Elementary Schools will go back to 4 days a week; Middle and High Schools remain the same.

-The Foundation will be having Best Teacher Awards. Parents/students encouraged to nominate.

Q: What is being done to help students who fell behind this year get back to where they need to be?

A: Federal funds given for Covid will be used for tutors, extra reading periods, summer programs. (also, ventilation improvements in some areas)

-PSSA/Keystone testing is taking place. Parents who wish to opt out their child should write a letter to their school principal.

Wendy Simpson:

-A thank you from Mrs. Lohenitz and the Guidance Counselor for the (2) \$250 gifts received from FHS PTO for families in need.

-FHS Guidance and Freedom Faculty also gifted St Luke's with a check for \$500 for all the hard work they are doing.

-FHS PTO ByLaws Revision on-hold for now. Will wait to discuss with new Principal.

New Business:

-Nominations now open for FHS PTO Officers. Please send in your nomination to FreedomHSPTO@gmail.com Elections will be held in May.

-PAC Representatives** also needed for next year. Send email to FreedomHSPTO@gmail.com

- Wendy thanks Pam Marakovits & Marie Brown for their dedication as PAC reps over the years.

-Two individuals expressed interest in the open PAC positions: Lori Walker & Jessica Hancz. Contact will be made to discuss further and verify eligibility.

**PAC is the Parent Advisory Council. Includes parent representatives from all the schools in the district. They meet every 4-6 weeks (in a normal year). Parents can bring their concerns and questions to their PAC representative and the representative conveys these to Dr. Roy & Dr. Silva. They in turn, ask the reps for opinions and parent perspectives. Meetings are usually 7-8:30 pm.

Wendy S. thanks all who attended tonight's meeting. Our next meeting will be held via Zoom on **May 11 @ 7:30 pm.**

Meeting Adjourned