

Freedom PTO Meeting Minutes: October 22, 2019

Call to order at 7:06 pm

Present: Ms Leeson, Mr. Ayre, Mr. Faccinetto, Wendy Simpson, Jason Testa, Nikki Testa, Kathleen Sweeney, Marie Brown, and Kimberly Toth.

Guest Speaker, BASD School Board President, Mr. Mike Faccinetto:

- District had a positive fiscal year, 0 % tax increase
- Positive roll out of Chrome Books to students in grades 8, 9, and 10. Looking to gain chrome books for all students in secondary schools soon.
- Working on internet access for all. Using Kajeets (hotspots) and working with community partners to attain access for all.
- New *Program of Studies* being implemented in November, although no dramatic additions. Had 48,000 visits to the site on the Freedom website
- Reading By 3rd Grade (RBG3) having positive results.
- Politically: State Level-working on Charter reform and funding
- District Wide-Dr. Roy and Dr. Silva working towards a creative equity push and how to find ways to support kids and create equity in our schools. Ie: increase availability for transportation to and from school for extra-curricular activities. Also, a push for increased athletics at the middle school (6th grade) level.
- Working with school psychologists and counselors to help students where needed.
- School board elections coming up in November

Ms. Leeson:

- Elaborated on use of kajeets. There is an application process at the district level, which is reviewed and approved when there is a need for internet access at home. Kajeets can only be used with an approved BASD device.
- \$500 incentive being offered for bus driver referrals
- National Honor Society inducted 78 students
- BASD Empower – decision to expand to 1:1 chrome books for students in Grade 11. Roll out to begin in November.

Next Freedom PTO meeting will be held at Lynnfield Community Center on November 12, 2019 at 7pm. Topics will include: BASD Empower, Trauma Informed Schools

“From the floor”

Natural Quest programs/thematic programs

Lunch debt- Many families qualify but aren't filling out the paperwork

Some ideas that were brought up to reduce the amount of debt:

- fill out online at registration, Open House Nights, Back to School nights
- Contact counselors/liaisons to reach out to families
- possibly adding a donation box while adding money to our own student accounts online

Treasurer's Report:

Last month- \$2 banking fee/\$20 donation.

Balance: \$4832.78

Report approved by Marie Brown, second my Kimberly Toth

Hallway Decorating- \$50 to go to each class plus band = \$250 debit for school activity. Approved by all present.

Wendy Simpson, PTO President

-Proposals due by teachers for Wish List money. These will be reviewed by the Executive Board and Mr. LaPorta first, then make a decision for how to best allocate the approximately \$3000 available. Final vote due by Nov. 12, 2019.

-Access to data information. In coordination with Mr. Bachman from IT, will consider using Naviance.

-Changes to website are coming

-Wishlists for Christmas families in need will also be coming out in November (Sign-Up Genius)

Committee Reports:

Membership- 7 new members since last meeting.

PAC, Marie Brown

-Meeting had guest speakers from Aramark, Leukemia/Lymphoma Society, and Jared Dowling, FHS Senior speaking on behalf of miniThon.

Meeting Adjourned 8:30pm