

Freedom Parent-Teacher Organization Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm on January 21, 2102. Those in attendance included Principal, Mr. LaPorta, BASD Supervisor of Professional Development and Technology Integration, Mr. James, Freedom High School Athletic Director, Mr. Stannard, 3 FHS PTO Executive Board Members and approximately 10 attendees.

Mr. LaPorta introduced guests: Nate Stannard and Mark James

Nate Stannard-athletics and progress

- 21 athletic teams (East Penn Conf)
- Spring/Winter/Fall
- approx. 780 student athletes
 - Rifle team – (Northeast PA Rifle League, NEPRL)
- 700 games scheduled for the year
- 80-85 different clubs for the students engage in (Chess, Debate, Scholastic Scrimmage, SAC, Science Olympiad, Band, Theatre, Arts, etc.)
- 250 team victories, 6 district championships, 7 Coaches of the Year

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Mr. LaPorta:

- 70-75% of children in co-curricular, sports, and/or the arts
- Same amount of programs for Freedom as Liberty
- 25 hours /week of time for athletes per St. Luke's
- Feb 2nd – free physicals, 5-7pm
- Sports not able to be a course of study as course requires a 'qualified' teacher

Questions (parents): Why Phys Ed online? How does it work? Where do coaches come from?

- Kids collect data of activities outside of building that are teacher directed sports
- Coaches can apply from other locations and careers, encouraged to have full buy in,
- Must be committed to achieve a successful program.

Question (Wendy): Is there a better way to get the information about sports to the kids?

- Staff meets with children at 8th grade locations, recruitment meetings, 8th grade orientation day sign ups.

*Suggested that at 8th grade orientation day for parents there be tables for sports

Question (Jason): Due to changing practice schedules is there a better way to let parents know changes?

- Changes are not typically last minute, however there are exceptions for in season sports.

Mark James: BASD and EMPOWER

- Every student has a device, Chromebook, from 8th to 12th grade

-this was done to get kids engaged into classes and more use of technology is out in the workplace, world

- “Tech is the a catalyst to ignite”

-An intentional approach to encourage students, instructional stages to empower them

-blended learning approach: combines small group direct instruction, collaborative face to face learning, and independent learning that leverages adaptive software.

-Feedback

-students receive in real time, as they are learning so teacher can respond to them quickly.

-Content Creation

-21st century digital creation tools allow students to create original digital content.

-BASD is committed to working in partnership with parents and community members to ensure that our students develop a safe, discerning, and healthy relationship with technology.

-Refer to District Statement and Policy on Screentime

-Teacher Workshop with author of Disconnected in February

-Recommended for parents: Disconnected & Common Sense Media

-Hope to have author of Disconnected (Keterling) have parent workshop in April or May

Principal Report: Calendar of events:

-Keystones completed in January

-Exam time NOW

-Course selection with upper grade DONE, 8th grade underway

-2/13 second semester starts.

-Broughal 3/20 Principal Circle with students

-PTO meetings: March/April (possible presenter)

-Foundation Gala: 3/21 \$100 ticket, for sale

-Chromebooks: students keeping them year to year

Treasurer reports (Jason Testa):

-\$4324.78 total balance

-two bank statements due to \$2 fee, now online so no fee going forward

-\$500 for wish list grant to Guidance Department to stock the pantry, payout

-recently received checkbook

President Report (Wendy Simpson):

-GIANT: ends on March 14th, no other fundraisers. 39 schools on the program, balance over \$2,000 currently

New Business:

-Feb teachers treat-donations will be requested?

-no date chosen yet in Feb

-Next meeting 3/10 @ 7pm

-8th/9th transition, inviting parents from EHMS & BMS