

Freedom High School PTO Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2020 via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 7:33 pm

***Introduction and Welcome by Wendy Simpson, PTO President**

-Unable to do nominations/elections last Spring due to Covid-19

-Motion to approve the following parents as the Executive Board for the 2020-2021 school year

- a. Wendy Simpson, President
- b. Nikki Testa, Vice President
- c. Jason Testa, Treasurer
- d. Kathleen Sweeney, Secretary
- e. Carmela Swenor, Member-at-Large

Motion to approve by Julie Sabatino, and second by Lilliana Acevedo

***Mr. LaPorta, Freedom High School Principal**

-**PSAT registrations** will take place between September 22 thru October 7, 2020. Testing date is October 17, 2020 at 7:45am at Freedom High School. Cost is \$25. Those eligible for free/reduced lunch can receive an additional discount. Cash or check (made out to FHS) can be handed into the Guidance Office. Social distancing will be in effect. Extra teachers and administrators will be on hand that day.

-**Virtual Open House** on September 17, 2020. Accessible to all parents. Links available for presentations by the Principal, Assistant Principals, Guidance, and Departments/Teachers specific to your student's courses. Will remain on website for the near future.

-**Morning Drop Off Procedures have been updated.** Please be advised that for the safety of all students, drop off will now be in two areas only between 6:45 am – 7:30 am

1. Chester Avenue
2. Back bus channel in the back of the building.

**Please note, there is no longer drop-off happening in the front parking lot as previously allowed.*

-**Covid-19 Protocols:** Social Distancing, masks, use of signage throughout the building, one-way stairwells, and information for how to stay safe and healthy are all in place and working well.

*Procedures in place for the many scenarios that may take place regarding symptoms with staff or students, proximity to someone who tests positive, contact tracing, etc.

* A parent link and letter will go out to all Freedom families if there is a student or staff member that tests positive.

* Mr. LaPorta commends the students for their exemplary conduct regarding mask wearing. He says there has been no issues with resistance to mask-wearing. He also credits the parents for their help in relaying the importance of this to their children.

*District wide there are 3 staff members and 1 student who have tested positive for Covid-19.

*Mrs. Leeson stated how impressed she has been with mask wearing and the following of procedures done by the students. Many have reported to her that they feel safer at FHS than they do elsewhere, such as stores and other public areas.

*More requests coming in asking to leave e-classroom and come into the Hybrid model. At the beginning of the year, approximately 70-75% of the FHS population are Hybrid, the rest are e-classroom, and a small percentage are Cyber.

***Mrs. Leeson, Assistant Principal**

-Brief Overview of Teaching Models:

1. Hybrid allows smaller class sizes, therefore easy to socially distance.

*Last names beginning with A-L are in school Tues/Thursday, and M-Z in school Wed./Friday. All non in-school days still have school and assignments. Check in with 1st block for attendance.

2. E-Classroom is all online Monday thru Friday. Mondays include Zoom classes with each teachers from each Block. E-Classroom teachers are the same teachers who are teaching the Hybrid students.

-E-Classroom students intending to switch may do so at any time. Contact Guidance Counselor.

-Hybrid students wanting to switch to E-Classroom will be put on a waiting list.

-Noticing that some students are not logging on or doing their work. The work is different than the online work back in the Spring. The workload has a bigger volume of content.

-Encouraged parents to use the Parent Portal to check in on their child and their work

-Encouraged keeping lines of communication open

-Teachers/staff will be reaching out to students who have been missing their work/not showing up.

Miscellaneous Q & A:

1. Q: Why is there a waiting list for e-classroom and why do E-Classroom students only receive one day of face to face contact (Mondays, via zoon) as opposed to Hybrid students who see their teachers twice a week?

A: Mr. LaPorta states that there needs to be an appropriate pace and amount of work given to the teachers. Time constraints alone make them unable to add another synchronous (face to face) day to their schedule with their E-classroom students. Keep in mind, the teachers that teach Hybrid students are the same teachers that are teaching the E-Classroom students.

2. Q: Why are teachers not responding to emails from E-Classroom students?

A: Mr. LaPorta will look into this.

3. Q: Can students change to Cyber learning?

A: Mr. LaPorta advises to take caution, since the courses are not taught by BASD teachers, courses may be different. Speak to a guidance counselor and/or assistant principal. *Of note, cyber students are not eligible for extracurricular activities/sports.

More Miscellaneous:

-A few in attendance wanted to thank the district, administration, and staff for all their hard work during this time.

-Suggestions were made about getting the word out about morning drop off procedures. Mrs. Simpson suggested guidance be placed on the Freedom website; Mr. LaPorta can send a parent link/email.

-Clubs have been given permission to meet. Advisors were instructed to flip/flop the days they meet to give Hybrid students a chance to attend on the days they attend school. Schedule is available on FHS website.

-The FHS Theater Director has plans to do a Fall show, and have it live streamed.

-Club updates can be found on the weekly announcements/Freedom Forum homepage on youtube.

Regular Business

Treasurer's Report
Balance: \$6152.52

Budget includes: *Subject to change
Enrichment, activities, hospitality, community, operations, and carry-over.

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Julie Sabatino, Carmela Swenor; Second by Nikki Testa

March Minutes Approval: Carmela Swenor; Second by Nikki Testa

FHS PTO social media links can be found on FHS webpage

PAC reports: Meetings conducted virtually in May, July, and August. Discussions by Dr. Roy to share information and get thoughts from PAC representatives about the changes in the 20-21 school year. Discussions were about the models of instruction that are in use now, information sharing from local health board, and putting plans in place from a Covid-19 perspective.

Old Business - None

New Business

Funding from Giant A+ Rewards has been discontinued. This has been the FHS PTO single fundraiser. We are looking into other ideas for fundraising; however it may be that the PTO needs to shift its focus in its purpose going forward. Wendy asks everyone to keep an eye out for opportunities you may see or hear about.

Next meeting will be October 13, via Zoom. Dr. Roy, Superintendent, will be in attendance.

Meeting adjourned 9:03pm

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Sweeney