

# ***Freedom High School PTO Meeting Minutes***

## ***April 20, 2022 @ 7:30 pm via Zoom***

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

-Calls meeting to order at 7:34pm and welcomes our guest speakers for tonight's meeting, who have come to speak on the topic of "Transitions".

### **Secretary's Report-Kathleen Sweeney**

Makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March. 1<sup>st</sup> by Jessica Hancz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wendy Simpson. Notes that the minutes can be found on the FHS website/PTO page.

### **Treasurer's Report-Jason Testa**

Quick budget report for March: Started with \$5,962.77. Some activity included checks cashed for trunk or treat event and \$500 PTO Grant went out to the Guidance Pantry. Ending balance is \$5366.68. We will be sharing more plans for those funds soon.

### **Principal's Report: Ms. Sage**

-Thanks everyone in attendance for being here tonight.

-Focused on upcoming events:

\*4/21 College fair for juniors and sophomores.

\**Curtains* this weekend Thursday-Sunday.

\*4/29 Choral Concert

\*5/4 Band Concert

\*Orchestra Concert

\*5/13 Prom (Juniors/Seniors)

\*Senior Nights happening during team's last home competition. Athletic, Academic, and Diversity awards all still happening as normal without Covid restrictions.

-PROM-- at Steel Stacks. Tickets being sold until 4/22 but may be extended into next week.

\*At Steel Stacks 6-10pm. Full dinner & DJ included. Tickets are \$85. Let guidance know if this is a hardship.

Wendy mentions that class dues are due before tickets are bought. Bring to advisor or main office

-Take Your Child To Work Day on 4/28

## **Special Panel Discussion-Transitions: To and From High School**

### **Mr. Horlick, Broughal Middle School Principal**

-Working with 8<sup>th</sup> grade to help with their transition to high school.

\*encourage advocating for themselves, independent work, other skills, etc.

\*Each student meets with guidance counselors for course selection

\*8<sup>th</sup> grade teachers reinforce what is expected at the HS level to help prepare students

Q. is there any difference with Broughal and East Hills as to how they are prepared?

A. No, it's the same since the programs and pathways are the same for them.

\*students had a day of shadowing in high school which went well & Ms. Sage came to BMS for a visit.

### **Regina Braun, East Hills Middle School Assistant Principal**

\*Had orientation along with Broughal so kids have a chance to meet each other

\*Counselors from FHS came to us and met with their students that they will have once they get to Freedom.

\*Had an assembly where they talked about pathways and the fast-track program at BAVTS.

\*Ms. Sage will be visiting

\*Counselors at FHS are willing to speak to parents who may have specific questions regarding their child

Ms. Sage mentions that they try to let the students know they are already part of the Freedom Family. We had club/activity tables set up at an Activity Fair and many signed up with their names and email addresses. Follow ups by those clubs/activities will be happening.

### **Mr. Lazarchak, BAVTS Executive Director**

-Fast track program allows a select few students to attend BAVTS as a freshman

-Opportunity to rotate through each program and then narrow down choices. If they do well, they can enroll in a permanent program in 10<sup>th</sup> grade

Q Do students get referred or do they apply?

A. Apply but need to have standard or above with no behavioral problems, since they are shadowing in the workplace.

-Full Time students are very successful; can earn dual enrollment, receive awards from Bridges Foundation.

-We provide students with preparedness for what the business and industry is looking for. Heavily focused on work ethic.

-Students are given a lot of opportunity to get involved - competitions, community outreach, service projects, and other ways to demonstrate their skills.

Q Does BAVTS help with job placement?

A. Yes, we have a co-op program and speak with community members regarding job placement

Q. How do they apply?

A. Open House/Parent night at high school, BAVTS Open House,  
or they can reach out to their counselors

(Mrs. Braun notes that counselors hand out applications when they visit and encourage students to hand in so they can get over there before scheduling begins)

Q. How can a student change over to VoTech from 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade?

A. From J. Kaczmarek - VoTech can arrange tours. A survey is usually given so they know where interests are, and they can personalize the tour.

### **Mr. Kaczmarek, FHS Counselor**

Transitions look like this:

\*8<sup>th</sup> grade meeting/schedule for their chosen pathway and interests

\*10<sup>th</sup> grade in Sophomore Seminar class, surveys are given

\*11<sup>th</sup> grade in spring, small groups or individuals meet about what they are thinking for their future. Naviance is utilized which has a lot of college and career search tools.

\*We try to make sure their scheduling process aligns with their goals

\*College and career night – colleges, military, technical schools, etc

Q. How does one go about Dual Enrollment?

A. Emails thru Naviance, counselors can direct student on applying. Usually encouraged to be taken during Block 3 or 4. Can also be online as a 5<sup>th</sup> class. No special requirements for dual enrollment – just need to be on track for graduation, although sometimes a placement test is required depending on the class.

-Dual Enrollment classes usually run \$95-100 per credit. Offered to 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, more flexible for 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

Q. Do credits transfer?

A. Yes, most do, depending on the college/university.

Q. Is Naviance used by 8<sup>th</sup> grade?

A. Naviance is introduced in Freshman Seminar. Not yet used in 8<sup>th</sup> grade

-Naviance is a vehicle to send transcripts and teacher recommendations

Q. When should high school students be asking for teacher recommendations for their college application?

A. at least 3 weeks before due date

Wendy thanks all our guest speakers for coming tonight.

### **PAC Report: Jessica Hancz**

-Covid numbers look better, cases down. BASD uses an algorithm for contacts

-Reorganization of the Equity in Ed. Program. Bonita Draper and Eric Fontanez new director

-Renewed contract with St. Luke's sports medicine. New program includes encouraging kids in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade to get involved in sports. Pilot program at Broughal and Nitschmann in fall.

-2022-2023 budget – 30 million – 80% to HVAC and 20% to Academic Recovery

-The Foundation (BASD) has 12 opportunities for scholarships online. Need to apply now.

-B.E.S.T. Nominations online now. Ends 4/30.

Wendy mentions Teacher Appreciation is coming up. May ask for donations again from parents/guardians to offset price of food truck lunch for the teachers.

-Ath-life food drive coming up soon.

-During the May PTO meeting we will hold elections for next year for the open positions of VP, Treasurer, and Member at Large. We can also take nominations for President and Secretary as well. Send in nominations to [freedomhspto@gmail.com](mailto:freedomhspto@gmail.com)

-Volunteer opportunities available at the Spring Garden Carnival happening on 5/13/22. Contact Community Service office for more information.

-Next PTO meeting is May 10, 2022 at 7:30 via Zoom

-Meeting adjourned at 8:59pm