

Freedom High School PTO Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2022, 7:30pm via Zoom

Wendy Simpson, PTO President:

- Welcomes everyone and thanks them for coming.
- Makes a motion to approve the September 2022 meeting minutes. 1st by Jessica Hancz, 2nd by Jessica Kalavoda
- All meeting minutes are posted on the FHS website.

Treasurer's Report: Jessica Kalavoda

- For this month's Treasurer's Report, the beginning and ending balance remain the same at \$3,754.54 due to no activity. The motion to approve was 1st by Kathleen Sweeney, 2nd by Kelly Burkhart.
- Wendy mentions that the yearly budget was approved at last month's meeting and can be found on the FHS website.

Principal's Report: Laurie Sage

-Thanks everyone for joining the meeting tonight.

-Highlights include:

** 2 national merit scholars – Prajeet Santra and Arun Chugani!*

**Nicole Hart for her award in this year's Air Products Salute to Diversity in Education!*

-All staff has participated in some professional development opportunities, including social and emotional learning practices and how to infuse this into the classroom and throughout the school.

-We had our Homecoming football game last Friday with a win! The FHS cheerleaders hosted a middle school night. Congratulations to Josiah Peters and Lauren Humphrey for their win of Homecoming King and Queen!

-The Homecoming dance was a success. We sold 700 tickets and about 650 students attended.

-October 29th is the Freedom/Liberty game; tailgate passes will be available.

-A question was raised about whether there will be a bonfire this year. Ms.Sage will be meeting with the Student Council representatives to discuss alternative options for that and will also discuss the themes for Spirit Week.

- Nov. 3rd is the National Honor Society induction ceremony – guest speaker will be Mayor Reynolds.

-Nov. 8th is election day/Teacher Inservice Day – schools closed.

SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dr. Joseph Roy, Superintendent:

-Dr. Roy spoke about the pilot for a new grading system in the 9th grade Social Studies and Science classes. Rather than a traditional system that lumps together everything happening in the classroom in one grade, this new system is a more specific and accurate representation of what is happening with the student. Achievement and academics will be graded.

Dr. Jack Silva, Assistant Superintendent:

-Our goal in testing out this new grading system is to encourage students to learn well and be college and career ready, develop good work habits, and give parents an accurate portrayal of how their student is doing in school.

-Colleges are very interested in what we will be reporting; it gives them a better understanding of a student in things such as their work ethic, critical thinking skills, etc.

Maureen Leeson, Supervisor of STEM:

-The survey that was taken last year gave us some good feedback about our grading practices. The pilot program is designed to break down how a student performs in school, including things such as preparedness, work completion, etc.

-This may get adjusted over time.

Dr. Silva noted that a big question on the minds of parents is the idea that the academic grade can no longer be increased with homework completion, extra credit, etc. and will now only reflect test grades. This is a concern for students who do not test well but can increase his/her grade in other ways. Dr. Silva's answer to this concern is that the new pilot will give more feedback and the ability to assess the student's needs. This will give clarity and promote growth.

Dr. Silva also noted that the pandemic caused school districts to assess their grading practices. Colleges have reported they like to see clarity and growth when looking at a student's grades.

Dr. Roy notes that if a teacher is using things other than test grades to give an academic grade, that is something we need to look at and try to close the gap.

Question: How long will the pilot program last?

Answer M. Leeson: We will have focus groups with feedback and a survey at the end of the semester. It's still early and we need to take it one step at a time.

Question: How will it translate onto a college transcript?

Answer: The number grades would not be on them, only the letter grade.

It was suggested that another meeting delve deeper into the results of the pilot grading after 1st semester is completed.

-Dr. Roy recognizes our Principal and Assistant Principals for National Principals Month.

-Wendy Simpson thanks Dr. Roy and the rest of the administration for their time tonight.

PAC Report: Jessica Hancz

-In attendance at the Sept. 22 meeting was Tricia Mueller from BASD Proud Parents. She spoke about their role which is a pro-public education group that advocates for our school district. She encouraged people to join and sign up for alerts.

-Dr. Roy spoke about the new BASD app and encouraged people to get it.

-New state graduation requirements are coming and will be addressed at the next meeting.

-The next meeting will include Justin Amann, Director of The Foundation for the BASD, and Todd Repsher, Coordinator of School Safety and Emergency Management. Please email a PAC representative if you wish to have a question or concern raised at this meeting.

Fundraising:

-Currently happening with *Seiple Farms* and *Shocktoberfest*. For more information check out our PTO page on the Freedom website for flyers, promo code, QR code, and more. Please spread the word!

Meeting adjourned at 8:39pm