

Freedom High School PTO Meeting

November 15, 2022 via Zoom at 7:30pm

Wendy Simpson, PTO President:

- Calls meeting to order and thanks everyone for attending.
- Treasurer's Report – no activity this month. The balance remains \$3754.54. Will be adjusted as soon as our Fall fundraisers are added on.

Principal's Report: Ms. Sage

- The Foundation awarded grants to Mr. Dunstan from the English Department, Ms. Kvacky and Ms. Ruggerio from the Science Department, and Mr. Reenock from the Art Department.
- Congratulations to the National Merit Scholars: Prajeet Santra and Arun Chugani.
- Freedom/Liberty game, hallway decorating, and spirit week all went well.
- On November 3rd we had the induction of 87 new members to the National Honor Society. Mayor Reynolds was the Keynote speaker.
- Fall theater production is School House Rock and is this weekend.
- District Championship game is this Friday against Parkland. It will be held at Cottingham Stadium in Easton. Tickets can be bought online.
- Thanksgiving break is Wednesday, Nov. 23 thru Monday, Nov. 28th.
- December 9th is the choral and orchestra concert.
- December 16th is a combined night of the Arts. Art show and Holiday Pops concert. Art show is new this year. Will be open prior to the concert. Making it an 'FHS Arts' evening.
- December 22nd is an Act 80 day. Dismissal is 11 am. Return to school on January 3rd.

Special Guest: Amanda Miranda, Assistant Principal:

- Spoke about Act 158 regarding new graduation requirements. Students need to pass their Keystone Exams with a Proficient or Advanced result.
- Ms. Miranda went over different ways students can achieve the requirements using a graphic (The Freedom High School website has a graphic that details pathways to ensure student success with reaching the graduation requirements. This graphic can be found under "Quick Links")
- * Question was raised as to how many students need to use alternative pathways to reach their requirements.
- * Answer A. Miranda: Approximately 15-20%.
- Ms. Sage spoke about how the state of Pennsylvania has been talking about making these changes for about 10 years and now they have been implemented. She also said that Ms. Miranda and her cohort from Liberty took the time to make the graphic mentioned above.

Melanie Houser, Guidance:

- We are working with students and contacting parents regarding graduation requirements.
- Encourages parents to reach out with any questions.
- There will be options available to aid in getting the requirements, such as CPR training for Pathway 3.
- Not as scary and overwhelming as it may seem. It is very doable to get it done.

Special Guest: Emily Phifer, BASD Community Service:

- Best resources to find hours are on social media – Twitter, IG, and the blog.
- BASD has an approved list of places that can be found on the website.
- Requirement is 60 hours.
- Question:* What needs to be done in order to volunteer somewhere other than the approved listed sites?
Answer: Forms need to be filled out with 5013C info, liability insurance, and a mission statement.
- We encourage students to try to do 15 hours a year.

Special Guest: Greg Vennemann, BASD Proud Parents: *

- We are a group of parents who help to promote involvement in public education in PA.
- Stay on top of key issues that impact funding.
- We hand out flyers, and send emails, and post on social media. Our alerts let you know when to call representatives regarding certain issues.

Q: Is there any pending legislation happening right now?

A: Not yet, but the budget and opportunity scholarships (vouchers) will come up next year.

Q: When do you meet?

A: 1st Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm

Q: What is the best way to get involved?

A: Come to the monthly meetings.

PAC Report: Jessica Hancz

Q: Any updates regarding the grading pilot?

A: Ms. Sage – We will be hosting 2 zoom meetings later this week. Maureen Leeson will go over everything, give examples, and answer questions. The FHS website has a place to register for this. The website also has links and the letter that was posted regarding these grading changes.

PAC Meeting:

-Todd Repsher, School Safety Coordinator, spoke about staff being required to do 3 hours of safety training per year. Blackout shades were added to most classroom doors. Drills are happening.

-Dr. Silva and Ms. Leeson spoke about the grading pilot.

- Benita Draper, BASD Director of DEI, spoke about the "Can You Hear Me Now?" video which addresses diversity.

-Greg Vennemann from BASD Proud Parents spoke *

Treasurer & Secretary's Report:

Wendy Simpson makes a motion to approve both the October Meeting Minutes and the Treasurer's Report:

1st by Jessica Hancz, 2nd by Donna Billiard.

Meeting adjourned.