

***Freedom Elementary School PTA***  
***Meeting Minutes***  
September 13, 2018

**I. Call to order**

Brandi Blevins, President, called to order the regular meeting of the Freedom PTA at 6:34 pm on September 13, 2018 at Freedom Elementary School Library.

**II. Attendance**

The following persons were present: *Kelly Broski, Brandi Blevins, Karen Barnes, Allison Smith, Melissa McGuinness, Trish Whitty, Kerry Venuti, Beth Currence, Nicole Murray, Julie Bloom, Sheen Maldonado, Sonja Sigurdar, Carol Badaracco, Kati Pierce, Kara Copley, Matt Blessing, Laura Sorells, Stephanie Cohn, Rachel Murphy, Nicole Ely, Rachel Andress, Jamie Doi, Karen VanFossen, Karen Huy, Becky Clemens, Kem Halasz, Holly Reed, Joyce Frantz, Stephanie Bowman, Sarah Bucior, John Mitchell, Mary Hoffman, Leslie Talford, Kelly Waterman*

**III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

No minutes were approved (first meeting of the year), instead a brief review of Robert Rules and meeting etiquette were reviewed.

**IV. Old Business Review**

- a) Event follow up. Brandi reviews the tile project, chalk the sidewalk, and the back to school lunch. All events were very successful.
- b) On-site childcare proposals. The field will be narrowed down to the top 3 proposals and the companies will be brought in to present. Brandi asked the members at large if this should be during a PTA meeting or at a separate session and it was agreed that this would be at a separate session. All parents using extended care should be invited to presentations and given an opportunity to voice their opinions. Maryam to organize.
- c) Membership drive update. Laura not present but provided numbers to include 136 members so far. Brandi asked the members at large if we wanted to do a membership incentive again and the group picked pizza party. The membership drive will go until October 1 and the homeroom with the most members will win the party. Mrs. Waterman will help get the word out to teachers to encourage participation as well as social media postings for parents. The suggestion was made to add an extra line to the membership slips asking how parents can contribute to the PTA.
- d) My School Anywhere- 94 families and 120 parents/ grandparents have registered. Mrs. Smith thinks we have approximately 375 families. Discussion had on expanding the use of

program for emails, membership payments, etc. Tami Goldstein not present but will considering this.

## **V. Principal's report**

- a) Mrs. Smith stated she is excited about the tile project around the school. Would like pictures emailed to Mrs. Smith or Mrs. Barnes. They expressed gratitude for the sidewalk chalk and back to school lunch
- b) Mrs. Smith requested parents consider volunteering to assist with handwriting within the school. This includes all handwriting- cursive, print on the line, etc. They would like this to be a commitment and will provide training. Please contact Mrs. Smith or Barnes if interested.
- c) Volunteers are needed to help in the classroom or at home doing clerical work. Please complete your volunteer training.
- d) School Improvement Team- Looking for a parent who can join the team this year from 4-4:30 once a month on the first Wednesday. Brandi asked that it be someone from PTA that could help bridge any gaps between PTA and school. Please contact Mrs. Barnes if interested.
- e) Spirit wear will be sold by the school as a fundraiser this year. Information will be coming out soon.

## **VI. Teacher Report**

- a) Mrs. Kelly Waterman has volunteered to be the Teacher rep for the PTA again this year. Mrs. Leslie Talford has volunteered to be the alternate.
- b) Mrs. Kelly Waterman would like to set up a Crayola crayon/ marker reusable program. Kelly Broske will see how her work has done this before and follow up with Mrs. Waterman.
- c) The teachers would like to continue the PTA funding of First in Math, RAZ kids, and Brain Pop. Brandi stated they are included in the budget presented for approval today.

## **VII. New Business**

- a) Teacher PTA dollar incentive- a new "Hoffy dollar" program Brandi has created to encourage more teacher participation with students and the PTA outside of the classroom. The money teachers earn will add to the classroom support fund the PTA already provides for them. In the proposed budget, extra funds for the teacher support has been added to accommodate this.

- b) Roving monthly teacher cart- Brandi proposed starting a monthly cart of goodies for teachers and staff to be delivered around the school. Kati Pierce is interested in taking on this task. Brandi asked if anyone else was interested in helping to let her know.
- c) Volcano replacement- Mrs. Barnes stated the equipment is non-reparable and needs to be replaced. Mrs. Smith explained the same identical piece of equipment needs to replace the existing one in order to prevent the cost of surveys and other fees. Cost will be \$1200. Motion to approve by Rachel Murphy, vote carries 30 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions.
- d) Request to increase behavioral incentives. Mrs. Barnes asked for \$1,000 increase this year. Brandi asked that PTA be more involved with the spending of the funds for the PTA contributions to this (ie- parents help shop, price out vendors, etc). Motion to approve the budget to include \$3,000 for student behavior incentive this year by Rachel Murphy, vote carries 30 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions.
- e) Request for poster maker- The poster maker is broken and Mrs. Barnes is asking for the PTA to fund a replacement with a 3-year warrantee for \$700. Rachel Murphy motioned to approve, vote carries 30 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions.
- f) Request to increase birthday books- Lynette not present, increase discussions tabled. Katie Pierce states her mother works for a book company and may have connections she will explore.
- g) Request to give FES scholarship to a Liberty Grad- Brandi received an email to the general PTA email account asking if FES would provide a scholarship this year like Carrolltowne and “other” schools do. Beth Currence works with the LHS scholarship team and will check into this. General members did not seem interested.
- h) Proposed budget for 2018-2019 school year was presented. General members voted to approve the presented budget as is with the line item increased as approved today. Motion to approved by Rachel Murphy, vote carries 30 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions.

### **VIII. Committee Reports**

- a) Fun Run Updates- Trish Whitty present and updated plans. This will be our main fundraiser of the year and we are looking to make \$30,000 this year. The run is October 25 with a rain date of October 26. We will again be using the online company Get Moving Crew. Volunteers appreciated. Information will be coming out to students this week.
- b) Cultural Arts Programs- Sheen Maldonado presented her ideas including bullying awareness, Artscape, cultural awareness, and Justin Berk meteorologist. Justin has t-shirt sales that could help offset the cost of his programs. Asking for an increase in funding of \$1,000 to support a fourth program this year instead of the three. Motion to increase the budget to \$3,000 by Rachel Murphy, motion carried 30 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions.

- c) Volunteer coordinator- Sonja stated we are always looking for people to be Hoffy. Eric Copley has volunteered to help when able but works during the day and cannot do all day events. We also need a spelling bee chair and Hershey park tickets chair.
- d) Box Tops- Darla not present. Will table discussion until next meeting.
- e) Coke rewards- Brandi received information that parents are still contributing to this but we have not received any money or updates. We will need a volunteer to update and take over this program.
- f) Certifikid- Tami not present but we did make \$75 off these last year. Remind all parents to use code "Freedom" to get credit. Brandi will ask Tami to post a link as not all members were aware of this program.
- g) Spirit Nights- Becky stated we have Norwood on Wednesday 9/19 and is asking for guest scoopers. Mrs. VanFossen will help arrange that. Chick-fil-A is on October 24<sup>th</sup> and the cow will come to school and wave to the kids. Beth Currence has a connection to EWBecks and asked if we may be interested in a spirit night there as well as at the Sykesville Farmers market. She will provide information.
- h) Dance Committee- The committee is looking into one big family dance. Brandi checked the cost for renting the Sykesville firehall. No other sites seemed large enough. Mrs. Hoffman suggested St. Joseph's hall and has a connection she will explore and report back.
- i) IT Updates- Tami not present
- j) Environmental Club- Mrs. Jane Castner is interested in bringing FEAT back. She has volunteered to be the teacher support but we need a parent to run the club. It will be once every other week to meet after school. Our school is due for recertification as a Green School and this will tie in.

## **IX. Open Forum**

Brandi asked the group if anyone else had fundraising ideas or events they would like to see this year. A suggestion for Original Works art project was made but Mrs. Smith was concerned the art teacher Mrs. Pilachowski already has a set curriculum. Another suggestion was made to consider Papa Johns pizza cards.

Brandi Blevins, President, adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.

Next meeting is Thursday October 4 at 6:30pm

Minutes submitted by: Kelly Broske