

Freedom Elementary School PTA
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2018

I. Call to order

Brandi Blevins, President, called to order the regular meeting of the Freedom PTA at 6:30 pm on October 4, 2018 at Freedom Elementary School Library.

II. Attendance

The following persons were present: *Brandi Blevins, Heather Watter, Sheen Maldonado, Nicole Murray, Laura Sorrells, Matt Blessing, Melissa McGuinness, Julie Bloom, Carol Badaracco, Kati Pierce, Jamie Doi, Joyce Frantz, Tami Goldstein, Kem Halasz, Trish Whitty, Mamata Poch, Sallie Reed, Kelly Broske, Maryam Esfandiari, Alysa Myers, Cynthia Queen, Sarah Bucior, Lori Coon, Mindy Shifflett, Sharon Sears*

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Minutes were approved

IV. Old Business Review

- a) Event follow up. Brandi recapped on the Norwood Fundraiser which brought in \$1700.00 total sales for Norwood and \$200 profit to us.
- b) On-site childcare proposals. Brandi discussed the top three selected proposals which included Hartford Heights, ABC Care and Hot Spots. Maryam will contact the three companies and arrange for 30-minute presentations by the next monthly meeting. Those who currently use before or after school care are encouraged to participate in the selection.
- c) Membership drive update. We have 228 parent members making Mr. Bevil's class the pizza party winners. Mrs. Smith/ Barnes will coordinate the party with the PTA for that class. The teachers are still turning in their forms and have not been counted yet. Thank you to Stephanie Bowman who stepped into the role during the membership drive. Brandi announced that a new membership chair is needed for next year and Sarah Bucior volunteered to take over.
- d) Request to give a FES scholarship to a Liberty Grad. There was discussion on how to make this a successful idea. Members agreed the current PTA funds are raised to support current FES students and not support a high school grad at this time.
- e) My School Anywhere directory update. 311 Families, 514 parents/grandparents have registered. Approximately 115 families that still needed to join or opt out.
- f) Principal request for volunteers for the school improvement team and handwriting helpers. Volunteers are still needed. Ideally, we would have parents from multiple grades. It would be from 4-4:30 the first Wednesday of every month.

- g) Environmental Club / Green School Designation. Brandi discussed the Crayola Recycling program which we are looking for a volunteer to run.

V. Principal's report

- a) Mrs. Smith was excited and thankful for the teacher's appreciation incentives and special treats. She noted it was a huge morale booster and really believes that it helps the teachers feel motivated and appreciated for their hard work.
- b) Mrs. Smith went over the handwriting program and encouraged parents to volunteer and asked for parents to contact her if they would like to participate.
- c) Veterans Day Program. Mrs. Smith discussed the event and stated a volunteer was needed to run the event. Lori Coon and Kati Pierce offered to run the event.

VI. Teacher report

- a) Teachers seem encouraged and excited for the incentives. Discussion on how to increase teacher membership and participation. Brandi mentioned the monthly treats, Edible Arrangements Smoothies, and some other planned goodies.

VII. New Business

- a) Justin Berk Assembly. Sheen Maldonado discussed the assembly and brief overview of who he was and what his assemblies were about. Faith in the Flakes shirts would be on sale for \$18 via check or \$19/each online and money would need to be in by October 15. Also, if we sell 300 t-shirts we would earn a free assembly which would save the PTA \$700.00.
- b) Fun Run. To date we have collected \$22,000.00. The last day for the t-shirts and water bottle is October 15.
- c) Request to increase Birthday books. Lynette was not present at the meeting, so we were unable to discuss her wish to increase the amount to spend on books for our children. Discussion tabled until next meeting.
- d) New Hoffy mascot or costume repair. Brandi discussed that Hoffy needed desperate repair and possibly even getting a replacement. Jamie Doi volunteered to repair Hoffy for now and we would investigate purchasing a new one in the spring with a possible redesign with a royal blue Hoffy mascot to fit the school colors better. It was suggested the kids would vote on a mascot they like the best.

VIII. Committee Reports

- a) Volunteer Coordinator. Sonja was not present to discuss. Will table discussion until next meeting.

- b) Box Tops. Darla was not present, but parents were urged to send in the box stops as soon as possible for the ones that expire in November.
- c) Certifikid. Tami discussed that raising money is now easier to do and was very excited to get this going.
- d) Sprit nights. We discussed Glory Days spirit night. It was determined that we are not allowed to have an ongoing fundraiser all year long this year but rather one in the fall (October) and one in the spring, which the month has not yet been determined for the spring. Chic Fil A was also discussed. The restaurant offered the dining room and encouraged us to bring Freedom Elementary School “spirit” to decorate with. We did not have a door mat to use but we discussed making Hoffy tattoos to give out. Sally Reed will price out tattoos or stickers for us. We also discussed the idea of a Popeye’s night which would be looked into as a possibility for the future.
- e) Dance committee. Cindy stated that she needed to follow up on possible halls and dates as we are doing away with mother/son and father/daughter dance and combining into one event. A few venue ideas were brought up including Century High school. More details to come next meeting.
- f) IT updates. Tami had nothing to add, everything is going well.
- g) Stem Fair. Mindy stated that the stem fair this year would be February 21st with a snow date of February 28th.
- h) Hotspots- STEAM night will be October 31 and all are invited. Details to come out soon.

IX. Open Forum

Brandi went over a few of the upcoming events and asked if anyone had anything else to add. We discussed School Rewards and it was noted that Martin’s was up and running and details were available on the website. No further questions, comments or concerns.

Brandi Blevins, President, adjourned the meeting at 7:29 pm.

Next meeting is Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 6:30pm

Minutes submitted by: Alysa Myers