

Freedom Elementary School PTA

Meeting Minutes, December 2, 2021

I. Call to Order

Virtual meeting due to COVID-19. Lori Coon, Co-President, calls to order the virtual meeting of the Freedom PTA at 6:30 p.m. on December 2, 2021.

Attendance

The following individuals are present at the meeting: *Jessica Smith, Lori Coon, Becky Clemens, Jane Castner, Melissa McGuinness, Lou Rolfes, Jen Meyer, Kristen Winans, Kristen Jenkins, Patricia Martin, Courtney Seitz, Ashley Schall, Liz Rosenberg, Julie Bloom, Justine Sellers, Sandi Miller, Rahul Chaudhary, Stephanie Otterson. Representing HotSpots: Chiquita Veney.*

II. Motion to approve minutes from November PTA meeting. Approved.

III. Old Business Review

- A. Spirit night earning for November (Becky C.): Glory Days-TBD; Bupperts-\$350; CFA-\$536; 5 Below-TBD; Panera-\$166
- B. Membership Drive: Winner Mr. Earp, \$50 extra classroom support and extra recess.
- C. Fun Run: Total earnings \$26,015. Homeroom winner Mrs. Peterson, treat and date TBD. Every student gets a Pop-it, even if they did not participate. Students who earned over \$150 or over \$75 received a \$10 or \$5 coupon for the PTS store. Melissa notes that the winners can purchase on PTA store website and she will refund the amount earned. Lori notes that the classroom liaisons can help get the word out.
- D. Thanksgiving food drive was a huge success, filling two vehicles!

IV. Board Reports

- A. Treasurer Report (Lou): Teacher reimbursements, some are frustrated that it takes so long for reimbursements, but it is a process, as two PTA board members need to review and sign the checks. We will plan to do it monthly. Reminder that we need separate receipts for items/requests. Max is \$100. Please try to put in request for the total of \$100 once reached, not separate requests for small reimbursements. (we have had some requests for just \$10 at a time) Classroom expenses only. A parent asked if all fun run checks have been deposited, as her check still has not cleared. Lou and Ms. Smith will double check, but Lou believes all checks received have been deposited.
- B. Principal/Playground report: Jessica Smith: Playground has been shipped! Installation to begin in the next few weeks! This will require some indoor recess during the building process. Indoor recess bags will be important during this time.
- C. Teacher Report (Ms. Castner): She thanks the PTA for restocking the supply closet and other support. Teachers also really appreciate the continued monthly treats! Thank you to the PTA for the resources they have been provided. 3rd grade has really enjoyed Story Works.

V. New Business

- A. **Upcoming spirit days:** (Becky C.) CFA 12/7, cow is coming to school that day at dismissal. 5 Guys 12/14, Krispy Kreme-date TBD, Player's Fun Zone Wed 12/29 (6-8:30pm).
- B. **Holiday Gift Drive:** (Lori) Sign up genius. We have had a lot of donations so far. We are still in need of a few things. Lori and Becky can either pick up, or you can drop off to Lori's house.
- C. **Casey Cares Drive with CFA:** Pajama drive, details pending.
- D. **School Beautification Project:** We still want to do something before opening of playground but may need to be pushed back due to weather. (Paint shed, Huffy wings?) We hope to update the blacktop, as 4 Square, hopscotch, and basketball lines are fading.
- E. **STEM Fair:** pending 2/17/21.
- F. **Dance:** Dance was not approved at ORMS due to mask mandate, as dances are not allowed at middle and high schools. We can either have the dance outside, wait to see what spring holds for us regarding COVID, or set it up as something "other than a dance."
- G. **Bingo:** 4/30/21 at Century High School.
- H. **New Treasurer:** Rahul Chaudhary. He introduces himself and is excited to take on this role. Motion to approve: Motion carried. Welcome Rahul!

VI. Committee Chairs needed for Open Positions

- A. Spirit Nights chair needed to take over for Becky Clemens. Becky has someone that is possibly interested. She will discuss with her tonight.
- B. Secretary: Melissa's term will be up.
- C. Vice-President: Vacancy will need to be filled.
- D. Coke Rewards: Liz Rosenberg volunteers to take this on, as she works in the school now and can grab the caps etc. Ms. Castner may be able to get the kids involved too. Anyone can enter the rewards at [coca-cola.com/give](https://www.coca-cola.com/give)
- E. Bingo: Justine Sellers offers to help but states she cannot take the lead. Stephanie Otterson notes she is also willing to help, but not take the lead.

VII. Committee Reports

- A. **PTA Parent Liaisons** (Sandi Miller): The website is being worked out. Parents will be notified by end of week to join. This is an extension of the PTA. Parents will be asked to come to PTA meetings. A tab will be added to the PTA website, with all resources the liaisons will need. Courtney added the tab today.
- B. **NexTrex** (Melissa): People have been confused, but we are competing with other schools in the region. We can't take plastic from other retailers (Safeway, Walmart, etc) as we don't know if other schools in the area have partnered with them as a drop-off location.

We are partnered with Martins as our drop-off location. As of today, we have collected 598 pounds of plastic!! (plus more in my garage which hasn't been weighed) Please remind your kids/students not to put trash in the recycle bins. (Lots of forks, plastic covered in ketchup or peanut butter) The kids were confused about this, but they are excited to collect! Melissa asked about getting other recycle bins for the school; however, Ms. Smith/Ms. Castner advised kids would throw in wrong things, it's crazy at lunch, and we can't have recycle monitors. Kids are using their reusable water bottles, which has reduced the amount of water bottles. We will revisit recycle bins/Green School again in the future.

- C. **Ugly Sweater Scavenger Hunt:** (Stephanie Otterson): She confirmed the 10th house today! She will have a cheat sheet available for those that want one. The sweaters will be lit, and the house numbers will be visible. The finished checklists will be entered into a raffle to win prizes/swag.

VIII. Hot Spots: Chiquita Veney (District Director for Carroll County)

- a) Hot Spots is still happy to help promote PTA events at the school or on their Facebook page. We can leave any PTA forms at the sign in/out table.
- b) STEAM: kids have been really engaged in the activities they have been doing.
- c) Fall and winter crafts have been fun for the students.
She tried to show photos, but we were unable to see her PowerPoint.

IX. Miscellaneous

- A. **Box Tops** (Melissa): If kids drop off any receipts in the box, I will grab and scan them. I will put together something for Ms. Smith to add to sway.
- B. **Auction:** Justine asks if we plan to do another silent auction. No plans have been made. If anyone wants to take this on, we would be happy to do another auction in the future.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm by PTA Co-President Lori Coon. Minutes submitted by Melissa McGuinness.