

**Freedom Elementary School PTA**

**Meeting Minutes, January 6, 2022**

**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 January 6, 2022.

**Attendance**

The following individuals are present at the meeting: *Jessica Smith, Lori Coon, Becky Clemens, Jane Castner, Melissa McGuinness, Liz Rosenberg,, Jason Dolan, Julie Bloom, Kara Copley, Karice Parada, Sandi Miller, Rahul Chaudhary, Stephanie Otterson. Representing HotSpots: Chiquita Veney.*

**II. Motion to approve minutes from December PTA meeting. Approved.**

**III. Old Business Review**

- A. Spirit night earnings (Becky C.): Glory Days in Oct- \$62.32 (we will do again next month and again in April); CFA- \$528 (the cow did not come to school due to costume being refurbished. Perhaps Hoffy can come next time if cow still unavailable); 5 Below-\$221; 5 Guys- \$303, but they rounded up to \$325!; Players Fun Zone on 12/29- only 30 ppl came. They are refunding our \$100 deposit and give us \$100 for our effort; Panera- \$166
- B. Holiday Gift Drive (Lori): The family got everything on their wish list. They were extremely grateful. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

**IV. Board Reports**

- A. Treasurer Report (Rahul): Nothing new. He and Lou are working on treasury report.
- B. Principal/Playground report: Jessica Smith:
  - 1) Playground is complete! We are only waiting on CCPS inspection and then it will be open for the students. We still want to do a ribbon cutting ceremony in the spring when weather and COVID numbers are better. She is working to finalize the names for the donor sign and also working on getting the bricks laid. Can we get a brick-layer parent to donate their time? Will make inquiries via email or FTA page. We need to get approval since it's a "modification." The weather needs to be better to install the rubber path and donor sign. Benches will be finalized in future.
  - 2) She thanks us for the staff breakfast. The school will have a small school store fundraiser (magazines, gift cards, etc) at end of January to help supplement expenses for the school.
- C. Vice-Principal report: Ms. Barnes:
  - 1) Outstanding teacher nominations deadline is tomorrow. Please recognize any teachers by deadline.
  - 2) Homeless Drive: We collected a good number of coats, hats, socks, gloves, and underwear. She delivered to the Westminster homeless shelter, and they were beyond thankful.
  - 3) Holiday Drive: The families were overwhelmed and grateful. They had lost hope that they would be able to provide a Christmas for their children. Besides the PTA

family, the Bozemans adopted two families (and visited one family), and the school staff adopted a family also.

- D. Teacher Report (Ms. Castner): She thanks us for the teacher treats and helping with the supply closet, which has been a lifesaver. PTA notes the amazon wish list is being updated. We will put the list on the PTA website for easy access.

## V. New Business

- A. **Committee Chairs**: President goes over Standard procedures for Chairs and/or committee members since there has been some confusion. Any agendas, flyers, updates to calendar/sway, please email to [sms@freedompta.org](mailto:sms@freedompta.org). This will go to the Administration and the PTA Board for approval. Please don't sign any contracts or agreements without us knowing, even if it's the same contract as last year. Also, please email us regarding any reimbursement requests you might have before you spend the money. The budget is set at the beginning of the year, and we need to make sure we stay within that budget. Mrs. Barnes thanks Lori and Becky for spending their own money for the holiday drive. They purchased coats for every family member and bought some remaining gift cards we needed for the drive. She thanks the PTA Board for their hard work and commitment.
- B. **Upcoming spirit days**: (Becky) Glory Days- all of January; CFA was 1/4/22 and only raised \$139, hopefully next month will be better; Seafood Legend for first time (owner reached out to us)- 1/17 (schools closed) from 11:30am to 9:30pm; 2/21/22 is Noodles & Co, 4-8pm; Krispy Kreme-3/19/22. (We will be taking pre-orders, \$10 per box) May have kids make thank you notes to place on top of boxes. Someone mentions gift certificates, but Krispy Kreme is so far away to redeem them. Becky will look into it. Melissa mentions Katana as a possible future spirit day since they are fairly new. Becky will reach out to them.
- C. **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, Hoffy wings) The truck cap has been moved. Some sheds have already started being painted by the County. Brainstorm ideas for next meeting.
- D. **Casey Cares Drive with CFA**: 4/1 to 4/15, Pajama drive, infants to teens. Donate PJs and get coupon for a free kid meal. Schools need to sign up by 3/5. If a homeroom collects 30 or more, there is a class prize. Possible PJ day to kick it off. Staff says one PJ day is sufficient. Becky will get more details soon.
- E. **Before/After Care Committee**: We will be getting a committee together late winter to hear company presentations/times/prices and determine who we will use for care. A survey will be sent to parents and current students enrolled in care. Although Hot Spots sent out an early registration for next school year, parents are discouraged to register right now, as the provider may change. We have asked Hot Spots (in writing) to not accept any money from parents right now.
- F. **STEM Fair**: pending for 2/17/21. (Stephanie Otterson is on committee) They are meeting next week and trying to come up with a virtual contingency plan if possible (google slides instead of presenter boards) Or may split in-person to 2 days, K-2, then 3-5.
- G. **Bingo**: Century gym has been reserved for 4/30/22, Saturday.

- H. **Open positions for next year:** Vice-President, Secretary, Membership Chair, Sunshine Committee Chair (Melissa notes that Karice Parada would be perfect for Sunshine. She said she may consider, please send her info) Kara Copley states she will consider membership chair. Please send her information.

## VI. Committee Reports

- A. **Ugly Sweater scavenger hunt:** (Stephanie) 82 families participated and it was a lot of fun! Prizes were distributed.
- B. **NexTrex Recycling:** (Melissa) As of today, we have submitted 1,107 pounds of plastic so far! Please keep it up so we can try to win a bench!
- C. **Bingo:** (Terry Geppi) She is missing baskets from when Bingo was cancelled due to COVID in March 2020. It was determined that some were used for the silent auction and some were never recovered. She is waiting to hear back from Freedom Optimist Club about renting bingo machine. She is working on a save-the-date flyer for approval. Budget is \$600 to purchase tape, tablecloths, and other things needed. We still have cellophane, bows, scissors, etc. Ms. Smith notes that Terri can use the school printer for B&W copies of flyers. Becky will reach out to Brandi Blevins regarding possible Disney tickets and American Girl doll donations for raffle. Stephanie and Mary will be helping/training and taking over Bingo next year.
- D. **Parent Liaisons:** (Sandi/Karice) Communication has been sent to everyone who expressed interest in being a liaison. Each grade will have a team leader and a group of liaisons, and a liaison from each grade will come to the PTA meetings and they can report back to the families regarding what is discussed. They will be sending communications to the parents, especially for those that aren't on social media. Liaisons will help share information on events like Bingo. The newly created Facebook page's purpose is for the liaisons to catch up on anything they may have missed.

- VII. **Hot Spots: Chiquita Veney (District Director for Carroll County):** With the colder weather, they have added an additional staff member to help with indoor activities. They have purchased new games/STEAM activities with recommendations from the children.

## VIII. Miscellaneous

- 1) (Melissa): In future, I hope we can do a free DIY Home Depot workshop for a "Father's Day" night before school ends. (We have done mother's day paint night in past) We can supply the kits and paint. I have saved over 20 kits so far and ask that people collect a few here and there also to add to the amount, and more for children to choose from.
- 2) 5<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation: Ms. Smith will discuss with Ms. Sias and Ms. Castner. This may be a perfect situation to have the 5<sup>th</sup> grade liaisons to work on. Sandi notes that the liaisons will be happy to help. Ms. Castner doesn't want us to plan too much, as they may have to alter based on COVID.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm by PTA Co-President Lori Coon. Minutes submitted by Melissa McGuinness. Next meeting scheduled for 2/3/2022.