***Freedom Elementary School PTA***

***Meeting Minutes, March 3, 2022***

1. **Call to Order**

Virtual meeting due to COVID-19. Lori Coon, Co-President, calls to order the virtual meeting of the Freedom PTA at 6:32 p.m. on March 3, 2022.

**Attendance**

The following individuals are present at the meeting: *Jessica Smith, Lori Coon, Becky Clemens, Jane Castner, Melissa McGuinness, Courtney Seitz, Liz Rosenberg, Kara Copley, Karice Parada, Stephanie Otterson, Amanda Jozkowski, Julie Bloom, Karen Barnes, Rachell Andress, Nikki Facchine, Patty Martin, Rahul Chaudhary.*

1. **Motion to approve minutes from February PTA meeting**. Approved.
2. **Old Business Review**
3. Spirit night earnings (Becky C.): Glory Days, only received 4 receipts. We won’t do again this year, not worth the trouble. Maybe Pizza Bolis or Seafood Legend? (ORMS does monthly Pizza Bolis night already) 4/28 pending spirit night at Pizza Bolis. We have to be respectful of the Jewish Community and not do spirit days b/w 4/15-4/22. We will ask Seafood Legend if they would like to do a month-long dining for dollars. Will do something with Mr. Jack’s in future also, as they are struggling for business.
4. 2/1 was CFA = $627.12, 3/1 CFA amount is pending. 2/21 was Noodles & Co. $192.56. Red Barn Ranch, $550 so far. ($50 for each Freedom child that signs up for camp) W expect more. They will be sending us a check every 2 weeks.
5. **Board Reports**
6. Secretary: Melissa: She would like to figure out what to do with the Freedom merchandise that we have, as it’s not selling. Is someone willing to take over the square store? This is not a school run sale, just PTA. Jessica advises we can keep at the school on the stage again if needed. Karice would like us to find another person to manage this, but if can’t, she can possibly take over. Melissa hopes to have a tie-dye event in the Spring to use up some of the shirts. We can set up a table at Bingo. The new website will have a link to the school store.
7. Principal report: Jessica Smith:
8. Laptops were handed out to 3rd to 5th grade students two weeks ago. We will have them charged at school so they won’t have to bring back and forth from home.
9. Kindergarten registration is from 3/7-3/11. Link on webpage under News. Encourage neighbors/friends to register in March as this will impact our staffing. We anticipate having 100 kindergartners next year. We have 60 appointments set up already.
10. Monday was the first day of optional masks. It is going well and kids are respecting each other’s choices.
11. Redistricting Committee: continuing to meet regularly. CCPS website has agenda and meeting minutes posted.

C. Assistant Principal (Ms. Barnes): She notes that the spirit wear could be sold at the playground celebration on 5/19, rain date 5/20. Kindergarten families haven’t really had a chance to see the shirts, etc. She advises the poster maker is really old and will need replacement in future.

D. Teacher Report (Ms. Castner): She thanks us for Amazon Wish-List donations to the classrooms to help supplement the classroom budgets. Dry-erase markers were much needed. Lori asks if teachers need help funding Prodigy, but she notes they get it for free. There are other subscriptions they are interested in, and she will put together a list for PTA, after consulting with other teachers.

1. **New Business**
2. **Upcoming spirit days:** (Becky) 3/14 Los Aztecas. We will not request families to sign in. There will be a flyer going home and there will be extras there. Mr. Jacks will be 3/31.
3. **Krispy Kreme:** 3/19 8-10 am, $10 per dozen glazed, preorder only. Order until 3/13. Melissa notes there have only been a little over 20 dozen sold. The school will send out an email/messenger and Ms. Castner will email the staff. We could possibly have people purchase them for donations to community businesses for helping with playground. Melissa and Lori could deliver. (Purchasing for teachers is not feasible as they will be 2 days old). The ones not picked up by 10am will be donated to the Sykesville firehall. Ms. Barnes thinks donations to the Arc program would be nice, but they aren’t open on Saturday. Parents can expand the post to the community. Melissa posted to Hammond Estates, Stephanie will post to Stone Manor.
4. **Tristar:** $99 for 6 weeks of trial classes, all proceeds come back to Freedom. Can sign up the entire month of March.
5. **Hershey Park tickets:** can purchase up until 4/8.
6. **Red Barn Ranch:**  Opening this summer. The PTA will receive $50 for every freedom student who signs up for camp.
7. **Casey Cares Drive with CFA: c**ollecting4/4 to 4/8 in morning,Pajama drive. We will be in main lobby collecting pajamas.
8. **Student Directory: (Courtney)** There will be a secure individual log-in process, so your information is safe. Form will be sent to parents to opt-in and then be sent a link to log in. You will not have to be a member of the PTA this year to have access. (Perhaps next year it will be required). It should be up and running very soon.
9. **Spring Playground Party:** 5/19, rain date 5/20.PTA is providingDJ, snacks, drinks, cake. Red Barn Ranch is donating a moon bounce, and rock wall for the party. We will set up merchandise for purchase. We have quotes from 2 companies to install the bricks but they are higher than expected due to COVID. Options of 3 benches, shipping is 20 weeks, so we will not have them by party. After budget meeting, we will know how much we can spend. Three 8 ft benches $5,288; Three 6 ft benches $4,568. (these are surface mounted with backs) Melissa notes that benches from NexTrex are $419 each, which would be nice to show the kids what their plastic helped make. Ms. Smith would like to replace the benches out front, and that would be a great option. She will reach out to Melissa for more information. Ms. Smith would still like wings painted on the shed or side of building near the playground but may need to be postponed until summer or next school year. Flowers, clean-up gardens prior to the party. Great option for service-learning hours. Rahul mentions that the children have been falling off the merry-go round, but the school has limited the number of children on it to address this issue. Ms. Smith will inquire about possible seatbelts?
10. **Rocket from Harlem Wizards:** He is coming tomorrow for afternoon assembly. We were chosen as one of 3 schools. He will be doing tricks and talking about good character. Game is on 3/13 which families can buy tickets (not a fundraiser for us).
11. **Arts for Learning:** Anti-bulling assembly, they can do half at a time, back-to-back. Ms. Smith notes that starting 3/14, we can have more than one grade assemblies.$1,000/$1300 or $730 depending on options. They have some dates in April/May open.
12. **Upcoming dates:** 5/27 Play Day, 6/1 Stem Fair, 6/9 5th grade picnic, 6/10 5th grade promotion.
13. **Open positions for next year:** Vice-President, Square Store, Spirit nights, Audit/reconciliation committee needed for summer, help with yearbook.
14. **Committee Reports**
15. **NexTrex Recycling**: (Melissa) We have submitted 2,148 pounds of plastic so far! Dropped off 121 pounds today. We are #19 out of 766 schools!! We are #10 in Elementary schools. We may not win this bench, as one school is consistently ahead of us by 500 pounds. Bupperts has gotten on board and donating their plastic. Hopefully we can purchase a bench if we don’t win one, just to show the kids what recycling can do! It has opened everyone’s eyes as to how much plastic is used and thrown out.
16. **Bingo:** (Stephanie Otterson) 4/30/22. Staff order forms have been distributed. Family forms will be sent home next week. A sign-up has been made for donations by grade. We are looking to have 10 total baskets from the school. We’ve gotten some great donations from the community for baskets/raffle/door prizes. Liaisons are on board to reach out to parents. We will be seeking volunteers of parents/older students for service hours. We will need official PTA members to volunteer wherever money is collected. Melissa has the square reader for bingo to accept credit cards. Max tickets: 500. Children 5 and over need their own ticket.
17. **Sunshine Committee:** (Liz) Karice helped make tags for IAs and bus driver treats. In future, need a better list for dates. She has a limited budget so it would be nice to be able to plan. Melissa advises she did sunshine committee at ORMS, and they would solicit for $5 gift cards when we asked for other sign ups. Liz notes we don’t have many for rest of year but will come up with ideas and possibly ask for donations. She offers to do this committee again next year.
18. **Before/After Care Committee**: (Amanda) This is a quick turnaround, the committee has narrowed it down to two companies (Kids After Hours, and ABC Care). Wed 3/9/22 at 6pm there will be a virtual google meeting which all parents are welcome to attend.
19. **Amanda Jozkowski:** She is a Freedom parent (K) and running for BOE for South County area and introduces herself. She is a professor at Towson University. Pediatric Occupational Therapist and now teaches graduate students. She has a wide range of leadership roles. She is not a member of the redistricting committee but could bring information to the PTA as she obtains it and would answer questions if she is able.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm by PTA Co-President Lori Coon. Minutes submitted by Melissa McGuinness. Next meeting scheduled for 4/7/2022.