

**Freedom Elementary School PTA**

**Meeting Minutes, November 4, 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 November 4, 2021.

**Attendance**

The following individuals are present at the meeting: *Jessica Smith, Karen Barnes, Kara Copley, Lori Coon, Becky Clemens, Jane Castner, Becky Kaufman, Melissa McGuinness, Lou Rolfes, Jen Meyer, Kristen Winans, Karice Parada, Kristen Jenkins, Patricia Martin, Tami Goldstein, Rachel Sternberg, Courtney Seitz, Mary Kurts, Colleen Gugliotta.* Representing *HotSpots: Chiquita Veney and Eric Walker.*

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

**Introductions:** The Board introduces themselves to new PTA members.

**III. Old Business Review**

Spirit nights- (Becky C.) 10/5-CFA \$570, 10/7- Chipotle \$407. We are waiting for the October totals for Glory Days and Bupperts.

**IV. Principal/Playground report: Jessica Smith**

- a) Playground date has been delayed. It is now scheduled to be shipped on 11/24, installation scheduled to begin in beginning of December (first or second week).
- b) Parents can now start volunteering inside the building; however, no large observation groups for American Education Week.

**V. Vice-Principal Report: Karen Barnes**

- a) She thanks the treat train for the October treats. The staff really enjoyed them.
- b) School still has an open position for a custodian (28 hrs per week)

**VI. Teacher Report: Ms. Castner**

Nothing to report, but she thanks the treat train committee for the Oct popcorn. It is much appreciated by all! She asks about reimbursements and when to expect. PTA will look into expected date of reimbursement.

**VII. New Business**

- A. Upcoming spirit days:** 5 Below (11/21-11/28, We will need a paper flyer), Panera (11/22, 5-9pm), Five Guys (12/14), Krispy Kreme pending (\$10 per box, St. Patty's day?), Player's Fun Zone (need to pick a date, over winter break?)

- B. Fundraisers:** We still plan to only do the 2 large fundraisers this year (fun run and bingo) instead of smaller fundraisers such as selling wrapping paper, popcorn, etc. Seems that parents still prefer these larger donation options.
- C. Birthday Smencils:** Since we are not allowed to do birthday books this year, we will be doing birthday smencils (smelly pencils). Kids love these.
- D. \$100 Donation to Carroll County Outstanding Teacher Award Ceremony:** We were asked to donate. This donation goes toward the cost for the tickets for the honored teachers and their guests. Motion to approve. Motion carried.
- E. Membership Drive:** So far, we have 143 memberships which is higher than usual. So far, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and K are top three classes. Teacher with most memberships will get \$50 in extra classroom support. Right now, Castner and Erp are tied for first.
- F. School Beautification Project: Becky K.** Ideas to paint sheds, plant flowers. Ms. Smith has secured a new dumpster! We will either be seeking volunteers or may receive help from Carroll County school board.
- G. Ugly Sweater Scavenger Hunt: Becky K.** This was such a success last year, we are doing it again! Need 8 to 10 houses. Looking for great holiday displays and hope to have some others besides just Christmas. (Hannukah, Winter wonderland?) The sweaters are small, but we hope to get better solar lights for this year. Please let us know if you have any yards in mind (in the Freedom district).
- H. Holiday Give Back Ideas:** Adopt a Family (Thanksgiving or Christmas). Ms. Barnes has a family or two in mind.
- I. Upcoming Spring events:**
  - 1. Casey Cares:** Pajama drive and CFA will also donate free chicken sandwiches for each PJ donated..
  - 2. Bingo:** We need a new chair for Bingo! If interested, please let PTA know. Date TBD
  - 3. Dance:** Date TBD
  - 4. Stem Fair:** Date TBD. A Thursday in February?

#### **VIII. Committee Chairs needed for Open Positions**

- a) Have possible Treasurer for next year (who will shadow Lou)
- b) IT Chair: Courtney Seitz. Motion to approve. Motion carried. She will shadow Tami to learn the position.
- c) Spirit Nights chair needed to take over from Becky Clemens. Jen Myer is a “maybe.”
- d) Sunshine Committee (Janitors, Secretary Day, Bus Driver Appreciation, etc). Next day is not until February for school counselors. Ms. Barnes may have someone. Melissa volunteers just in case it’s needed.
- e) Bingo Chair still needed. Mary Kurtz is interested but would need to be given some direction.
- f) Secretary: Melissa’s term will be up. Karice is possibly interested. Ms. Smith notes that no redistricting should happen by next year, so Melissa could do another year if needed.

**IX. Committee Reports**

- a) **PTA Parent Liaisons** (Karice): shows the new site with all info in one place such as teacher gift ideas, class bingo buckets, etc. They plan to **not** have the liaisons do money collections for gift cards, but instead the liaisons will get a list of teacher's favorites/wish lists for students to do individual gifts.
- b) **Student/Parent Directory**: Becky K. notes that she may have a parent to head up the new directory.
- c) **Fun Run**: Donations open until 11/14. As of this afternoon, we have raised \$22,000. We will schedule a date for sliming and Pie in the Face.
- d) **NexTrex** (Melissa): As of today, we have collected 389 pounds of plastic!! Someone asks if we could do a competition between classes? This would just be too hard to keep the weight separate for each class. It seems the students are already excited to just be collecting and working toward a bench and helping the environment.

**X. Hot Spots: Chiquita Veney (District Director for Carroll County) and Eric Walker (Director at Freedom)**

- a) Hot Spots is happy to help promote PTA events at the school or their Facebook page.
- b) Current staff: Eric, Aubrey, Kathleen, Richard
- c) They ask if any help is needed during American Education Week. Perhaps an information table? TBD

Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm by PTA Co-President Lori Coon. Minutes submitted by Melissa McGuinness.