

Freedom Elementary School PTA
Meeting Minutes, February 3, 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 6:39 p.m. on February 3, 2022.

Attendance

The following individuals are present at the meeting: *Jessica Smith, Lori Coon, Becky Clemens, Jane Castner, Melissa McGuinness, Courtney Seitz, Jennifer Meyer, Lauren Soto, Sheen Maldonado, Liz Rosenberg, Kara Copley, Karice Parada, Stephanie Otterson.*
Representing HotSpots: Eric Walker.

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

III. Old Business Review

- A. Spirit night earnings (Becky C.): Glory Days in January- total TBD; Seafood Legend, people enjoyed it, total TBD.
- 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: Treasurer is not present.
- B. Principal/Playground report: Jessica Smith:
 - 1) Playground is open and the kids LOVE it! We've had some extra recesses for kids to use it. There is something for each grade level. We are still planning a big celebration in the spring when the weather is better.
 - 2) The school store fundraiser is up and running. She has heard the feedback/mixed feedback from the parents and will take that into consideration for any future fundraisers. The teachers have received gift cards to use in their classrooms which they are very grateful for.
 - 3) New laptops will be distributed to 3rd-5th graders in next few weeks. The remaining laptops will be able to be used by the younger students at school.
 - 4) Southern area redistricting committee email went out last week on 1/24. It was previously the Freedom redistricting committee but has now expanded to address the entire area. We now have 615 students and getting new kids every week. We are the most over-crowded. The CCPS homepage has a link to keep us up to date with recommendations. They need to have something to the board by July, for the 2022-2023 school year.
- C. Teacher Report (Ms. Castner): She reiterates how much the kids love the new playground. She thanks us for donations to the classrooms to help supplement the classroom budgets

V. New Business

- A. **Upcoming spirit days:** (Becky) We just has CFA on 2/1, pending total; 2/21 Noodles & Company, they will give 25%; 2/22 Tacky Twosday; 3/14 Los Aztecas for the first. Owner talked about people scan a QR code which will pull up their info and enter them to win a \$50 gift card. Because this would provide them with personal info, this should be optional only.
- B. **Krispy Kreme:** 3/19 8-10 am, \$10 per dozen glazed, preorder only. We discussed raising price, or charge \$1 for sprinkles, but ultimately decided to keep at \$10 per box. We pay \$6.50 per box. We discussed having chocolate as an option, but it would be difficult to keep straight. Melissa will set up a link on square store.
- C. **Red Barn Ranch:** Opening this summer. The PTA will receive \$50 for every freedom student who signs up for camp. They provided all of the flyers which will be going home next week. They will also be bidding for before/after care.
- D. **Spring Playground Party:** We still need to find a mason to install the bricks. Ms. Smith would like some benches for the outdoor area. We hope to have the donor sign up by the party. Red Barn Ranch is donating a moon bounce, and rock wall for the party and will have attendants to monitor. If they have more than 2 or 4 attendants, they would ask that we pay them for their time. Ms. Smith shows examples of wings we could paint on the shed or side of building near the playground.
- E. **Casey Cares Drive with CFA:** collecting 4/1 to 4/15 in morning, Pajama drive, infants to teens. Donate new PJs and get coupon for a free kid meal (one per child, no matter how many PJs) Top homeroom (must collect 30 or more) will get a milk and cookies party.
- F. **STEM Fair (5th grade):** Postponed to 6/1/22. Ms. Soto put in a reservation. Date not approved yet. Once date confirmed, she will reach out to possible judges.
- G. **Open positions for next year:** Vice-President, Secretary (Karice Parada volunteers for secretary!) Yearbook/photography help needed for next year. Audit committee needed for summer. Stephanie asks that we or email email K-1 parents as they may not realize what positions are needed.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. **NexTrex Recycling:** (Melissa) As of today, we have submitted 1,500 pounds of plastic so far! Please keep it up so we can try to win a bench! January alone was 553 pounds! Waiting to see the list of winning schools so far. I reached out to Bozemans, and Nikki will keep her eyes open for ideas. Their foundation deals with mostly boxes, not plastic. If you are associated with a business, please ask them to keep their plastics for you! Dry cleaners, Walmart, anywhere you are, please ask! Stephanie notes she knows someone who is a stocker at Walmart and will ask him about plastics. Ms. Smith notes that two 4th graders have written letters to Ms. Smith about starting up an environmental club. We will hopefully be able to start one up soon! Melissa and Ms. Smith will get together to discuss.

- B. Before/After Care Committee:** No one from committee is present. Lori discusses new bids being accepted. If you know of any providers that would like to bid, please have them email care@freedompta.org. There have been some issues with this email address, but Courtney is currently troubleshooting.
- B. Bingo:** (Stephanie Otterson) We have the permit for 4/30/22. Prices everything out right now (daubers, games, tickets, CFA preorders). There will be staff tickets sold also at discounted rate to get encourage more staff to attend. There will also be a staff raffle. Mr. Earp will be the bingo caller. The funeral home that used to supply the tickets are no longer doing it. She found them for \$32 for 500. The biggest costs will be the food, daubers. Still calling some local vendors and will plan to purchase soon. Flyers will go at toward end of February. Will reach out to the liaisons to start getting together class basket donations. We hope to have 10 baskets total for 10 bingo games. Soliciting donations from the area (more from the national vendors like Home Depot, grocery stores, etc, to give the local vendors a break. Next committee meeting is 2/7. Will solicit for volunteer helpers (and can earn service learning hours). They will have a signup genius for volunteers.
- VII. Hot Spots: Eric Walker:** Nothing much to report. Planning a new curriculum for next year if Hot Spots is still here. They will be putting in a bid.
- VIII. Miscellaneous**
- 1) Liaisons: (Karice) They are still working on getting the classroom leads together. Some parents that showed interest have since turned it down. Karice will take the 5th grade lead. Once the leads are confirmed, they will send out the info to the teachers.
 - 2) "Tacky Twosday" (Lori) on 2/22/22. Something fun for the kids, wear mismatched clothes, tutus, ties, etc.
 - 3) Hershey Park tickets will be available again this year. Flyers will be going out next week. We do not make money on this, it's just something nice for our families to enjoy. Tickets are \$40 each instead of \$77 face value. Age 2 and under is free.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm by PTA Co-President Lori Coon. Minutes submitted by Melissa McGuinness. Next meeting scheduled for 3/3/2022.