

Freedom Elementary School PTA

Meeting Minutes, March 4, 2021

I. Call to Order

Virtual meeting due to COVID-19. Brandi Blevins, President, calls to order the virtual meeting of the Freedom PTA at 6:34 p.m. on March 4, 2021.

Attendance

The following individuals are present at the meeting: *Jessica Smith, Karen Barnes, Mindy Shifflett, Kara Copley, Becky Clemens, Jason Dolan, Nicole Stefan, Brandi Blevins, Becky Kaufman, Louis Rolfes, Melissa McGuinness, Justine Sillers, Jen Meyer, Terri Geppi, Amanda Norman, Rachel Murphy, Danielle Healey, Todd Souder, Kelly Waterman, Deven Pirro, Brittany Ehrenberger, Sara Furdui, Brianna Buppert.*

II. Approval of Minutes from last meeting

Motion to approve minutes. Motion carried.

III. Event Review

- a) Virtual Bingo. Good feedback. Cost for host \$200, Goodies \$134, Daubers \$108. Total profit = \$2,331, which includes a \$250 donation from Burger King.
- b) Krispy Kreme- Everyone really enjoyed this, but the weather was horrible. Perhaps revisit this fundraiser again in the future when weather is better.
- c) Spirit nights- Chick Fil A \$246, MOD Pizza \$322, Becks \$ pending.
- d) Future Spirit Nights: Chick Fil A 3/4, 5 Guys 3/15, J & P Pizza 3/23, Smoothie King 4/14. Another possibility is a food truck event, "It's All Good (BBQ, crab dip, etc) is on board. We could also sell spirit wear, bracelets, drinks, snacks. Some recommend this should be a multiple food truck event. Date TBA.

IV. Principal report: Jessica Smith

Preparing for 4-day week:

- a) They will be doing their best to physically distance students. Parents are to notify school by Monday if they will be participating. School needs 12 in class to be able to social distance; however, it appears our class sizes will be larger.
- b) During recess, the students will be able to use equipment but must wear masks to do so. The playground will finish being removed completely tomorrow.
- c) During lunch, they will spread out as much as physically possible.
- d) School is in needs of more lunchroom monitors. 4 parents per day is needed.

VIII. Silent Auction pending

- a) The committee is going to Stratosphere tomorrow to discuss event with them
- b) Ravens Player Bradley Bozeman would like to help for an in-person event. He has an anti-bullying foundation.
- c) Deven Pillo is looking into more donations, but hoping for an outside event in the summer. (Fire Station?)

IX. Yearbooks- Becky Kauffman

- a) Still missing pictures for 90 students. They are attempting to reach out to the parents
- b) Sales for yearbooks are now live
- c) No delivery date set for yearbooks

X. Future event planning

- a) Can start planning 5th grade graduation and Fun Run for spring (April)
- b) Penny Wars (Becky Clemens) This will be Star Wars Themed; winning class will have a “May the 4th Be With You” party. They will empty jars on Fridays and announce the front runners each week.
- c) Brandi is working on a fun Paint Night or Craft night.

XI. Teacher Report: Ms. Waterman

- a) Teacher are all busy getting ready for 4-day week
- b) Need Tissues for classrooms (the students have been managing their own supplies really well)
- c) Still need cafeteria help (3 hrs per day, 10:45 to 1:45), but other volunteers are still not allowed in school.

XII. Playground

- a) Design process: Those present were shown a tentative design from River Valley. Ms. Barnes advised they really liked this company.
- b) Bidding Process- It was noted that companies may give a discount for wheelchair accessible equipment. Sara is willing to write a letter for this purpose.
- c) Selection Process
- d) Thoughts: ADA compliant, sensory elements. Rachel expresses concern regarding the covered slides and visibility. Ms. Barnes advised they spoke to the company regarding this. Any other parents are welcome to voice any concerns regarding the playground that they may have.
- e) GoFundMe: going very well so far, over \$21k raised. Justin Berk shared on his Facebook page (thank you Becky!) Carroll County Times ran a story (thanks Todd!) and Amanda contacted Jamie Costello and he is interested in doing our story. He will touch base next week. (thanks Amanda!)

- f) A “Who knows Hoffy” hashtag was created to find celebrities who might be willing to share. A parent (Sonja) was previously a nanny for Kevin Bacon. Perhaps we can utilize this in some way.
- g) Need corporate outreach. Need volunteers to hit businesses with our flyer. Jason is willing to help with a sign but noted that many playground companies will do a sign for free. He did advise he could do a temporary banner for free that we could put out in front of the school to acknowledge large business donations.
- h) Jason advised that the Snack Shack for Freedom Softball is allowing organizations to do their own fundraising efforts this season in their space. So far, only Freedom has expressed interest. We would have to bring our own supplies and we can keep all of our profits. Would need volunteers (Sat or Sunday, Monday, and tournament dates). Older children can earn service-learning hours, but an adult needs to be present.

XIII. Budget Recap: Louis Rolfes

- a) Brick fundraiser- net profit of \$13,800
- b) GoFundMe- so far raised \$21,260
- c) PTA has \$10k in budget for playground
- d) School has \$5k earmarked for playground.
- e) Checks for playground are slowly trickling in, which are not included in the GoFundMe total.

XIV. Shed

COVID has slowed the process down. Paint color has been picked out. Advanced tech ed class is doing this project. Karen asked the school for an update last week.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm by PTA President Brandi Blevins. Minutes submitted by Melissa McGuinness