

FCAHS PTO Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2020 7pm via Zoom

In attendance: Mike Hower, Erin Butkovic, Kelly DiNatale, Gina Boleng, Liz Rambeau, Diane Markovitz, Elizabeth Klamut, Andy Gillespe, Frits Pil, Kelly Caracciolo, Susie Littwin, Marybeth Dadd, Gwenn Gdovichin, Leah Cullen

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME- Kelly DiNatale

Meeting called to order at 7:02pm. Kelly acknowledged and thanked Candace Uricchio for her years of service to the PTO and welcomed Gina Boleng as the new Vice President.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Liz Rambeau

Treasurer's report and budget are attached. Bank balance is \$20,803.95.

2 expenditures this year: \$60 for (6) \$10 gift cards to thank students that participated in the virtual talent show last spring, and \$399.93 for welcome bags for the staff that were given out in lieu of the welcome back breakfast.

There are currently 30 members of the PTO. Suggestions made for membership to be mentioned at next week's virtual Open House as the table at previous Open Houses usually generated members.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT-Mike Hower

All are adjusting to the new school year. Students have been understanding and respectful of the rules/restrictions. Principals are soliciting feedback from staff and students on an ongoing basis. Roughly 1100 high school students are participating in the hybrid model, 280 are virtual and 60 are in the asynchronous FCAO program. Both the hybrid model and virtual model are fluid and will be adapted as needed due to the current state of public health. Students in the hybrid and virtual options have had their in class virtual time limited due to bandwidth concerns. There is a chance that can change over time and students would be able to virtually participate in more than 40 minutes of each class. A lunch was added to accommodate the space needed in the cafeteria to keep with proper social distancing. Locker assignments were changed so as to maximize space between students in the building.

Virtual Open House is 9/10 beginning with pre-sessions at 6pm. High school students have a 1pm dismissal on 9/11.

SAT offered to seniors only on 10/3. PSAT plans have not been finalized.

Class meetings will continue yet be prerecorded and shown during QRT in 3rd period.

Virtual code of conduct is being reviewed with all students. Students are reminded that when participating in school virtually the same rules apply as if they were in person.

Mike spoke of the high school's commitment to equity and inclusion. Principals engaged with students and staff over the summer regarding these topics. FCAHS will continue to strive to make all in the high school community feel accepted and never marginalized in any way. The school will host speakers, provide lessons and have conversations to achieve and maintain that goal.

ACTIVITIES UPDATE-Erin Butkovic

Starting tomorrow info will be posted on club renewal. All clubs will go virtual or pause if not appropriate for virtual participation. Club week will begin 9/14.

Student government is starting with some constitutional changes as needed.

Blood drives will now be held off site at Vitalant at 2585 Freeport road. No parent volunteers are accepted. Next Blood Drive is 10/7 from 1-7pm. All are encouraged to donate.

School pictures and health screenings are the week of 9/21. Seniors will have the option of a senior yearbook portrait setting at school.

Homecoming plans have not been set.

We are sticking to school calendar as much as possible.

FCGT- Kelly DiNatale

Majority of last year's sponsors/donors have rolled over their contributions to this year.

This year's tentative show date is April 21, 2021.

We still need a committee chair. Contact Kelly if interested or for more information.

dinatalek@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATION-

No member present/no report given

GRANTS- Kelly DiNatale

Last year FCAHS PTO provided grants to teachers for up to \$500. Many interesting projects were funded last year including materials for students to make a library book drop, a telescope and supplies for the ZenDen. Teachers will have the opportunity to submit requests again and the PTO will fund as the budget allows. It was suggested that those teachers who apply be asked to be members of the PTO. Volunteers are encouraged for the grant committee. Frits would like to join.

START SCHOOL LATER-Liz Rambeau

Many articles have been written regarding the fact that one positive outcome from the pandemic is kids getting the much needed sleep they need. Advocates for SSL will continue to push for healthy start times. No meetings are planned for the large district SSL committee.

DISTRICT FORUM-Kelly DiNatale

Gina Boleng is the high school rep for this year. District Forum would like at least one more representative from the high school. Contact Kelly if interested.

dinatalek@gmail.com

Representative meetings are select Tuesdays at 9am.

There are 2 tentative public meetings scheduled for this year in November and March with topics TBD.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS-

Members discussed moving future PTO meetings to the evenings. Schedule will be evaluated and calendar updated when different meeting times are decided upon. Parents raised questions regarding the lack of information given to parents as to what is happening in school. Some would like an occasional email from the principal as to important dates as Mr. Nauhaus does at DMS. Erin and Mike stated the online calendar is updated. They spoke of the multiple ways students are given information (school groups, the Toilet Paper, tv monitors in the school hallways) and want the kids to ultimately be responsible for obtaining it. Parents questioned this strategy as some children, both neurotypical and neuroatypical struggle with this. They argue that any information given to parents would then let parents direct their children along and therefore help them to succeed.

Parent questioned the police presence in the building. It was suggested that with the political current climate it might be better if some of the officers could instead be outside and if the high school could have a female officer as well. Mike reinforced that the overwhelming reason officers are in the building is for safety. Most behavioral issues are resolved by staff. The district previously had one female officer who staffed a different building.

Kelly questioned if the DARE program was still active. Mike was unsure as that is at an elementary level.

Parent questioned how students in AP classes will be able to complete the required material by the end of the year with the limitations on live instruction time. Mike acknowledges that it is a difficult situation. Teachers are doing their best and if we are able to increase connectivity time as spoken of previously in the meeting then that issue should be resolved. Also with regards to connectivity a parent questioned the instruction time when hybrid students are in school on their given days as some teachers are only using the 40 minutes when all students are together so as to keep the students evenly paced. Mike stated teachers are trying their best and that with increased connectivity time this will improve.

Parent questioned the procedure for daily Runva health screenings as he is aware that some families are forgetting to submit them. Mike explained that the info is collected daily and then disseminated to the appropriate personnel in each building. If a student was reported as having symptoms or Covid positive it is verified that the student isn't in the building. If a student is in the building that has not completed a Runva screening that day they are screened by the nurse.

Parent questioned if there will be video available of sporting events. Events are being recorded. Mike will confirm with the Athletic Department and make sure instructions/locations for viewing are made available.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm