

Frelinghuysen Home and School Association
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2016

Committee and Attending: Margaret Monahan, Lucy Webber, Patty Haralampoudis, Ellen Hays, Christine Sicat, Tanya Seaward, Davala Crofford, Heather Morgan, Cheryl Kamecisoo, Robyn Beh, Tracy Fox, Chrissie Wetherbee, Laura LaMontagne, Janine Corteil, Michelle Olidge-Evans, Pam Elliott.

Meeting called to order at 9:45am by Margaret Monahan

Guest Speaker: Erica Hartman

- Digital Citizenship -
 - Common Sense Media website - provides curriculum for K-12
 - All MSD students K-12 have received Common Sense Media digital citizenship education. Students must become certified before they receive their chromebooks.
 - Students participate in conversations regarding what's appropriate and what's not online.
- Please take a look at the MSD website. Under the "Our District" pulldown, find the "Digital Information Department". It contains information that is continually updated regarding new digital information, including links to Common Sense Media, the Google Safety Center, online family safety links, and app lists for parents to be aware of.
- "If You Give a Kid a Cell Phone" presentation - all are invited to attend at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School on June 8th at 7:00pm
- Digital Learning Survey - The state developed it for families of 5th thru 12th graders. The district needs at least 100 participants to receive any technology grants in the future. Aside from the grants, the information submitted by families will be very helpful for the school district to address technology concerns.
- Regarding a parent comment regarding Homework Now not being available on mobile phones, the district is evaluating alternatives such as Canvas at Frelinghuysen. There will be a transition from School Brains to PowerSchool which has an app available for mobile phones.
- 3rd round of I-Ready testing will be sent home in June. Parents can reach out individually to their children's teachers.

Principal's Update: Joseph Uglialoro

- Parent feedback regarding challenges using Homework Now has been given to the district. More streamlined policies for homework will be utilized next year. Bringing Canvas to the middle school is being discussed.
- Mr. Uglialoro presented changes to the middle school programs beginning Fall of the 2016-2017 school year.
 - Middle School should give kids opportunities to discover their passions and interests.

- Exploratory or Cycle Program - kids explore areas outside of the academic core curriculum to discover different interests.
 - Currently, each child receives 2 year long 40 minute cycle classes. How can this be enhanced to give kids more options to explore?
 - The modernized curriculum contains more choices approaching 8th grade and more time in the subject.
 - 6th Grade
 - All students receive 1 marking period each rotating through Computer Applications, Industrial Arts, 2D Art, and 3D Art
 - Students in Band, Orchestra, or Chorus receive the full year in those classes (no change from current program)
 - Students not in Band, Orchestra, or Chorus receive 1 semester of Intro to Clay and 1 semester of Design Engineering.
 - 7th Grade
 - All students choose between Industrial Arts and Art or Engineering Innovations and Art
 - Students in Band, Orchestra, or Chorus receive the full year in those classes (no change from current program)
 - Students not in Band, Orchestra, or Chorus receive 1 semester of Connected Arts and 1 semester of Multimedia Applications.
 - 8th Grade - Students choose 2 full year electives from the Music, Art, and STEM Departments
 - Music - Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Musical Theatre
 - Art - Sculpture and Ceramics, Graphic Design, Sketching the Human Form
 - STEM - Industrial Arts, Engineering Design/Robotics
 - Music student lessons will still be pull-out but it will be on a rotating basis so they will not always miss the same class.
 - There will be no pre-requisites for any of the electives to encourage kids to explore.
 - The choices are still limited for students who choose to do two music ensembles.
 - There will be added after-school options for students next year, including an added Art Club and Wind Ensemble.
 - Language Arts will be every day in all three grades. The Language Arts program is being rewritten over the summer. This is being done by eliminating enrichment programs.
 - Students deficient in Language Arts or Math will receive additional help in those subjects with a specialist instead of a World Language.
 - Parent Feedback:
 - future elective options could include options for kids who enjoy writing such as Journalism, Classics, Comic book writing, etc. and Home Economics. Mr. U agreed that these options would compliment the program. Current elective options were based on current staff.
 - Consider Pass/Fail for electives. Discussions regarding how kids will be assessed should take place.
- Thank you to the parents and especially to Margaret Monahan and Lucy Webber for all their feedback and help.

HSA Co-President: Margaret Monahan

- Thank you to Mr. Ugliadorio for all his accomplishments in his first year at FMS.
- Thank you to all staff and parent volunteers for this wonderful experience at FMS.
- Approval of:
 - 2016-2017 Budget: **APPROVED**
 - New board members: **APPROVED**
 - Co-President replacing Margaret Monahan - Gale Grennan
 - Treasurer replacing Jenn Smith - Kristen Cunningham

HSA Committees: Tanya Seaward

- Thank you to the HSA chairpersons:
 - Kirsten Hadley and Michelle Chin - Magazine Sale
 - Kirsten Hadley and Janine Corteil - Book Fair
 - Gale Grennan, Nadine Genrich, and Davala Crofford - Staff Appreciation
 - Robyn Beh - Landscaping
 - Heather Morgan and Anne Barrett - Snack Bar
 - Janine Corteil and Laura LaMontagne - 6th Grade Socials
 - Sandra Bailey, Beth Sparacino, and Joscelin Grizzetti - 7th Grade Socials
 - Margaret Monahan and Ellen Letta - 8th Grade Social

- There are still committee openings for the 2016-2017 school year. Please consider signing up.

President's Council Update: Lucy Webber

- End of the school year is June 17th. The Community School will be running a 3-day mini camp the following Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.
- Water testing for lead continues throughout the district.
- PARCC testing participation was at 99% this year.
- 8th Grade Graduation information will be coming soon. It will be in the evening.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:57am.