

**Frelinghuysen Home and School Association
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 16, 2015**

Committee and Attending: Margaret Monahan, Lucy Webber, Patty Haralampoudis, Ellen Hays, Jenn Smith, Tanya Seaward, Christine Sicat, Sang Sporer, Heather Morgan, Chrissie Weatherbee, Jennifer Rocco, Polina Gridneva, Lynn Gutkin, Maiken Gehsmann, Rose DiDominico, Laurie Litman, Michele Chi, Theresa Scott, Kirsten Hadley, Lorena Gorman, Pam Elliott, Michelle Oishe-Evans, Jenny Mantle, Consuela Gonzalez, Roseanne Haberman, Loreyne Fuhr, Melissa Spiotta, Janine Corteil, Vicky Bashant, Gale Grennan.

Meeting called to order at 9:48am by Margaret Monahan

Welcome and Introduction

- **Introduction** - Margaret introduced the 2015-2016 HSA Board
- **Approval of May Minutes** by Janine Corteil and Vicky Bashant
- **Cultural Arts** -
 - headed by Debra Broseker and Beatriz Bueno, with the support of staff liaison Amy Bozza.
 - The budget began at \$14,000, \$10,000 from the FMS HSA and \$4000 from the Morris Educational Foundation.
 - With the addition of various grants, additional funding of \$2000 from the HSA, and a partnership with Fairleigh Dickinson University, more curriculum based cultural arts programs will enrich our students this year.
 - For detailed information about the programs, please go to the cultural arts portion of the HSA website at <http://fmshsa.com/cultural-arts/> .

Principal's Update: Joseph Uglialoro

- **Introduction of new house administrators**
 - House 1 (Phoenix) - Matthew Fabricant
 - House 2 (Tiger) - Ashley Adams
- **Personal Introduction and Experience**
 - worked in middle school for the last 8 years - 4 years as principal and 4 years as assistant principal.
 - Taught at high school level for 10 years.
 - Chose the middle school level because he believed that the 3 years of middle school are the most essential years in a child's education and personal development.
 - Looking forward to working with this supportive and diverse community.
- **Administrative Team** - held a very high standard in the selection of new administrators: Matthew Fabricant for House 1, Ashley Adams for House 2, and Aixa Garcia for House 3
- **School Opening** - went very smoothly. Received positive feedback from students and staff. Teachers present in hallway between periods to make students feel comfortable.
- **Goal in the first 6 months** to listen, learn, and to focus on the idea that every child must ascend in their school experience (academically, socially, and emotionally).

- The school has to be safe, welcoming, supportive, and inclusive.
- Community building initiative -
 - Character counts with its 6 Pillars of Character
 - focus on 1 pillar a month
 - will issue positive referrals and create incentive programs
- **All students have been issued chromebooks.**
 - Students received an orientation regarding their responsibilities with their devices, digital citizenship, cybersafety, and utilizing them to support their school experience.
 - digital driver's license is due Dec. 1. Social studies teachers have helped 6th graders log on.
- **Parent Portal**
 - letters with login and password information have been sent home
 - parents/guardians have access to the teachers online gradebooks for their child.
 - Parents are encouraged to set aside a time to look at it together with their child. As the child develops a routine, they can be encouraged to log onto it themselves to check their own progress.
- **Back to School Nights are coming up.** All parents are encouraged to come.
- **Commitment to communication and community outreach.**
 - principal's weekly message in the HSA weekly eblast
 - follow @FMS_PrincipalU on twitter for classroom highlights

Presidents' Council Update: Lucy Webber

- **After School Clubs**
 - An issue has come up with insurance and liability. With the help of central office and the insurance brokers, the issue seems to be resolved. Clubs will proceed as normal.
 - Clubs are a great option for students to be exposed to topics that interest them. Clubs can also fill a blockage of time between the end of school and parents work schedules.
- **Superintendent Mackey Pendegrast**
 - will present, *The Way Forward*, on Monday, Sept. 21 at the Morristown High School at 7:00pm. He will present his overview of the district and his vision for every student to ascend throughout their whole school experience.
 - has created a new position to integrate technology into the school system. Erica Hartman is the Morris School District Supervisor of Technology Integration.
- **Calendar change** - Friday before Memorial Day will be a regular school day. Tuesday, Oct. 20 is a day off for students. Staff will be trained in the new platform i-Ready, which will be used to assess the students. They will be trained in October and implementation begins in November.

HSA Business

- **Update on Committee - Tanya Seaward**
 - Magazine Sales begin this week and are the HSA's biggest fundraiser of the year.
 - Clubs sign-ups begin today. Twelve clubs will be offered. Participating kids will be able to take the 4:00 bus home.

- The 6th Grade Social is on Friday, Oct. 2 at 7:00pm. There will be a DJ and dancing in one gym. The other gym will have sports activities.
- The snack bar for children participating in sports after school will open on Monday, Sept. 21. All items will be between \$.25 and \$1.00. Small change is appreciated.
- **Treasurer's Report - Jenn Smith** - The HSA has an operating budget of about \$30,000. Fundraising was successful last year with "Just Write a Check", which is all year long, and the magazine fundraiser, which is kicking off this week.
- **Communications** -
 - Patty Haralampoudis
 - Weekly HSA newsletter goes out on Sundays at 6:00. It's filled with important information and dates. This year Mr. Ugliodoro will be adding his weekly message. Please encourage friends to sign up.
 - The district website is now translatable into various languages.
 - Ellen Hays - The website at <http://fmshsa.com/> is a hub for parents/guardians to find information.
 - after school clubs sign ups are up
 - the FAQ section has been updated
 - Just Write a Check can be done online
 - there are links to district sites
 - facebook and twitter feeds have been added
 - please check regularly for new information

Additional Business

- The Morris Educational Foundation will present "Growing Up Online" on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 7:00pm.
- Dinner and Sports Night is on Oct. 30. All students are encouraged to attend. The 8th graders play volleyball against teachers. Student Council hosts the Haunted Hallway. There is a raffle for the 8th grade trip. It is an all school event.
- Please email "Question of the Week" ideas to Margaret or Lucy.
- BoxTops and cartridge donations can be brought to the main office.
- Interior design committee - beautify the school internally to create a physical environment to make it welcoming and inspirational. A meeting time will be determined to discuss a strategy and budget.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:52am.