

**Frelinghuysen Middle School
Home & School Association
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 19, 2013**

Attending: Caroline Godfrey, Tamara Haynie, Margaret Monahan, Diane Ray, Tanya Seaward, Laura LaMontagno, Amy McDonald, Rosch Haberman, Naomi Stein, Amanda Boyadjis, Ruth Fleck, Lyn Snyder, Vicki Bashant, Sang Sporer

Meeting called to order: 9:45 by Caroline Godfrey

President's Update - Caroline Godfrey

- **MHS Principal Search** - Candidates have been narrowed from 46 to 16. Interview process is beginning. Committee of 12. Hope to have principal in place by March to work with Ethel Minchello through the school-year end.
- **Code of Conduct change** - As mandated by NJ state law, code of conduct does not apply to non-school events held off school property.
- **Technical Staff** - MSD will add "tech-help" positions as a result of the additional technologies now in place throughout the schools.
- **One District Many Schools** - Continue to look for cross-school promotions. (Lyn Snyder suggested that FMS students could work with Lafayette students in the garden.)
- **Colonial Challenge** - House 2 was the FMS winner

Approval of October minutes -- Amy McDonald, Vicki Bashant

Principal's Update - Mark Manning

- **HIB** - Goal is to create a positive school environment and marginalize acts of HIB. Report is it is working. Precipitous decline in data -- almost non-existent. One out of a dozen incidents qualify for HIB. We can only respond to what is reported. We never use names and everything is handled in the strictest confidentiality.
- **Chromebooks** - Going wonderfully. Upside to chromebooks vs. ipads: Teachers are finding them more practical for keyboarding. Downside: Not as durable. More have been damaged but with "murses" the number of incidents are going down.
- **Keyboarding** - Parents are concerned but keyboarding doesn't exist in the curriculum. However, there are countless tutorials online. We have shared the best online systems.

FMS Fundraising Update - Amy Bozza (House 1 Administrator)

- All school-level fundraising is for the 8th grade DC trip. We are always looking for a better deal, but we have used the same company for 8 years as they are competitive in price and in what they offer us.
- Fundraising used to be tracked by student with one account per student. We found people raised less money. It is now just tracked by grade-level class.
- Each year, we send in a check from the funds earned in 6th and 7th grade that is applied to the total bill. Each year, the amount due per student is determined by taking the adjusted balance and dividing by the number of students. This year, the 8th graders will pay \$444.
- Because many students can not afford the trip, we offer financial aid and offer the trip at \$200. Students need to show need (such as qualifying for reduced lunch). We need to raise \$17,000-20,000 by April to cover these students.
- Fundraisers include:
 - Genevieve Catalog sales
 - October Dinner & Sports Night/Haunted Hallway
 - Coffee and Snacks at Conferences
 - Play Snack Bar
 - Talent Show
 - Boston Cake Sales
 - Anything else! There was talk of t-shirts, DC picture frames, photo booth on cruise, emailing for donations.
- Please know that many of the teachers personally contribute to support the kids.
- We would love to get a Raffle License!
- HSA contributes \$1,000 to help cover extras for the busses.
- It was suggested that maybe there should be Parent Liaisons from 6th grade forward to work with Mrs. Bozza and Mr. Burdge.
- Please email Amy Bozza with any questions or offers of help!

Treasurer's Update

- \$4,000 shortfall on magazine fundraiser.
- Please remember the "Just Write A Check" campaign. All funds go directly to the school. Also, magazine sales continue throughout the year.

Committees Update

- Thank you to Michelle Chin and Kirsten Hadley for running the magazine sales.
- Thank you to Lynn Livingston for coordinating after-school clubs.
- Eblast includes information on BoxTops contest that starts in December.
- 7th and 8th Grade Social - Working very hard. Met with Dr. Cohen and came up with idea that kids will wear white t-shirts and will write on them with Tide. Blacklights will make the writing visible. We are In need of food and parent volunteers!

Communications Update

- Please visit the fmshsa.com website. Set up by Wendy Vissar. Still looking for volunteers to help with the website.
- Would be great to add Amy Bozza's fundraising information to website.

Meeting Adjourned - 11:00AM