

**Frelinghuysen Home and School Association**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 16, 2014**

**Committee and Attending:** Tamara Haynie, Margaret Monahan, Hera Pizzimenti, Patty Haralampoudis, Lucy Webber, Jenn Smith, Beatriz Bueno, Asma Kimper, Sandra Bailey, Jackie Sacus, Jenny Mantek, Tanya Seaward, Barbara Kardaras, Maria Samms, Lynne Boucher, Jennifer Rocco, Laura LaMontagne, Kristin Hadley, Janine Corteil, Vicky Bashant, Wendy Vissar, Davala Crofford, Caroline Godfrey, Rebecca DiDona, Robyn Bey, Marjorie Galinkin, Sue Lawlor, Brenda Castelli, Naomi Stein, Laurie Litman, Amy Ghelli

**Meeting called to order at 9:45 am by Tamara Haynie**

**Welcome and Introduction**

- **Introduction** Tamara introduced the 2014-2015 HSA Board
- **Approval of May Minutes** by Beatriz Bueno and Barbara Kardaras
- **House administrators presented with FMS sweatshirts as gifts from the HSA**

**Principal's Update David Thompson**

- **Staffing Changes** 17 new staff members out of a teaching staff of 112
- **First few days of school** - everything ran very smoothly. Couple of minor issues such as double booked room but easily solved. Extended HR and return to HR at end of day help flow.
- **Building Changes** -
  - New speakers and sound board in Auditorium
  - 2 new Chromebook carts to support 6th grade
  - New TVs from MHS in cafeteria and near gym. Messages can be easily customized. Can stream video or text
- **Morning Norms**
  - At least 2 staff members at door
  - Staff throughout building helping and monitoring
  - Music playing in foyer
- **FMS Garden** Harvested kale, lettuce, peas and spinach last year
- **HIB** - Only 50 incidents last year (down from 100 previous year). 18 resulted in action. Also reduction in referrals from 915 in 12/13 to 730 in 13/14 (referrals down 20%).
- **Parent Portal** allows parents to access student's grades. Letters with sign on info will be sent home 9/17. Progress reports will still be mailed
- **Every day Language Arts** 6th grade students have LA every day in the same block. Quest students have quest instead of one LA class. Students not expected to do makeup work. Details are still being worked out with LA and Quest teachers.
- **Chromebooks** Not all minor repairs were done particularly if cosmetic only because of cost.

- **Back to School Night** Principal will present, then classroom visits, followed by team presentation
- **Seedfolks** Question about discussion of teen pregnancy in the book. Teachers in all disciplines will be referring to the book at some time in the school year

### **Presidents' Council Update**

- **Re-registration** - It was a random lottery but next year will return to all incoming 6th graders and 9th graders re-register.
- **MHS Pool renovations** - \$700K improvements including cooling system, new hand-touch time clock.
- **Asbestos** - removal at AH
- **Dr. Ficarra** - will retire 9/30 - 9/27 is District Day and farewell to Dr. Ficarra - celebration at 1pm football game and cake after. There will be a signup for the event. Interim Superintendent has been hired subject to BOE approval.

### **HSA Business**

- Update on Committee Chairs for 2014/2015
  - Hera has filled all Committees for this year.
  - Thank you's to Missy Gleckner and Kerry Thomas (Gardening Committee), Beth McGuinness, Michelle Ferrara (Clothing Committee), Davala Crofford (Staff Appreciation), Debra Broseker, Beatriz Bueno and Wendy Vissar (Cultural Arts)
  - 6th Grade Social 10/10 - need help with ticket sales and snacks
  - Box Tops - start saving Box Tops, an email will go out next week
  - After School Clubs will start 10/6
  - Snack Bar will be open after school starting 9/22
- Treasurer Report - Clothing has already raised \$5,067 gross. Check writing has brought in \$2,800 of a budgeted \$7,800
- Communications - Weekly HSA newsletter goes out - encourage friends to sign up for it
  - Thanks to Wendy Vissar who made the website so wonderful!

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.**