

**Frelinghuysen Home and School Association  
Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2017**

**In Attendance:** Gale Grennan, Maryellen Briscoe, Cathy Passarella, Isabelle Jacquet, Sheila Olsen, Brian Bathille, Jose C Ramos, Danit Rosenthal, Juliana Hamel Thomas, Amy Gardner, Steve Gardner, Tim Davis, Audra Sprock, Heather Tanca, Audrey Ma, Kathleen Kalaher, Laurie Litman, Consuela Gonzalez, Ann Johnson, Andrea Smith, Pam Elliott, Barbara J. Smith, Kim O'Malley

**Meeting called to order at 7:00pm:** Gale Grennan

**HSA Co-President: Gale Grennan and Maryellen Briscoe**

- Brief introduction to the HSA and Executive Committee members
- Approval of May 10, 2017 Minutes---Motion made by Cathy Passarella and seconded by Jose Ramos
- Approval of 2017-18 Budget--Motion made by Ann Johnson and unanimously approved
- Color War, which was a school-wide event and fundraiser was a great success
- The "Just Write a Check" campaign is doing well

**Committees Chair Update: Kim O'Malley**

- Magazine fundraiser resulted in online sales of approximately \$11,000, which is down by \$7,000 from last year; however, the tally of sales on paper has not been completed yet.
- Looking for someone to be the coordinator for the after-school snack bar, which will take place daily from 3:45-4pm this year. Also looking for someone to coordinate buying for the snack bar. There are some volunteers for sales, but the committee could use more volunteers, which will require setting up/putting away snack items between 3:30 and 4:10pm. Ann Johnson volunteered to be the Chairperson and circulated a signup list at the meeting.

**Upcoming Dates: Gale Grennan**

- **October 20:** 6<sup>th</sup> grade social
- **October 26:** "Knowledge is Power" presentation at MHS
- **November 7, 9 and 10:** No School. Note that Monday 11/6 and Wednesday, 11/8 are FULL DAYS (not half days) this year.
- **November 29:** Half Day for teacher conferences
- **December 4:** Half Day for teacher conferences

**Principal's Update: Mr. Uglialoro**

- School has been off to a great start
- Thanked parents for coming out to tonight's meeting and presentation
- Stressed the importance of utilizing technology to support our children
- Introduced the Parent Education Program: Parent Portal and Canvas Workshop. Introduced Christine Flanagan, Educational Technology Specialist at FMS, and Erica Hartman, Director of Technology Integration for the Morris School District

## **Parent Education Program: Parent Portal and Canvas Workshop**

- Christine Flanagan, Tech Specialist at FMS, gave the workshop. She provided an overview of the attributes of PowerSchool and Canvas and further provided a step-by-step online demonstration on how to log in and navigate each program
- PowerSchool, a/k/a the Parent Portal. Stressed that PowerSchool was where parents should go for:
  - official grades
  - assessments/comments
  - attendance records
  - weekly schedule
  - report cards (both for current year and historical)
  - to email teachers
  - students now have their own ids/passwords and are being encouraged to use them
- Canvas
  - offers a window into the classroom
  - individual class coursework/specific assignments
  - class discussions
  - teacher comments on specific assignments, with the ability for the student to comment back
  - calendar shows due dates for assignments, homework, projects and reminders
  - announcements
  - notifications are able to be customized based on individual preferences
  - Unlike MHS, which has been using the program for a number of years already, FMS is just starting to use it and, as such, many teachers are not using all of its functionality yet. Stressed that parents should continue to use PowerSchool for official grades.

**Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.**