

MINUTES

Felix Festa Middle School PTA

Wednesday, December 10, 2020 7-8 PM | Meeting called to order by Laura Pestone

Board Members S.Wold, L. Pestone, K.Ottenheimer, H. Fagan, C.Schulz, S. Humbach, E. Yuen

Administration – M.St. John, D.Mitchell, S.Lercher, J.Schatz, M. O'Casey

Total Zoom Participants:

FFMS October PTA Meeting- 12/9/20- 7:00 PM

Meeting ID: 939 2894 0237

Passcode: 805018

PTA

Motion made to approve meeting minutes from November 4, 2020, seconded and passed.

PTA President Report presented L. Pestone –Acknowledge FFMS Administration flexibility to move December and January PTA meetings so they do not conflict with PTSA South Meetings. A North-bound Parent reader volunteer is needed for Scholarship Committee, contact PTA.

PTA Treasury and Membership presented K. Ottenheimer – With the recent staff membership drive, membership is now at 293.

Fundraising presented by K. Ottenheimer – About \$1000 fundraised through the Cookie Monster and Carousel Cake Fundraisers. 15 Cakes donated to People to People through the Carousel Cake Fundraiser. 8th Grade T-shirts should have arrived at the school. Upcoming Fundraisers are for J&J Kitchen (Mondays and Thursdays, mention Festa when ordering), Victor Pizza – dates to be announced. Fundraisers are planned for January and February 2021.

Committee Reports:

Council Report presented by C. Heidelberger and L. Pestone – Question of A/B schedule for FFMS was brought up but staffing concerns and FFMS attendance numbers does not allow a move to A/B scheduling at the middle school level. Virtual Fundraising is allowed to be on PTA page. Future email communications will include one link to PTA site that will provide access to fundraising flyers. Reminder that Family Portrait Fundraiser can still be purchased, proceeds support Scholarships. 3 Banners should have been delivered to FFMS, one per school. School picture make-ups discussed.

Spiritwear Report presented by C. Schulz – Second store closed and distribution/pick-up to begin 12/11/2020. Faculty orders will be handled through C. Madigan. Estimate sometime in January for another school store link.

Scholarship Report presented by A. Gottlieb – Scholarship were sent to North and South and is available on Naviance.

Reflections presented by L. Pestone – Although it was a smaller turnout, all work was submitted to the State.

Education Panel Report A. Gottlieb, K. Ulrich – Meeting discussed possibility of daily ½ day program for K-1, discussed increase frequency of in-person for FFMS. Discussed SEL (Social Emotional Learning) for all.

Discussed increase frequency of IEP students. Any items to be brought to Education Panel meetings should be initially brought to FFMS Administration.

Special acknowledgement on the impact J. Schatz has had on the school, his peers, and children after news of his planned retirement was announced by the District.

FFMS Administration Report

A School Report presented by M. St. John – Yearbook related information should be access via QuickLinks – YearBook Information on FFMS website. Cartoon Self Portraits deadline December 18. Early Discount/Nameplate Option ends December 22. Yearbook accepting At-home portraits and are due January 11, retakes planned for February are too late. Candid Photos will be accepted through March.

C School Report presented by D. Mitchell – January meetings to discuss Pathway/Course offerings. Meeting with Parents about recommendations will occur in February conferences. Conferences will be scheduled using TEESO. Parents should contact District Registrar office with their updated contact/email information as this is the information that will be used to set up accounts to access TEESO.

D School presented by J Schatz/M O'Casey– Communications about scheduling and offerings for High School will be sent after Holiday Break. Administrators will present to 8th graders on January 26th. Student Ambassador Program has reached out to elementary school principals to offer extra help partnership with ambassadors. Student Ambassadors to provide extra help offering on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

Festa Administration Presentation

A Look Ahead to 2021 –A proposal has been submitted to the Superintendent structurally change FFMS so students entering FFMS have same administration, counselor, psychiatrist, student assistants for 3 years. Small group breakout session to share reactions/concerns. Feedback from breakout sessions was positive. Concerns regarding how to provide support to move proposal through the Superintendent and Board of Education levels.

Questions

Concern about lack of flexibility on marking absences when students are late to sign-on either due to technical issues or other. Contact Attendance or Administrators for ongoing concern. 1-minute breaks between classes pose a problem for those that need to use restroom or general break. Issue that teachers are using the full allotted class time (i.e. 45 minutes, which was established for high school IB, AP classes.) Administration is aware of the concern and shared with staff on not using full 45 minutes.

A question was raised regarding the 17 minute classes on ½ days, duration allows teachers to see all their classes in one day.

Next Meeting

Next meeting scheduled January 13, 2021, all future PTA meetings will be virtual.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.