

FRELINGHUYSEN TOWNSHIP PTO
Meeting Minutes
(Meeting was held via Google Meet)
September 11, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 7:32pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

QUORUM CHECK OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

Nicole Wladich - present
Cynthia Mardin - present
Louise Neate - present
Kristin Keesser - present
Tammy Arfken - present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1st Motion: Kristin Keesser 2nd Motion: Ruth Toronzi

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

1st Motion: Cynthia Mardin 2nd Motion: Louise Neate - (May Revised)
1st Motion: Louise Neate 2nd Motion: Ruth Toronzi - (June/July/August)

CSA REPORT

- First few days of school have been smooth with the exception of bussing which they are working on.
- We are set for 10/3 with Optimus Prime Assembly.
- Several discussions with the contractor regarding basketball hoop installation. Supposed to install after the BOE meeting on September 27th.
- Thanked the PTO for all that we do for the school.
- Pushing our new school twitter account '@FTSMustangs'.
- Discussed a science assembly that is set for the end of the month for the students.

FUNDRAISER / EVENT UPDATES

- **PreK & Kindergarten Orientation** - Completed. Gave snacks, pop its and stickers to the students.

- **Welcome Back Luncheon for Teachers and Staff** - Completed. Great feedback. Many thanks and lunch was delicious with plenty of food from Cescos.
- **Welcome Back Gifts for Students** - Completed. Gave the students school supply boxes from Staples.
- **Spirit Wear** - Coordinator Nicole Wladich. Ongoing. August commission \$7.05.
- **Back to School Night** - 9/14/23 - PTO will discuss if we are going to have a table at the event. Mrs. Veras will be giving a 10 minute presentation in the gym before that parents head off to see the teachers.
- **Fall Book Fair** - 10/11/23 through 10/13/23 - Chair is Nicole Wladich and co-chair is Louise Neate and Tammy Arfken. Will run as we typically do Wednesday through Friday. Friday we will close at noon and it's mostly for kids that forgot their money, have extra money or still need to spend their Scholastic Dollars. Nicole will be sending out a Sign Up Genius for volunteers.
- **Book Bingo** - 10/12/23 - Chairs Nicole Wladich and Tammy Arfken. Book Bingo will be Thursday after school and we will have extended hours for the Book Fair during the event. Will handle it the same as last year we will be buying snacks and prizes for the kids. First place winners for each round will get \$10 in Scholastic Dollars.
- **Roadside Cleanup** - 10/29/23 - Chair Cynthia Mardin. Date is set but we still need to pick a time. Mrs. Veras is waiting to hear about the liability aspect from the attorney and/or the risk manager. Majority vote is adults only. Road we are cleaning has not yet been assigned. Cynthia intends on doing a Sign Up Genius for volunteers.
- **Halloween Treat Trail** - 10/27/23 - Chairs Tammy Arfken and Nicole Wladich. Will be run similar to last year. Playground will be off limits and this will be noted on the flyer sent home. Mrs. Veras offered to send out a blast through the school email to all families.
- **Box Top\$** - Coordinator is Tammy Arfken. No new updates.
- **Chess Club** - 10/17/23 - Mrs. Veras needs more information on the event to see if there are any local grants she can pursue. Nicole told her to talk to Jen Fowles. Nicole explained to Mrs. Veras how the club is run as a first come first serve and they compete in the Warren County Tournament. We will get more information and send to Mrs. Veras via email.
- **Ski Club** - Chair Cynthia Mardin. Cynthia will compile a flyer and send it to Carolyn for distribution. It is a PTO fundraiser with a minimum of 15 skiers. End of October to early November sign ups will go out. Shawnee is supposed to call Cynthia back regarding details for this year including the dates.
- **Fall Clothing Drive** - 11/9/23 - Chair Cynthia Mardin. Cynthia created a flyer the Board needs to review. Minimum of 300 bags or 2,000 lbs of clothing/items. Nothing gets shredded, it is all recycled.

- **Give Back Where It Counts** - Coordinator Nicole Wladich. Fundraiser that accrues money from reusable bag purchases at Acme.

UPCOMING EVENTS - ON THE PTO HORIZON

- **Winter Wonderland Tree Lighting** - 12/6/23 - Chair Eleni Peterson
- **Cards for a Cause** - 12/16/23 - Chair Cynthia Mardin and Co-Chair Kelly Corsi. Cynthia ordered a sample box of cards from the vendor. We are going to wait and see the quality of the cards and upon receipt decide if we are going to proceed with this fundraiser.
- **Family Portraits** - 11/18/23 (Rain Date 11/19/23) - Chair Cynthia Mardin and Co-Chair Kelly Corsi
- **Krispy Kreme** - Date TBD - Need a chairperson
- **Polar Express Winter Dance** - Date TBD - Chair Kristin Keesser
- **Display My Art** - Date TBD - Need a chairperson
- **Spring Book Fair** - 5/15/24 through 5/17/24. Chair Nicole Wladich and Co-Chairs Louise Neate and Tammy Arfken
- **Book Bingo** - Date TBD - Chairs Tammy Arfken and Nicole Wladich
- **Spring Clubs** - Usually begin in March
- **Beefsteak/Tricky Tray** - Date TBD - Chairs Cynthia Mardin and Kelly Corsi. Currently looking for a new venue to hold the event.
- **Miner's Night** - Date TBD - Need a chairperson
- **Graduation** - No new updates.
- **Ice Cream Truck** - Dates TBD - Will be provided twice this year.
- **Gertrude Hawk** - Date TBD - Chair Anthony Alleyne
- **Teacher Appreciation Week** - 5/6/24 through 5/10/24 - Chairs Cynthia Mardin and Louise Neate
- **Mother's Day Plant Sale** - 5/10/24 - Chair Raelyn Kempinski
- **Field Day** - Date TBD - Chair Mr. V

BUSINESS

-**Optimus Prime** - 10/3/23 - Nicole is working with Mrs. Veras on the final details. Mrs. Veras is going to see if the resource officer can do it for free and have the State Police in attendance.

-**Final Budget 2022-2023** - We are under budget for the fiscal year.

-**Proposed Budget for 2023-2024** - Nicole touched on some of the line items. Mrs. Veras commented on field trips that some places will come to you since bussing is extremely expensive.

-**Air Conditioning** - Nicole brought up how warm the school has been and the topic of air conditioning. Nicole will bring it up at the next BOE meeting. If ventilation is the problem, Nicole discussed Icy Breeze which is a unit that you put ice and water in and it requires zero ventilation. Mrs. Veras said it is being

prioritized. A little bit of ESSER money is left to put into capital improvements and it is going to be discussed on Wednesday at the BOE meeting. Send her viable options and she will present to the BOE.

-Membership Enrollment - 35 families to date and will continue to be ongoing throughout the year.

-Custodian Appreciation Day - 10/2/23 - Mrs. Veras confirmed we have two custodians on staff. The Board will discuss gift ideas.

-Auditing Committee - Crea Mallory was proposed and accepted and Rihaz Chughatta was asked. Susan stated he is currently traveling and to reach out to him on Thursday upon his return.

-Mrs. Hicks Plaque - To be affixed to one of the garden posts at the school. Erik Arfken will be doing this.

-Scholastic Dollars - We have several hundred Scholastic Dollars to spend that were accrued during previous book fairs. Tammy spent approximately \$200 in Scholastic Dollars that were set to expire in September on books for Book Bingo.

-6th Grade Booster Club Fundraiser/Event Schedule - Tammy Arfken will request a copy of the schedule from Eleni.

CORRESPONDENCE

- A thank you card was received from Alex's family regarding the monetary donation and a thank you card from Mrs. Toronzi for her gift last year.

OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT - Meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm.

IN ATTENDANCE : Jarlyn Veras, Ruth Toronzi, Anthony Alleyne, Jamie Alleyne, Michele Lohman and Susan Chughatta

Respectfully submitted by: Tammy Arfken, Secretary

****NEXT PTO MEETING VIA GOOGLE MEET - 10/10/23 @ 7:30pm**