

# PTA MEETING MINUTES

Franklin Avenue Elementary

*Date/Time* 10/4/2021 7:00pm | *Meeting called to order by* Kevin Wrafter

No prior meeting minutes to approve

## **I. Principal's Report - Dr. Talleyrand**

September started off on a positive and upbeat note. Staff were in the hallways to help the students navigate to their classrooms seeing as the building has been rearranged this year. I had the opportunity to visit each class and read the book "My School is More than a Building." With the older grades we talked about how each of their years at Franklin Avenue has been a little bit different due to the pandemic and the positive changes we have this year and being a family and focusing on being a school community. Everybody in the school created a self-portrait, including staff, 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grade responded to a writing prompt – I love my school because – while the Kindergarteners discussed it, they did not answer the writing prompt. All self-portraits are displayed in one of the hallways to represent the whole school community. Pictures will be posted on Instagram.

**Dismissal:** Started off rough for some bussers but has gotten better. Within the building the dismissal procedures are down smooth where we can get the kids in, take their attendance and get on bus on time when they arrive.

**Back to School Night:** Although it was done via google meet the teachers had nice presentations and parents were welcoming. Overall, the night went well.

**Building Updates:** All classrooms have air conditioners, the kindergarten black top has been redone, some trees were removed that were obstructing play areas and fenced in the kindergarten play area to keep a more secure and safe area for the children. Ceilings and lighting have been updated in several of the classrooms and have plans to continue that each year until they are all done. All air ducts in the building have been cleaned. The building has been rearranged and now the back wing is the primary wing, and our front wing is our intermediate wing.

**Quarantine Guidance:** When students are quarantined, they receive remote instruction from a district facilitator, one of them is for K – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and she works with Seesaw and the other is through the google learning platform. Teachers are briefly consulted to get a plan for ELA and math and what is being covered in the classroom and then a schedule is sent out a schedule through the learning platform. Students are expected to be online for an hour to an hour and a half for live instruction with breaks in between.

**RULER Program:** as a district we are in the beginning stages of implementing the RULER program, which is a new social and emotional learning program by the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence. RULER is an acronym for Recognizing emotions in oneself and others, Understanding the causes and consequences of emotions, Labeling emotions with nuanced vocabulary, Expressing emotions in accordance with cultural norms and social context and Regulating emotions with helpful strategies. There is a team of 5 members from FA that will embark on the training over the next 6 weeks.

**New Staff:** We have a lot of new staff this year. Miss Kurzhals is a Pearl River graduate and is teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Miss Gillman in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade who taught remote Kindergarten last year. Miss Rizzo 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher from Evans Park. Miss Mulligan is our new math AIS teacher this year, AIS is a new program were running so not only are we offering academic intervention for students struggling in reading, fluency or comprehension, but also for students who are struggling with numeracy and mathematics. Mrs. Zito who is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher is now serving all three elementary buildings as literacy coach.

**Halloween:** Planning to have an outdoor in person Halloween parade on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Weather pending. Parents will be invited to view the parade. Should weather not permit being outdoors we will move the parade will be indoors with no guests however the parade will be videoed and will be posted on Youtube. Celebrations will continue within the classrooms with no parent participation. An email will be sent out soon regarding the class parties, costumes and the timing of the parade.

## **II. AIS Report – Miss Mulligan**

**Kinder:** off to a great start, the children are learning how to be Franklin Avenue stars and making new friends. They are busy learning the letter sounds and practicing red words. The children will be coming home with red words each week please keep the words together and practice nightly. Don't forget to send in a water bottle and healthy snack. Charge Chromebooks on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**First Grade:** The children are starting to develop routines and understanding procedures. They are reviewing alphabet sounds and letter formation. Red words have been introduced and red words folders will be coming home soon to practice and encourage reading at home. Please empty folders daily and charge Chromebooks.

**Second Grade:** has had a successful start, we dove into reading and math. Please have children read nightly and practice their math facts. Beginning to work on numbers that are larger than 30, please make sure Chromebook are charged each night. Clean out folders.

**Third Grade:** the children have adjusted to new routines and starting to learn multiplication, so far they have worked to mastering the 0, 1, and 2 times table. They are also learning Google Classroom from using Seesaw years prior. They are learning cursive as well. Please review multiplication facts each night, clean out take home folder and charge Chromebooks.

**Fourth Grade:** the children have been doing an amazing job transitioning from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. In math they have done a wonderful job learning place value up to one million and rounding digits. They should be practicing multiplication tables 0-12 and they can work through CLEVER on XTRA math to help support practice. In writing the focus is on narratives and developing characters. In reading they are analyzing text for evidence to support character traits. Remember to keep Chromebooks charged. Looking forward to reading our books revolving around poetry.

### **III. President's Report and important dates – Kevin Wrafter**

**PTA Membership:** Signing up for PTA is a yearly process. At the beginning of each school year you would pay the \$10 dues and be considered a member. A portion of the dues goes to all of the activities the PTA sponsors for the school.

**Class Liaisons:** Need parent volunteers to act as the communicator to all individual grade levels within the building. Be responsible for talking about activities in and outside the classroom and making sure dues are collected. An email from the PTA will be sent out soon providing more information.

**Picture Day Retakes:** Picture Day was on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Picture retakes will be on Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Proofs were sent home on Monday September 27<sup>th</sup>. Please send proofs back in regardless of if you can plan on ordering photos. For the retakes you need to send in the proof envelope with \$5 and can no longer choose the original photo.

**Committees/Chairs:** Quite a few committees need chairs. Specifically: Assemblies, Family Bingo, Fourth Grade Moving Up Ceremony (not typically a 4<sup>th</sup> grade parent), Muddy Creek Fair, Pocketbook Bingo, St. Patrick's Day Assembly. There are also a few committees that need Co-Chairs. If you are interested in chairing or co-chairing any open committee, please email [FranklinAvepta@gmail.com](mailto:FranklinAvepta@gmail.com) to learn more.

**Spirit Wear:** New items available, link is active to purchase. Portion of all spirit wear goes back to the PTA.

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> – Moms Night Out

Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup> – Halloween Parade & Class Parties

### **Meeting Adjourned – 7:40pm**

Minutes taken by Annemarie Agosta, Recording Secretary

The **next virtual PTA Meeting** is scheduled for **Monday, November 1<sup>st</sup> @ 9:30am**