

The Freedom Institute PTO

THIS MEETING

Date: December 10, 2024 @ 12:30 PM

Location: Freedom

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Debora Gilmore welcomed those in attendance, both in-person and virtually, to our PTO meeting.

ROLL CALL

Attending in person were Dr. Poteet, Mrs. Vaill, Debora Gilmore, Kathleen Dougherty, Sue Kramer, Janell Weigand, Mike McDonald and Linda Giacalone. Kelly Minucci attended virtually.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Sue Kramer reviewed minutes from November 12, 2024.

Motion to approve minutes from November 12: Mike McDonald

Second to approve minutes from November 12: Kathleen Dougherty

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATES:

Principal - Dr. Poteet reported on previous events, upcoming events and general announcements.

- Friendsgiving was a terrific event put on by PTO with much positive feedback and appreciation.
- PTO will receive \$155 from ticket sales from the Florida Everblades game/fundraiser. This event had a much lower turnout than last year which led to discussion on whether to schedule this event next year and what other options we could look at in the future. In January the students will have the opportunity to fill out a survey questionnaire to determine events they are most interested in.
- Tuesday basketball has been a hit with students. Expanding it two days a week will be looked into.
- A new Parent/Student handbook will be distributed to Freedom families.
- Students will log out on the new front door keypad if they leave the building prior to 1:30 pm.
- The Economic Freedom 101 workshop under the leadership of Tom Grady will begin second semester on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from noon-1:00. The students will have the opportunity to invest real money provided by the Quest Educational Foundation and possibly receive a portion of the profits when they graduate. This workshop is open to all students. Attendance is mandatory.

OFFICERS' REPORT:

PTO Treasurer, Kathleen Dougherty, delivered the PTO's treasurer's report. During the PTO meeting, Kathleen went over the application for The Freedom Institute PTO, Inc. registering for non-profit corporation. After the corporation paperwork has been approved from The State of Florida, the next step will be opening a bank account in which PTO will be able to deposit the \$155 that will be received from the Everblades fundraiser.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Decorating - Janell Weigand will serve as the chairperson for the Decorating committee. Janell and Ann Marie Bray beautifully decorated for Friendsgiving. Janell will decorate for the Winter Celebration and also volunteered to serve and provide snow cones.

Fundraising/Eagle Sponsor - Mike McDonald will serve as the chairperson for the Fundraising/Eagle Sponsor committee. Mike presented ideas for connecting with businesses to support The Freedom Institute.

Spirit Store- A volunteer is needed to be the chairperson for the Spirit Store committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Friendsgiving was briefly evaluated for improvements for next year.

Discussion continued on ideas for student events. Student's input on the survey questionnaire which will be completed in January will be helpful to determine upcoming events to plan for. Several ideas were mentioned with positive responses.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kelly Minucci has experience in communications both professionally and personally. She would like to serve on the PTO board in the Communications position. A vote was taken by all present at the meeting. Kelly Minucci was voted in unanimously.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Winter Celebration - December 16 - 9:00 am @ Freedom

Janelle Weigand is invaluable heading this event. Janelle is providing the snowcone machine, the decorations and serving at the Winter Celebration.

FGCU basketball game - TBA @ FGCU

Possible basketball game dates for our students to attend are January 11, January 18, February 1, February 18, February 24. Dr. Poteet and Mike McDonald will see if any discounted group tickets are available for these dates.

Teacher Appreciation Week - May 5-12 @ Freedom

Ideas for the upcoming Teacher Appreciation Week were discussed. Last year Dr. Poteet was able to have meals/treats and gift cards generously donated for the teachers. Something similar may possibly be duplicated again this year. More discussions will take place at future meetings.

Graduation - May 16, 2025 @ Freedom

The Freedom Institute will graduate 15 students in May 2025, plus 1 early graduate in December 2024. With Freedom's growth this year will look different than last year. In upcoming meetings this discussion will continue on how to make graduation special for the graduates and their families.

FPEA (Homeschooling Conference) - May 21-25, 2025 @ Orlando, FL

Registration for this event will open in early January.

POSITIONS NEEDED:

A PTO vice-president is still needed. Dr. Nathan Poteet is graciously continuing in the role as the interim vice-president.

Spirit Store chairperson is needed.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS

Confirmed Winter Celebration details for Monday, January 16 were reviewed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting: Kathleen Dougherty

Second to adjourn meeting: Mike McDonald

NEXT MEETING - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Date: January 14th @ 12:30 PM