



**FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY PTO
GENERAL MEETING**

Friday, January 22, 2021, 9:30am, Via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Franklin PTO Executive Board members, Principal Janice Tierney, Franklin parents

1. PTO President's Update (Rachel Frank)

- Overview of PTO-funded programs since last October
 - Successful virtual book fair earned a \$1,700 credit to be put to use immediately toward books and educational materials selected by Ms. Stochaj
 - Interactive music technology assembly was presented in November
 - Second assembly being planned for late winter/spring
 - Scott Magoon virtual author/illustrator visit scheduled for March 19
- This is a snapshot of how PTO funds directly benefit our children

2. Virtual Franklin Fair 2021 (Chairs: Elizabeth Somerlot & Leah Enthoven)

- Virtual event planned for Saturday, April 24
- This year's theme is "Future is So Bright"
- Largest PTO fundraiser directly supports assemblies, author visits, field day, capital improvements, FLIC, teacher mini grants, etc.
- Volunteers are needed for big and small tasks
- Event will include silent auction, 50/50, and children's raffle
- Children's raffle
 - This year there will be options for families to create own basket, to choose a themed basket to build, or to donate money to fund a basket
 - Children will have the opportunity to watch the raffle winners announced live, virtually
 - Children's raffle basket Signup Genius will be sent out shortly to Franklin community:
<https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/10c0c4caaaf2eabfdc61-franklin>
 - Parent suggested that a communication be created for class parents to distribute to their individual classrooms



3. State of the School (Janice Tierney)

- Looks forward to in-person meetings again, but also hopes to merge the virtual component for parents to dial-in from home/workplace
- Thanks parent community for service, generosity, and kindness
- Presentation of Franklin response/results of December District parent survey
 - 229 Franklin families, 39% responded to district survey
 - 98% responded that instructional model is positive, 94% responded that model is more effective or somewhat more effective than last spring
 - 86% have not used social-emotional resources available
 - Comments overwhelmingly positive
 - Some concerns that were voiced include amount of screen time, consistency of schedule/mask breaks, and the volume of school communications i.e. info needs to be bulleted and meaningful
 - 89.5% of our students have demonstrated growth, students that have not demonstrated growth have had modifications made to their plans
- Chromebooks
 - Reminder given to students today that Chromebooks cannot be used for non-school matters, and that the district has access to all student online activity
 - Respectful and responsible online school behavior is expected, including after school hours
- Attendance
 - Guidelines are clear and State-mandated
 - Seeing very significant uptick in absences in afternoon sessions (at times over 15% have been reported as half-day absences)
 - Google collects this data automatically
 - Letters will be sent to families with significant absences as a reminder/support
 - Absences impact Franklin's overall ranking
 - As a community, we need to be mindful and have conversations with our children about appropriate device usage and attendance
 - Tierney welcomes creative ideas and solutions
 - Parent asked about Wednesday afternoon professional development and if there is any possibility of having some staff present to monitor students during that time
 - Tierney notes that aides and paraprofessionals are engaging in professional development as well
 - Instead suggests informing students that teachers get reports of how their time is spent



- Tierney will think about how we can increase student accountability and celebrate their participation
- Parent inquired if more absences occur during specials or math rotation
 - Heavier during specials, students not feeling as accountable during the gradewide meets
 - Parent noticed that her 1st and 2nd graders have a harder time when they are asked to move around, switch gears during afternoon session
- Parent questioned status of standardized testing this year
 - District awaiting state guidelines
 - Tierney noted that district does a tremendous amount of data collection and monitoring, standardized testing is only a piece of it
- Tierney reiterated that the level of support provided to faculty by our families and PTO has been beyond description and greatly appreciated
 - Lunch, treats, notes, outpouring of support have molded the positive climate at Franklin and continue to do so
- 4. Virtual Performing Arts Workshop Update (Laura Heil & Sue Huffman)**
 - Excited to keep performing arts alive at Franklin
 - PTO partnership with Wharton School of Performing Arts
 - 7-week workshop for 4th and 5th graders to conceptualize, write, rehearse, and perform an original theatre piece
 - Both class sections were filled within two hours of opening registration
- 5. Mini Grant Program (Casey Cohen)**
 - Mini grants enhance, extend, and enrich classroom curriculum
 - PTO has been able to fund three different teacher mini grants
 - 1st and 2nd graders received juggling scarves for tactical play and brain breaks
 - Speech therapists were able to purchase interactive videos to support students
 - 5th graders were supported with additional supplies to make their diorama units more robust