



FCS Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) General Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2025

Attendees

- ☐ **Attendance:** Karen Lecy-Alvarado (Co-leader), Nicole Brigner (Co-leader) Erin Crowley (Secretary/Co-leader), Martha Arteaga, Jamie Montie, Emily Severin, Ty Harman, Octavio Parada (Note: We had 6 attendees on Zoom including Frank Rodriguez–Treasurer, Emily Severin, Tanisha Nanor, and others).

Call to Order

- ☐ **FCS PTO was called to order at 7:02 pm by Nicole Brigner, on March 25, 2025.**
- ☐ **Opening prayer by Nicole Brigner.**

We began the meeting with committee updates.

Staff Encouragement Committee

- ☐ **Jamie Montie reported that we have been restocking the lounges each month for teachers and staff (with snacks, water, etc.) We had a successful breakfast for staff on the Professional Day, March 14th. We also left mini-bottles of hand sanitizers in staff mailboxes.**
- ☐ **Teacher Appreciation Week is May 5th–9th this year. We will be assembling small gifts for staff after school on May 5th and 6th. On Tuesday, May 6th we will have a mobile ice cream bar from 11:30am-1:30pm. We will need donations and people to help with the cart. On Thursday, May 8th, we will have a catered lunch from Chipotle. We need volunteers to help set up from 10:15–11:00 am. A flyer will be distributed so students can get involved in Teacher Appreciation Week (with OPTIONAL ideas for the week). Be on the lookout for emails regarding volunteer opportunities for this week.**

- ❑ Next committee meeting is Tuesday, April 22nd at 8pm. Email Jamie Montie for more information!

Fundraising Committee

- Martha Arteaga announced that there will be a KONA Ice fundraiser on Friday, Apr 11, 2025 (the day before Spring Break). The truck will be there after school and will accept cash and card payments. A flyer with details will be coming out soon!
- A flyer will also be coming out for Spring Fling on Saturday, June 7th. There will be new ideas and new vendors. This is a free event to close out the school year.
- All volunteer slots were filled this year for Pizza Friday. Thank you to all volunteers. A small survey regarding Pizza Friday will be coming out soon to gather feedback for next year.
- Any requests? Send Martha Arteaga an email!

Membership & Recruiting Committee

- If anyone is interested in a leadership position in the PTO next year, please reach out to Ginny Lee or email the PTO. The two-year term for Secretary is up and we need nominations!

Events Committee

- Emily Severin reported that a Prayer Day has been planned for June 3rd before school. There will be muffins, donuts, lemonade, juice, and treats at dropoff that morning.

Financial Report:

There is currently approximately \$19,000 in our account. We have made about \$10,000 so far this year. Frank still needs to match some checks with some of his journal entries. Karen and Sandra will be helping him match up these transactions.

Voting for funding for special teacher projects:

Click [here](#) to see specific teacher project requests. We voted to fund all of the projects.

Presentation on Internet Safety:

First and foremost, thank you so much to the Montgomery County Police Department for collaborating with us for this presentation. Special thanks to Officer Palmer, Officer Custis, Officer Amaya, and Officer Gutrick for their presentation and suggestions. They are all Community Engagement Officers and are assigned to various MCPS high schools. The following is a summary of their key points:

Our kids use technology for social media, gaming, and communicating. Here are a few good reminders:

- Remind your child to be kind when he/she posts. Make sure your child knows that nothing is ever “deleted”. Things can “follow” you.
- As parents, we need to model good behavior online.
- Set boundaries. Set time limits. Monitor. Remind your child never to share passwords. Don’t share family photos. Avoid strangers. Don’t overshare information. Don’t let your child post pics of themselves in their school uniform. Contact your provider (ex. AT&T) to restrict internet use.
- Be up-to-date with current trends. Stay informed. Be aware of what certain acronyms stand for.
- Use apps to track locations and activities. BARK is a popular one. (Note: Some apps will intercept photos from being sent; photos can come to you first.) Discord and What’s App? can cover international contact. Snapchat has a feature that automatically gives your location UNLESS you turn it off. It’s like an automatic GPS tracker. This can be quite scary if the wrong person “follows” your child.
- Know your child’s passcodes. Be aware of new apps your child downloads. Take their devices out of their room at night.
- Monitor gaming (XBOX, PlayStation, Fortnite, Roblox, etc.). Check search engines (Google, Chrome, Safari, etc.)
- Consider setting up a “dummy” account and friend or “follow” your child to monitor activity.

Question from a parent: When should a child have his/her own cell phone?

The officers feel this is up to your personal preference. Consider how mature your child is. Consider the purpose of your child’s having a phone (ex. Does your child have extracurricular activities and they would use it to call their ride afterwards?) Some phones have no apps or social media; some can only call 4 different phone numbers.

Question from a parent: What other apps are available besides BARK?

GABB watches only text or call up to 10 people. You can set up a track location “bubble”. Consider doing research on YouTube to see what apps are available. Check with your child’s friend’s parents: What do they use to track their kids?

Question from a parent: Are there any specific trends happening in Montgomery County that we should be aware of?

Have conversations with your child about trafficking. It IS happening in the county. Reassure your child to have open communication with you. There is no shame in making mistakes. Social media is so vast with so many portals. Tell your child to be cautious. Tell them not to talk to strangers. Remind them that people lie about their age, especially to girls.

Thank you again, Officers!

We will most likely have one last meeting in May (date to be announced) on Zoom for leadership voting for next year. Our guest speaker at that meeting will be Nurse Bickell and our topic of discussion will be Mental Health.

Closing and Adjournment

- Closing prayer by Nicole Brigner at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Erin Crowley, PTO Secretary