



## **FCS Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) General Meeting Minutes**

**May 15, 2025**

### **Attendees**

- ☐ **Attendance:** Karen Lecy-Alvarado (Co-leader), Nicole Brigner (Co-leader) Erin Crowley (Secretary/Co-leader), Julie Harman, Tanisha Nanor, Mr. Terrance Lawrence (Assistant Principal), Rochelle and Lucien Sutherland, Selam, Jaclyn, Fatimah

### **Call to Order**

- ☐ **FCS PTO was called to order at 7:08 pm by Nicole Brigner, on May 15, 2025.**
- ☐ **Opening prayer by Nicole Brigner.**

**We began the meeting with committee updates.**

### **Staff Encouragement Committee**

- ☐ **Teacher Appreciation Week went really well! The PTO received about 20 “thank you” emails from teachers/staff. They felt loved and appreciated. The PTO gave out flower pot thank you gifts on Monday. Thank you to Martha Arteaga and Julie Harman’s mother for putting the gifts together. On Tuesday, the PTO hosted a mobile ice cream sundae bar. We even had a non-dairy and/or gluten-free option (sorbet) available. The ice cream was a big hit! Thank you to Edwina Ritchie, Makda Zewde and Cierra Jennings for their help with collecting the ice cream donations and serving the ice cream. On Thursday, the PTO hosted a luncheon for the teachers and staff. We ordered Chipotle along with fruit, cookies and drinks. Thank you to Emily Severin, Carla Boxill, Julie Harman and Tim Belsan for setting up and cleaning up. Lastly,**

the PTO also gave gift cards and a cute “survival kit” for Nurse Bickell, Mrs. Vislay and Mr. Lawrence to recognize them for Nurses Day and Principal’s Day. Thank you to Erin Crowley for organizing the gifts. The Staff Encouragement Committee does not have any more meetings scheduled for this school year. We will resume in September. If you are interested in joining, please send an email to the PTO inbox.

#### **Fundraising Committee**

- The used uniform sale originally scheduled for June is being postponed until August.
- Spring Fling will be on Saturday, June 7th. A flyer has gone out. Please attend! Please volunteer!

#### **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**

- Prayer Day has been planned for June 3rd before school at drop-off. La Finca Pop Up Coffee Shop will be providing coffee and treats.

#### **Financial Report:**

There is currently just over \$26,000 in the PTO account as of May 8th, 2025.

**Spotlight on Mr. Lawrence:** PTO took the time to ask Mr. Lawrence about his vision for the upcoming school year as he serves as the new principal of FCS in 2035-2026.

***PTO Question: What’s your focus for next year?***

He wants students to grow both academically and spiritually. He would like to focus on service and community outreach. He would like to have teachers collaborate with one another more. He wants to utilize the many talents of the staff.

***PTO Question: What is your leadership style?***

He considers himself to be honest and transparent and authoritative when necessary.

***PTO Question: What are Forcey's strengths? What are its areas for growth?***

He notes our great community, our PTO, and our wonderful parents. He feels we are growing in Christ and we have a lot of support from the church. Forcey is learning to be the change in children. He encourages everyone to read The Anxious Generation by Jonathan Haidt as our children get so much information so quickly; we are not protected by a spiritual bubble. We need to encourage kids to live their faith.

***PTO Question: How do you plan to communicate with parents?***

He feels we have a great Friday newsletter. He wants to use Constant Contact for the links (ex. You can click on "Middle School" and get news that pertains specifically to middle school.) He wants to have quarterly parent surveys to get a pulse on what's happening every 90 days.

***PTO Question: What are your expectations for student behavior and discipline?***

He understands that students occasionally have a bad day; however, they are expected to follow the handbook. He wants parents to be proactive and encourage students to share their challenges with their teachers.

***PTO Question: How will you support students who struggle academically?***

There is currently an aide in training for the middle school. The aide is helping to advise students and help them with organizational skills. She can see or meet with about 20 kids per week.

***PTO Question: Will there be any changes to our academic programs?***

Our programs are pretty rigorous. Our middle school is about 6 months ahead of most public middle schools and our elementary school is about 4 months ahead. There will not be any major adjustments or changes to our curriculum.

***PTO Question: How will you handle bullying?***

Mr. Lawrence reminds us that bullying is harassment over time whether it be physical, verbal, or emotional. It must be dealt with immediately. Unfortunately, sometimes issues aren't brought to Mr. Lawrence until 4-6 weeks after the issues started. In the event of

bullying, he would meet with parents and perhaps recommend counseling. Students could also face expulsion if necessary.

***PTO Question: How will you promote a sense of belonging among students?***

For middle school students in particular, they have chapel time and work in small groups. He wants to assign teachers about 14 students to meet with each week for devotions or community service projects. He's thinking of having students earn 10 hours of community service during each of their grades in middle school.

***PTO Question: What are you most excited about for next year?***

He loves Christian education and is excited to learn from both students and parents.

Mr. Lawrence then asked the PTO for our "wish list". Here are some things that were mentioned:

- more parent involvement
- Spanish or another world language being taught in elementary school
- incorporate social/emotional learning with a spiritual aspect perhaps through the middle school Bible class and some sort of miniature program in chapel for elementary students
- monthly syllabus or newsletter from teachers to let parents know what's happening (with units of study, upcoming events/field trips, etc.)
- get an on-site counselor with Christian values
- more community service projects for our middle school students
- Grades 9-12! 😊
- more STEM, especially the technology piece

**Closing and Adjournment**

- Closing prayer by Nicole Brigner at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Erin Crowley, PTO Secretary