ROBERT FROST MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA
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General Session Minutes

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Draft. These minutes will go to the membership for approval at the December 8, 2026 general session.

Location	Zoom
Time	Called to order at about 7:02 PM, adjourned at about 7:42 PM
Presiding	Mike Wu, President
Recorded by	Veronica G, Secretary
Attendance	About 34 participants. Quorum (5 members, per Article XI, Section 5) was met.

1. Approval of the October 13 Minutes

Mike Wu noted that the draft minutes of the October 13, 2026 general session were posted for review. Once approved, they will be finalized and posted on the PTSA website, where the budget is also posted. The meeting was recorded so it can be shared with members who could not attend.

Motion: To approve the minutes of the October 13, 2026 general session as posted.
Vote (Zoom poll): [__] in favor, [__] opposed, [__] abstaining.
Motion carried.

2. Principal's Message: Dr. Joey Jones

Dr. Jones reviewed the school's vision, mission, and core values, the MCPS instructional focus, and this year's theme, "Soaring Together." He introduced a presentation on the MCPS grading and reporting policy, led by principal intern Ms. Carrillo. The presentation and a one-page summary will be posted on the Frost website and shared at the November 11 open house.

Grading categories and weights

- All Tasks: 90% of the grade. These are graded assignments that show progress toward grade-level standards.
- Practice and Preparation: 10%. This includes homework and classwork and is often graded for completion.
- Math and English: All Tasks is 80%, with 10% for district assessments and 10% for Practice and Preparation.
- No single assignment may count for more than 20% of the grade. Teachers typically give four to five All Tasks assessments per department, and the school aims for about nine by the end of the marking period. Early in a marking period, a single grade can have a larger effect because there are fewer grades.

Due dates, deadlines, and missing work

- Teachers set both a due date and a deadline, no more than 10 days apart. Work turned in after the due date loses 10%. Work not turned in by the deadline receives a zero.
- Missing work from an excused absence can be made up, and teachers may give an equivalent assignment. Students who skip class or school without authorization cannot make up missed work. Families should email Ms. Carmen Ellis whenever their child is absent.
- Few or no new graded assignments are given in the last five school days of a marking period. Students can still submit work during that time if the deadline has not passed.

The 50% rule and reassessments

- Teachers may not give a grade below 50% if the work shows evidence of progress toward the standards. A zero can be given if no work is shown, the work is late past the deadline, or there is academic dishonesty.
- Students can reassess All Tasks assignments at least two times. Marking period assessments, district assessments, end-of-semester summative assessments, final research papers, projects, or essays, and culminating projects or performances cannot be reassessed. Many teachers mark reassessable work with an "R" in myMCPS Classroom.
- Reassessments can happen during SOAR or at lunch, arranged between the student and teacher.
- Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, cheating, forgery, and now AI use, can result in a zero.

ParentVUE and myMCPS Classroom

- ParentVUE (Synergy) shows official grades, attendance, and student documents such as MAP test results. It is always the most up-to-date source for grades.
- myMCPS Classroom (Canvas) shows class agendas, assignments, calendars, and due dates. A grade may appear in Canvas before the teacher syncs it to ParentVUE.
- Families can email teachers through either platform or the Frost staff directory. Please allow at least 24 hours for a reply.

Questions from parents

- Ms. Chike said teachers are asked to notify families if a student has a D or E at interim and report card time. Ms. Carrillo encouraged families to talk with their child when a grade drops and to have the student ask the teacher about reassessment.
- Ms. Chike will share the help desk email for families whose Canvas parent app shows something different from the student's Canvas web view.
- Ms. Carrillo noted that many students finish their work but forget to submit it, and suggested checking the Canvas calendar view with them.
- Additional grading questions for the FAQ document can be sent to Ms. Freedenberg.
- Dr. Jones confirmed that students are not left to play video games on Chromebooks after finishing classwork, and that students do not need permission slips to take the activity bus after the talent show. The activity bus schedule is on the Frost website and posted in the main hallway.

School updates

- Open house: Wednesday, November 11 (Veterans Day), 8:15 AM to 2:25 PM.
- Frost Talent Show: Thursday, November 12, 3:15 to 4:30 PM, right after school, with additional activity buses.
- Turkey Trot: Friday, November 20. Donations go to the City of Rockville's holiday drive. 6th grade is currently in the lead.

- Parent conferences: Monday, November 23, 1 to 5 PM. Staff will invite families. Families who are not invited can contact their counselor to schedule a conference.
- November 23, 24, and 25 are early release days. There is no school on Thanksgiving or the Friday after.
- Ms. Carrillo will complete her principal intern practicum at Frost from December 14 through February 5. During that time, Dr. Jones will support another intern at Newport Mill Middle School, and Newport Mill's principal will support Ms. Carrillo at Frost.
- The MCPS family climate survey is open November 8 to 20. Families will receive the link by email.

Dr. Jones thanked the PTSA for its continued support.

3. Membership Results

- 232 families joined this year, the best year on record. Last year finished at 153.
- Mike Wu thanked families for joining. Donations are down this year, but the increase in membership has helped offset that.
- 6th grade won the grade challenge. The popsicle party will be held next Monday, November 16. A 6th grade parent offered to buy and donate all of the popsicles, so the party will not use PTSA funds. The popsicles are free of common allergens, including nuts, peanuts, and dairy.

4. Budget Check-In

Close to $11,000 has come in so far this year and about $9,000 has gone out. A large part of the spending was last year's activity bus bill, which arrives after the school year ends and is paid from the following year's budget. Upcoming expenses include the Spelling Bee and the staff holiday luncheon. Mike Wu noted that not every budget item is used each year, so funds can be reallocated, and the budget is posted on the website. Members can send questions or feedback in the chat, by email, or through WhatsApp.

5. Dine Out

The October 20 dine-out at Chipotle (Fallsgrove) raised $538 for the PTSA, well above the usual $50 to $100 and more than some past years combined. Mike Wu thanked Dani Woo for organizing it and noted that parents asked for dine-outs closer to Frost. Dani is planning the next dine-out for the week of December 6 or December 13, and details will be shared when it is set.

6. Reflections Arts Program

Frost PTSA registered for the National PTA Reflections arts program this year after several parents asked about it; a school's PTSA must register for any of its students to enter. Roohi Afshan is chairing, with help from parents who have run the program at other schools. Categories include visual arts, photography, and literature. Entries are due to Roohi by Friday, December 4. Frost entries are judged first, and selected entries move on to the next levels. Guides and forms are on the PTSA website.

7. Free State PTA

Mike Wu gave background on the PTA structure. Frost PTSA is part of MCCPTA (Montgomery County), Free State PTA, and National PTA. Maryland PTA, the former state PTA, ran into financial problems around 2020 and was shut down. During the transition, local PTAs filed through a Delaware entity, which is why the current bylaws

reference Delaware. Effective January 1, Frost PTSA will be filing directly as part of Free State PTA, and the bylaws will be updated. This does not affect families.

8. Upcoming Events

November 16	Popsicle party for 6th grade, at lunch
December 4	Reflections entries due to Roohi Afshan
Week of Dec 6 or 13	Next dine-out (details to come)
December 8	Next general session, 7:00 PM on Zoom

9. Questions and Adjournment

Mike Wu invited questions and reminded members they can reach him by email or WhatsApp. He thanked Dr. Jones, the staff, and all parents for attending. The meeting adjourned at about 7:42 PM.

10. Action Items

Item	Owner
Post the approved October 13 minutes on the website	Mike Wu
Share the meeting recording with members	Mike Wu
Post the grading presentation and one-page summary on the Frost website and share at open house	Dr. Jones, Ms. Carrillo
Share the Canvas help desk email with families	Ms. Chike
Coordinate popsicle drop-off for the November 16 party	Mike Wu
Set up and announce the December dine-out	Dani Woo
Collect and judge Reflections entries due December 4	Roohi Afshan
Update bylaws to reflect Free State PTA	Mike Wu
Post the draft November minutes and update with any corrections	Mike Wu

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Veronica G, Secretary Date

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Approved at the general session of