



Fremont Council PTA

Newsletter: August 1, 2020

There are many important links in this newsletter.
Please fill the forms as well.

Welcome



We know, we know, it is still summer, and we still have many days before we get back to school. But we all have been thinking about it and planning for it all summer long. Due to shelter in place, this year is looking very different. Travel plans had to be canceled and summer schedules had to be changed. Many of us probably did not get much of a summer. We have been working very hard in various task force subcommittees for school opening, and many of you have been planning for programs and activities at individual PTA units to support our community. How did you spend your summer?

Advocacy News



FCPTA has been involved with efforts in opposing vaping. Last year we supported the City of Fremont's ordinance to ban vaping. Our president has been heavily involved in similar measures at Alameda county and other surrounding counties and cities. She has also been involved with CAPTA resolution against vaping and has advocated for the state senators and representatives to take steps in helping Senate Bill (SB) 793 get passed. It is with collaborative effort that we, in the state of California, have reached this stage. We need your support now to make it happen.

SB 793 (Hill) needs your support to clear its next legislative hurdle!

The Assembly Health Committee is voting on SB 793 on August 4, 2020. This bill, if it passes, will outlaw flavored tobacco products across the state.

California State PTA just adopted a resolution, E-Cigarettes/Vaping, Flavored Tobacco Products and Youth Health, which seeks legislation "prohibiting the sale, marketing, and distribution of flavored tobacco products and e-cigarettes, including components, accessories, and tobacco product flavor enhancers."

Over 5.3 million kids in the U.S. now use e-cigarettes – 27.5% of high school students used e-cigarettes in 2019 compared to 11.3% in 2016. Flavors are driving the demand for use – 97% of youth e-cigarette users report using a flavored product, and 70% cite flavors as the reason for their use.

Now it is time to show the power of PTA.

Click the button below to contact members of the Assembly Health Committee today and tell them you support the outlawing of flavored tobacco products. Ask them to vote yes on AB 793 (Hill). Be sure to include your own or your child's experience with vaping. Your personal story is the most effective way to communicate with legislators.

TAKE ACTION

Racism in Fremont



Fremont is one of the most diverse communities in California. It sounds very unlikely to hear about racism happening in our community. But unfortunately, lately we have been hearing more and more of such cases. FCPTA is planning to install a committee for this exact purpose. Please attend the next FCPTA association meeting on Monday, August 17th if you would like to learn more about it or would like to serve on the committee.

School Opening Task Force Update



As mentioned above, FCPTA officers had been serving on various task force subcommittees this summer and had been working with the school district in planning how the schools can be opened safely. We have recommended many things in the subcommittees.

Based on the survey done by FCPTA in early July, we have given some specific recommendations to the School Board as well.

Here are the [slides that we shared with the School Board](#).

Here are the [recommendations that we gave](#) based on the survey results.

Leadership Resources and Training

There is still time to register for Session 3 (August 10-13) of CAPTA's Virtual Summer Leadership Academy here: [Virtual Summer Leadership Academy](#) The fee is \$20 per PTA unit, and your board members can attend as many classes as they'd like. Please note: If you already paid for session 1 and 2, session 3 is also included in your registration. You do not need to register or pay again. All you need to do is pick the session 3 classes you wish to attend. Registration is open from July 27 – August 5.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

There are also many free lessons at ED100 ([How the education system really works | ED100](#)) with some specific to public education in California.

Please invest the time and training in yourself to make your job easier and become more confident and effective. Although this may be a volunteer PTA role for you, many of the same skills are transferable to and desired in the salaried workplace.

School Opening for Distance Learning



As you all know, Fremont Unified schools will be opening for mostly all students in distance learning.

We recommend that you plan for these things:

If all the adults in the household are working and will be required to leave the house during school hours, who will watch the children?

If there are adults in other households who can work from home and watch children during school hours, you might be able to make cohorts of children who study together in the same age group.

Slow Internet or poor technology

FUSD plans to provide connection hubs, laptops, webcams, and earphones. If your household has affordability issues, please make use of FUSD's offer. Please contact your child's school principal first.

Technical support

FUSD plans to offer technical support for the devices loaned from the school. They will have a technology team available for support. However, if you are not loaning a device from them and would want support, please let us know. We can partner with community groups to provide support.

Study/workstation

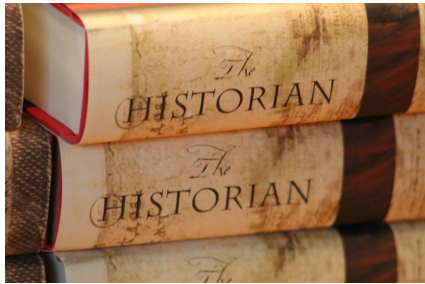
It is essential to provide a work/study environment to students for focused education. A designated area works best. However, if you are having trouble finding such a location in your house, we would recommend reducing the maximum amount of distraction in the household during the school hours.

Communication

Please make sure to read all the emails and documents coming from teachers, schools, and the district carefully and know the expectation. Also, make sure to share your individual/family challenges with the teachers, counselors and administrators so that they can help meet your needs. These are trying times, and everyone is trying to make the best of this time. We understand the challenges. Regular communication with the school will be the key to a successful distance learning program. Advocacy will be essential.

In addition, FCPTA is planning to provide various forums to support and connect families. We will share when more information is available.

Historian Reporting



Big shoutout to Patterson for reporting the volunteer hours from August to November. Please report your hours at: [historian reporting form](#).

*Volunteer hours include the time spent by any parents volunteering in the classroom or event or commuting for PTA meetings and time spent during PTA meetings. You should be able to get the volunteer hours for classroom helpers from the school office. That book that needs you to check in whenever you are on campus is there for this purpose. Please use it.

Volunteer hours are collected and reported to maintain PTA's federal tax exemption status. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, PTA must receive 1/3 (one-third) of its support from the general public. The recorded hours from volunteers are proof of this. They are also used in advocating on behalf of children and as information in grant writing.

PTA Meetings/Unit Calendar



Fremont Council PTA would like to know when you have your meetings and special events planned. Please take a few minutes to fill out our [form](#). **This is the only acceptable format to share your calendar.**

FCPTA Meetings

Just a reminder that FCPTA meetings are **mandatory** for every unit president to attend (it is in your by-laws). If the president cannot attend, please appoint and let the council know, in advance, up to 4 people to attend on behalf of the president. Your representatives don't have to be board members. They should be able to be a mode of communication between the council PTA and your unit board. The biggest loss is for your unit not being part of the united voice (or voting) of FCPTA. If your unit is not represented, you will be missing out on the news and activities from the FCPTA board. We will not be covering all that happens in our meetings in the newsletter.

We need at least 16 units to be represented at each of the council's general association meetings to achieve quorum. Please make sure your unit is represented.

PTA Membership

Totem membership

This year online membership is more important than any other year. If you have not registered your unit on Totem yet, please do ASAP. It will help you get members. If you have any questions regarding Totem, please reach out to membership@fcpta.org or membership.pdpta@gmail.com.

Please also consider renting a PO Box for any paper and check memberships that might come in the regular mail. The PO Box comes in a six- or twelve-month rental commitment. The six-month rental can be as low as \$67 and as high as \$163, depending on the size of the box your PTA needs.

FCPTA Open Positions

We are looking for volunteers for some of our officer positions and committees. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Vinita Verma at president@fcpta.org for the following open roles:

Auditor

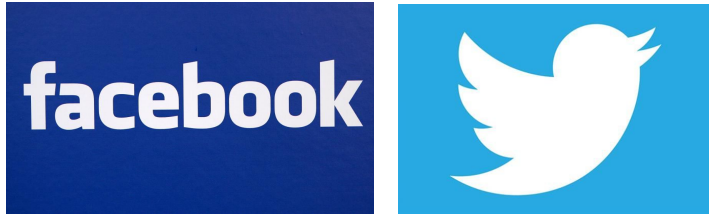
VP of Programs

Advocacy team

[FCPTA Calendar](#)

Please subscribe to the [FCPTA calendar](#) to know when our meetings/events are. We will update our calendar once it is adopted by the association.

Thank you for all that you do for your school and PTA community. Take care and stay well.



[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)
