

**Minutes of the James Madison High School PTSA
Monday, September 10, 2018**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

In attendance: Greg Hood, Timothy Buckley, Marissa Petty, Beth Eachus, Marcy Davidson, Sarah Helmicki, Ellen MacGregor, Chris Lande, Shelly Koshuta, Rebecca Eastham, Barb Heider, Kebra Krol, Cathy Wasilewski, Gaynita Williams, Rene Newman, Sadhvi Subramanian, Monica Cramer, Marion Serfass, Rossana Carney, Maureen Allen, Nancy Neeson, Jane Miscavage, Ellen Korenko, Becky Kong, Cathy Trybull Sontheimer, Gulira Alieva, Sylvia Martin-Estes, Ann Kuhlkin, Jean Johnson, Quin Johnson, Eileen Sciuto, Ali Balz-Howard, Linda Kahn, Jenny Thompson, Anne-Stuart Kirkhorn, Monica Anshel, Sandra Allen, Adam Rizzoli, Ryan Go, Kelly Stratman, Pam Styles,

I. Call to Order and Welcome – Beth Eachus

II. Approval of Previous Minutes – Sarah Helmicki

Beth Eachus emailed the June minutes to the community. No comments or changes were suggested. The minutes were accepted as presented via email.

III. Principal Report – Principal Greg Hood

Mr. Hood provided a number of JMHS highlights for the beginning of the school year:

- JMHS had a 94% retention rate of teachers. In 2018-19, there are 10 new teachers and 2 new administrators.
- There were many academic successes in the 2017-18 school year. The graduation rate increased to 97.7%. In addition, there was a 20% increase in graduation rates for economically disadvantaged students. SOL scores increased as well, including SOL scores for economically disadvantaged students. The passing rate for AP exams increased to 93%.
- JMHS chronic absences decreased, as did the dropout rate.
- In sports, JMHS changed districts but still had 9 District championship teams, 5 regional championship teams and 2 state champion teams.
- Renovations are slated to begin in 2020 to include 14 new classrooms. Currently there are space constraints, which require teachers to share classrooms. More detailed renovation plans are expected later in the fall.
- JMHS has a “no-zero” grading policy. The lowest grade possible is now 50% (down slightly from 53% last year). Madison also has retake policy that differs from the FCPS policy. FCPS has a maximum retake score of 80% whereas JMHS has a maximum retake score of 90%.
- FCPS teachers’ salaries have been newly adjusted to market scale with the hopes that experienced teachers will not leave FCPS for other counties where there were higher pay scales.
- School security has been in focus since February 2018. For the current school year, security staff will wear uniforms to make them more identifiable. Students will be more educated about drills and why these are practiced. Students have seen a number of safety videos and have had the opportunity to ask questions about security drills.
- The Mission of JMHS remains the same with a focus on developing creative and resilient global citizens. JMHS continues to strive to “close the equity gap” and “raise the bar.”

IV. Student Services – Timothy Buckley

Mr. Buckley announced that student schedules are now set after the first 2 weeks of school. Changes will primarily be class level changes only. With limited space, classes are tight so changes are difficult.

Mr. Buckley also discussed the newly initiated Mentor Program. He thanked the PTSA who provided the funding for the program. There are 123 junior and senior-class mentors for the freshman class who are supervised by 14 lead student mentors. An outsourced company will provide training for mentors for six mentor lessons for freshmen. The first lesson will take place in the next two weeks. The program is slated to continue next year with junior-class mentors responsible for helping train new mentors to replace graduating senior mentors.

V. Faculty Report – Ms. Petty

Ms. Petty thanked the PTSA on behalf of the teachers for the catered breakfast in their first week of school as well as for the catered dinner for BTSN. She also thanked the PTSA for the funding for professional development. She noted that approximately 40 teachers have had the opportunity to attend a training conference. Teachers will have their first opportunity for professional development in this school year on the 9/19/18 early release day.

VI. Student Report

Adam Rizzoli, Sophomore Class President, and Ryan Go, Junior Class President, reported that the SGA has 2 primary initiatives for September: Freshman elections and Homecoming. The SGA is responsible for Homecoming spirit week, court, parade and dance. The Homecoming parade and game is on 9/28/18. The Homecoming Dance will be 9/29/18.

VII. President's Report – Beth Eachus

Beth thanked Kebra Krol for organizing the catered breakfast for the teachers' first week of school as well as the catered dinner for teachers on BTSN. She also thanked Rossana Carney for her work on the JMHS Food Pantry that also included support for school supplies. Anne-Stuart Kirkhorn will co-chair this committee.

VIII. Treasurer's Report – Marcy Davidson

Marcy Davidson presented the 2018-2019 budget. Highlights included:

- Revenues continue to come from PTSA memberships/donations and mock standardized tests.
- Revenue from mock tests goes directly to teacher development, academic awards and graduating senior scholarships.
- Some line items were changed to be more descriptive for their actual use. Parenting Network Seminars became Parent Programs. Sunshine Expense is now Faculty Recognition. Hospitality is now Teacher and Staff Appreciation.
- Science Fair Dinner was broken out from Teacher Appreciation.
- The Spirit Wear expense has been eliminated since the Athletic Boosters sell spirit wear as a fundraiser.
- An additional PTSA Senior Scholarships was added to expenses.

Monica Cramer made a motion to approve the budget. Pam Styles seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed

IX. Committee Reports

Membership: More PTSA memberships were sold online this year. We seem to be on target to exceed membership sales this year.

Hospitality: Kebra Krol thanked those who helped with the teacher breakfast and dinner. She uses a sign up genius to get parent donations as well as parent volunteers for setup and cleanup. These are usually up about 4 weeks before each event.

Academic Boosters: The first mock SAT will be administered on 9/15 at 9am. The first mock ACT will be administered the following week on 9/22. These tests will also be offered in November, February and March. Extended time and other accommodations are not available for the mock tests.

Directory: AtoZConnect will again put this year's online directory together. This year, however, due to recent state legislation, changes have to be implemented for its use. FCPS cannot give addresses and phone numbers to PTSA any longer, so this information has to be self-reported to the directory. This is accomplished via an email sent to each family with a unique user name and password. Jenny has been in conversation with AtoZ to begin setting up this process.

Parent Programs: Monica Anschel provided the list of scheduled parent programs:

- 10/16 – Little Know Secrets of Paying for College
- 11/12 – Raising a Confident, Less Stressed Student
- 2/20 – Preventing Risky Behavior
- 4/4 – Navigation Through the College Admissions Process

Athletic Boosters: Mr. Hood announced that through the generous donations of local contractors, an addition was put onto an athletic building in Coach Lenny Schultz's name. This building will be dedicated on 10/5/18 at the Westfields football game.

Band: Nothing to Report

Orchestra: The Orchestra will go to Charleston, South Carolina this year. The first Orchestra Booster meeting will be held in the first week on October.

Drama: Ellen Korenko announced that the fall play, Noises Off, would take place in November. The cast list was announced on 9/9/18. In February, the One-Act plays will be performed. The spring show will be in early May and will be Westside Story.

Food Pantry: Anne-Stuart Kirkhorn and Rossana Carney thanked those who had contributed to Madison's new food bank with food and school supplies. There is a link to the Amazon wish list where people can make donations. Donations ordered through the wish list will be sent directly to the school.

XI. Old Business: No news to report.

XII. New Business: No new business

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.