

**Minutes of the James Madison High School PTSA
Monday, December 11, 2017**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

In attendance: Greg Hood, Timothy Buckley, Stephanie Schubring, Beth Eachus, Marcy Davidson, Monica Ansel, Anne-Stuart Kirkhorn, Michelle Kang, Jenny Thompson, Rossana Carney, Nancy Socher, Barbara Heider, Lenka Denmark, Silva Martin-Estes, Branden Holt, Justin Hu, Tommy Williams Maureen Allen, Mary Ann Ressin, Ellen MacGregor

Call to Order and Welcome – Beth Eachus

II. Approval of Previous Minutes -

The November minutes were presented by Anne-Stuart Kirkhorn. Mr. Buckley made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Marcy Davidson seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

III. Principal Report - Greg Hood

Principal Hood discussed the letter that went out to parents before the Thanksgiving Break indicating that teachers should be assigning homework or projects to be completed over the holiday weekend. This is a pyramid wide message designed to allow families to enjoy time together.

VA Department of Education is taking a closer look at attendance. Students who miss too many days of school will be receiving letters at home.

As a follow up to the November meeting, the FCPS School Board voted to approve laptops for students to take home for a yearly fee beginning in 2019.

Mr. Hood announced that Madison would be creating guidelines for positive conduct at sporting events. More information will follow as guidelines are developed.

IV. Student Services – Timothy Buckley

Mr. Buckley announced that Wellness Week went really well. Events included a student/faculty volleyball game; PSAs on the morning announcements; therapy dogs; and bubble soccer.

Academic advising for next year will begin on January 17. Dates to note:

Jan. 17 – Curriculum Night for parents and students

Jan. 18 – Elective Fair

Jan. 19 – School-wide presentation regarding academics

New this year: teacher signatures will not be required to take a class; however, teachers will still talk with students individually to advise which classes they should take.

V. Faculty Report - Stephanie Schubring

Mrs. Schubring thanked the PTSA for the holiday treats. She added that students really enjoyed the Wellness Week activities. She noted that students are about half way through the quarter, and encouraged parents to check SIS to see their grades.

VI. Student Report

SGA representatives shared that the canned food drive was a huge success. Food for Others picked up food items twice during the drive. Coin Wars raised \$1,200 for a school impacted by the hurricane in Houston.

SGA is considering a winter dance. Planning is still in the works.

VII. President's Report – Beth Eachus

Beth Eachus reported for Betsy Boswell Fusca. She announced that the Giving Tree in the office was still collecting donations of coats, hats, scarves and gloves. She added that pantry items were also being collected in the office for the new Food Pantry.

VIII. Treasurer's Report – Marcy Davidson

Marcy Davidson reported that the PTSA has 782 members. She submitted dues to the National PTA last month. Spending has included money for Academic Boosters and Wellness week. She added that teacher grants were starting come in and were being funded.

IX. Committee Reports

Membership: Barb Heider announced that PTSA had a record number of members and donations, totaling more than \$28,000.

Academic Boosters: Beth Eachus reported that Academic Boosters recognized 56 commended and National Merit Semi-Finalists along with students who earned a 4.0 GPA or higher at a ceremony in November. Additionally, two mock tests were administered in November. Dates for February and March mock tests will be announced after the break.

Athletic Boosters: Nancy Socher winter sports had started. Gymnastics is hosting two meets this year. Casino Night will be held on March 9 with the online portion of the auction going live in February.

MAD Memos Beth Eachus reported for Shelly Koshuta that MAD Memos was still looking at possibly using Mail Chimp as the new platform.

Directory: Jenny Thompson indicated that she had been getting lots of emails from parents who didn't know how to access the directory. She added that next year the email with instructions will be worded differently so that it, hopefully, will not get deleted or overlooked

Band Boosters: Thank you went out to Mr. Hood and Mr. Buckley for playing Santa at the sold out Tiny Tots performances. This was the largest turnout to date from the Madison Pyramid. There will be a Winter Concert on December 12.

Choral Boosters: The Chorus will hold its holiday concert on Thursday, December 13.

Orchestra Boosters: Orchestra hosted a pyramid concert on December 5 and a holiday concert on December 6. They will play at the school assembly on Friday, December 15. .

Drama: Student-directed One Acts rehearsals are underway. Performances will be in February.

Hospitality: Beth Eachus reported for Kebra Krol that hospitality was still in need of Potbelly gift cards to be used for meals for the Science Fair judges. Science Fair will be on February 7.

Food Pantry: Rossana Carney attended a meeting a Oakton High School to learn about their school's pantry. She announced that the new Madison Food Pantry would be distributing food before the holiday break. Donations are still needed. There is a Sign-up Genius on the PTSA tab of the Madison website. Food items can be dropped off in the front office.

XI. Old Business: No news to report.

XII. New Business: The next meeting will be on Monday, January 8, 2018

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.