

**Minutes of the James Madison High School PTSA  
Monday, October 14, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm.

**In attendance:** Greg Hood, Beth Eachus, Ellen MacGregor, Tarah Weaver, Sonya Marsden, Kebra Krol, Tim Thompson, Wendy Pearson, Robin Nguyen, Sarah Lundquist, Naomi Hutchins, Ann Kuhlkin, Maggie Foarde, Christopher Lande, Anjun Sikka, Carrie Dorsey, Malini Iyer, Emily Korff, Cathleen Wasilewski, Heba Singer

**I. Call to Order and Welcome – Beth Eachus**

Beth welcomed those in attendance and asked for everyone to introduce themselves.

**II. Approval of May PTSA Meeting Minutes – Beth Eachus**

Beth Eachus presented the September 2019 PTSA minutes. Beth asked if there was any feedback. No comments or changes were suggested. Ellen MacGregor made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Tarah Weaver seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

**III. School Bond Committee—Tim Thomas**

Mr. Thomas introduced himself. He was nominated by Pat Hynes. He provided information about school bonds on the next ballot, which is specifically a \$360 million of bonds in referendum. (See booklet—He said this information is unbiased and provides information.) JMHS construction is part of this referendum. There is \$5.5 billion inventory of buildings in FCPS that needs constant maintenance and upkeep. This \$360 million is for these upkeep efforts. These are yes or no votes, not specific for one school or another. Fairfax County has a AAA bond rating—only 16 counties in the US have this high a rating—so they get a very low percentage-borrowing rate. He suggested we vote for the bond as it impacts Madison and Louise Archer.

**IV. Principal Report and Student Services Report – Principal Greg Hood**

Mr. Hood met with the design construction team for the JMHS renovation, which is on track with no major changes. There is still a planned Nov 2020 -Jan 2021 starting point. The only slight change is that there may be a need for an additional modular—up to 8 classrooms outside. These would be placed where the 3 trailers are now as well as the adjacent parking lot. The bus loop will be smaller, and there will be much less parking. During the renovation, parking will be for seniors only on a first come, first serve basis. The main entrance will be smaller during construction. Buses will be the only traffic in front of the building. Kiss and ride will be at the back of the building.

JMHS is one of four schools in FCPS, where families can host Korean students for a weeklong program in January. Host families would host 2 students. Each school would have about 12 students, so JMHS is looking for 6 families. Students from JMHS may also potentially go to Korea. The cost would be \$1200.

Mr. Hood described a program where teachers will shadow a student for a day to get a perception of what it is like to be a student. Seven teachers shadowed students last year. Now all teachers will participate in the student “experience.” Mr. Hood shadowed a student last week.

The PSAT will be given to 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders on October 16. On that day, seniors will get sized for cap and gowns. Freshman will have a lesson and will see the documentary “Like,” and then have small group discussions. The PTSA will offer a screening of the documentary at our November meeting.

**V. Faculty Report – Ms. Maggie Foarde**

Maggie Foarde reported that Homecoming festivities went well. Students worked hard. She thanked the parents for all the support. There were 1200 tickets sold for the dance, and close to that number were in attendance. This is about 3 times as many as normally come. The upperclassmen were very influential in getting more kids there.

**VI. Student Government Report**

The Service Learning Unit will do a canned food drive. The faculty is trying to help the SGA students connect to the local Madison community for service opportunities.

Wellness week is in December and is supported by Student Services. Madison Minds Matter is also supported by Student Services.

The Winter Dance will take place the week before Valentine's Day and will include a spirit week in the week leading up to the Winter Dance.

Prom date is May 9<sup>th</sup> and will take place at State Theater in Falls Church.

### **VII. President's Report – Beth Eachus**

Beth noted that Jill Feeko with the Junior Volunteer League helped with the winter clothing drive in 2018 as a part of the effort for the Madison Food Pantry and provided 80 full sized bags of toiletries (40 for men and 40 for women). This was a donation of about \$700. Beth also noted that the PTSA received a \$1900 donation from the Church of the Good Shepherd for the JMHS pantry. Students who help with the pantry will receive service hours. Students from WAT get a chance to fill bags as a work skills standpoint. The pantry also partners with BRAWS for feminine products. There will be a **Winter Clothing Drive** again in 2019. The PTSA is collecting winter clothing donations in the front office. Madison HS will also have a Giving Tree near the holidays.

Ann Dolan did a webinar for preparation for college. It was successful. A link will be on the website.

On October 15, the PTSA will be hosting a presentation on Paying for College that will be held in the Auditorium. Rachel Bailey, who presented in the 2018-19 school year, will give her presentation in the spring of 2020. Lastly, the PTSA will also be screening the documentary "Like" to parents and students at our November meeting.

### **VIII. Treasurer's Report – Tarah Weaver**

Tarah reported that the audit report came back clean with very few recommendations for passwords, etc. There were simple issues to resolve. Membership is going very well. We've budgeted revenues to be \$30,700 and we are already at \$26,405.

Here are some of the statistics:

- 522 members
- \$15,237 donations
- \$10,085 membership
- \$1,325 academic boosters

The system/treasurer transition from Marcy to Tarah is going well.

### **IX. Committee Reports**

Hospitality – Kebra Krol noted that the next events for Hospitality are Fall Treats on 10/23 and Grab & Go breakfast on 12/4.

Ethics Day – Beth Eachus and Mr. Hood talked about Ethics Day. Beth said that Ethics Day will take place on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Participants will include the JMHS seniors. The Rotary Club leader this event with support from the Optimist Club. Please volunteer if you can. It is a fantastic opportunity for seniors. They felt it was a tremendous experience.

Academic Boosters – Ellen MacGregor noted that the last round of tests were full to capacity. The second round of mock testing will take place on 11/9 (SAT) and 11/16 (ACT). We will be offering "extended time" for this test for those with accommodations. Students at other schools can participate in JMHS mock testing but must go through our website. 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to take these practice exams, which are former SAT and ACT tests. The results are more similar to expected SAT/ACT results than the PSAT results to an SAT.

Parent Programs – The Webinar about when to take the ACT/SAT and how to choose which test to take went well. It went fast, but was a great idea to do as a webinar over lunchtime. We can have a follow up webinar if parents are interested. We might offer a chat so any questions can be answered even if they do not have a lot of time. On 10/15, there will be a program on paying for college. The PTSA will screen the documentary, Like, in November. The February 19 program will focus on Drugs and Vaping Prevention and Recovery. Lastly, there will be community information session provided at the Fire House about human trafficking. Our area is a prime spot for this activity.

Directory – Beth reported for Jennifer Thompson. The directory went live on Sept 24<sup>th</sup>. If parents did not receive access, they should contact Jennifer Thompson.

All Night Grad - Cathy Wasilewski reported that she and Linda Arick are the chairs for the 2020 All Night Grad. A committee chair meeting will take place next month. They need chair-people. If interested, parents can email the all night grad email. Graduation was moved to the evening. Oak Marr is scheduled to be our site. The Vienna Community Center is our backup.

Chorus – Vienna Choral Society will take place on Oct. 19. Tuesday, October 22, will be Mad Music Day. Also, there will be a Snowman Fundraiser on December 7. Those interested in helping with the fundraiser should attend an interest meeting on October 25.

Drama - Chris Lande reported that A Mid-Summer Night's Dream is the fall play. It will run Nov 14-16. Tickets will go on sale soon. The critics attend on Saturday. The spring musical will be How to Succeed in Business Without Even Trying. It will take place on the last two days of April and the first two days of May.

Band – JMHS won the Bands of America regional championship. A Virginia school has not won since 1978, so this is a big deal. The band is going to Indianapolis for the national championship

Orchestra – Sonya Marsden noted some upcoming events including Mad Music Day (Oct 22), the Snowman Concert (Dec 7), the JMHS pyramid concert (Dec 10), the JMHS winter concert (Dec 11). As a fundraiser, Orchestra will sell cookies this year rather than citrus.

Athletic Boosters - Some notable successes of JMHS athletics include the following:

- Golf Team won 2<sup>nd</sup> in region and 2<sup>nd</sup> in State.
- Girl's Cheer competition is 10/14 (Today)
- Field Hockey is doing great and beat a strong competitor, Westfield.
- Football is doing well. Their picture is in the sports section of the Post.

Winter sports tryouts will start on Nov 11. Also, today was the last day to sign up for the Mark McGinley Memorial Golf Tournament Fundraiser that will take place on October 21.

#### **X. New Business**

The last day to register to vote is 10/15.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.