

**Minutes of the James Madison High School PTSA
Monday, January 13, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

In attendance: Greg Hood, Tammy Peters, Tim Buckley, Elizabeth Dean, Beth Eachus, Ellen MacGregor, Tarah Weaver, Sarah Lundquist, Christopher Lande, Cathleen Wasilewski, Naomi Hutchins, Katrina Smart, Michael Kowal, Pascale Centola, Mary Ferrara, René Newman, Kebra Krol, Heba Singer, Sarah Español, Eileen Sciuto, Monica Ansel, Susan Kenney, Braden Holt, Ryan Halloran, Luke Kurcina

I. Call to Order and Welcome – Beth Eachus

Beth welcomed those in attendance.

II. Approval of November PTSA Meeting Minutes – Beth Eachus

Beth Eachus presented the November 2019 PTSA minutes. Beth asked if there was any feedback. No comments or edits were suggested. Katrina Smart made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Chris Lande seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

III. Principal's Report – Principal Greg Hood

Mr. Hood first announced that there were some changes to the All Night Grad Celebration. This was discussed in greater detail later in the meeting.

Mr. Hood introduced Instructional Coach Elizabeth Dean, who presented a video to showcase some of the things students have been experiencing through the Deeper Learning teaching strategy. For example, 10th graders did a project on "What Schools Could Be." Student interest is driving the pursuit of club status, and the students plan to work with Ted Dintersmith.

Mr. Hood also reported on the Senior WINGS program, which will kick off in February. It began 3 years ago with 18 participants and has grown to 290 seniors. Students can pursue an internship to learn a skill or occupation for the "real world," while also learning to write a resume and how to interview. He pointed out that JMHS can help make a match if a senior doesn't have a company or business in mind to partner with.

Mr. Hood announced that 2 students, Justin Hu and Anjali Sardana, were recently named as Regeneration Science Talent Search scholars.

Finally, Mr. Hood reported that a renovation update will be given at the February PTSA meeting but the projected start date is late fall 2020.

IV. Student Services Report – Tim Buckley

Mr. Buckley reported that academic advising is currently underway. This year students will enter their course requests through their SIS StudentVue; this must be complete by January 24. He noted that it's critical that they use course codes and not just titles to ensure correct interpretation. This step is followed by student/counselor meetings, which will take place over approximately 10 days.

Mr. Buckley reported that Junior College Planning Night is scheduled for Thursday 1/16. Admission reps from a variety of schools will serve on a panel to discuss a variety of college-related topics and the admissions process in general.

Mr. Buckley reported that Junior Focus Day is scheduled for Wednesday 1/29 during the school day. Parent volunteers are needed to assist. All juniors will select four sessions (of 20+ offered) to attend that will provide information on a wide variety of topics and programs, such as Understanding the Application Components, Military Options, and Gap Year/Service Learning. These sessions will be led by guest presenters and college admissions reps.

Finally, Mr. Buckley announced several new course offerings for the 2020-21 school year, including Animation, Forensic Science, Yoga, Peer Tutoring, Teachers for Tomorrow, and Capstone 2nd Level.

V. Faculty Report – Ms. Tammy Peters

Ms. Peters reported that Curriculum Night for rising 9th graders was held on 1/9. There was an info session, followed by an opportunity to visit various departments as well as learn about electives offerings. Ms. Peters also reported that math teachers will be meeting with current students next week to advise on math placement for next year.

VI. Student Government Report – Luke Kurcina

Luke Kurcina reported on behalf of the SGA that the recent canned food drive was a great success, netting more than 10,000 cans. The top class alone brought in 3,900 cans. The drive ended with a staff/student volleyball game.

Luke also reported that the Winter Dance is scheduled for Saturday 2/8. It will have a “Northern Lights” theme.

Finally, Luke reported that the SGA is in the process of talking with Mr. Hood about Deeper Learning and grading changes to work out some of the issues.

VII. President’s Report – Beth Eachus

Beth thanked Ellen MacGregor for chairing Academic Boosters and organizing our practice exams. She also chaired the Academic Awards assembly in November, where the achievements of hundreds of students were recognized.

Beth thanked Ethics Day chair Monica Cramer and all our volunteers who made it such a successful day for our seniors. Almost 400 students participated, and the Rotary Club was also involved.

Volunteers are needed to help with planning the All Night Grad (ANG) celebration, including a co-chair. Consider helping to make ANG 2020 a success!

Beth also announced the need for help with the Madison Science Fair to be held on 2/5. Volunteers, judges and donations are very much needed.

We are also seeking a co-chair for our Teacher and Staff Appreciation events. Please contact Kebra Krol for more information.

Beth thanked all those who picked up a "mitten" from our annual Madison Giving Tree. The students greatly appreciated the warm clothing and gifts.

Finally, Beth thanked all those who donated health and hygiene products for our Madison Pantry in December. The PTSA was excited to partner with Madison Athletic Boosters in this collection effort. Special thanks to Susan Kenney, Sarah Foote and Beth Grim for organizing this drive. And THANK YOU to all that donated food to the SGA food drive! Over 10,000 cans of food were donated and given to local pantries, including our own Madison Food Pantry. Finally, Beth extended thanks to the Church of the Good Shepherd on Hunter Mill Road for their very generous donation and support of the Madison Food Pantry.

VIII. Treasurer’s Report – Tarah Weaver

Tarah presented the budget, accurate as of December 31, 2019. Among the highlights: \$750 was paid for tax preparation; membership dues are still coming in; All Night Grad money is still coming in; donations, particularly for Madison Outreach, are already exceeding goals. Church of the Good Shepherd in Oakton has given the bulk of that money.

IX. Committee Reports – Beth Eachus and Committee Chairs

Academic Boosters: Ellen MacGregor stated that the next mock SAT and mock ACT are scheduled for 2/1 and 2/29, respectively. These are both regular time (not extended). For the tests held the last 2 weekends of March, extended time will be available for those who need it.

Food Pantry: Susan Kenney noted that they collected food at the varsity football banquet last Saturday. At the basketball game they collected \$200 and hygiene products.

All Night Grad: Cathy Wasilewski reported that there is a question on venue because of our graduation date changing – it appears that another group may have OakMarr booked. The committee will also look at Springhill or Vienna Community Center (which is already booked as a backup). The time of the event will be 11pm-5am despite the late time of graduation. Any changes will be publicized. A note for seniors: The end of February is the deadline for the lowest price. Cathy indicated that help is needed to replace graduating parents and also encouraged parents of younger students to sign up to help out. The question was asked whether we do or can have a standing “reservation.” This is not controlled by JMHS because it’s parent run, but the FCPS Activities Director also needs to be contacted...hence a lot of confusion.

Staff Appreciation and Hospitality: Kebra Krol reported that the science fair is scheduled for 2/5 and there is a SignupGenius for food donations for judges. After the fair the PTSA hosts a dinner for the science faculty. In that same week the Stars of JMHS staff appreciation event is planned for 2/7. This will be Oscars-themed and there will be some sort of treat. There is no formal SignupGenius but let Kebra know if you want to help.

X. New Business

There was no new business to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm.