

**Minutes of the James Madison High School PTSA
Monday, February 10, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.

In attendance: Liz Calvert, Tammy Peters, Ashley Anderson, Beth Eachus, Ellen MacGregor, Tarah Weaver, Sarah Lundquist, Sonya Marsden, Leslie Conroy, Elizabeth Copeland, Pam Styles, Donna O'Harren, Ann Kuhlkin, Tammy Dalakis, Teralyn Carlson, Cathy Wasilewski, Michael Kowal, Kebra Krol, Heba Singer, Sarah Español, Susan Kenney

I. Call to Order and Welcome – Beth Eachus

Beth welcomed those in attendance.

II. Approval of November PTSA Meeting Minutes – Sarah Lundquist for Sarah Helmicki

Beth Eachus presented the January 2020 PTSA minutes. Beth asked if there was any feedback. No comments or edits were suggested. Elizabeth Copeland made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Sonya Marsden seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

III. Principal's Report – Assistant Principal Liz Calvert for Principal Greg Hood

Mr. Hood is at a conference. Ms. Calvert reported that a student from Heritage HS passed away Friday. She was at Thoreau with students in our sophomore class. Counseling services are being made available to students.

The Athletic Boosters are celebrating many winter sports successes, including:

- Both boys' and girls' basketball are in 1st place in their conference
- Gymnastics won district championship
- Swim/dive regional competition – girls won 1st, boys won 3rd

Members of the design and construction crew for our renovation will attend our next PTSA meeting. We have preliminary plans and will tentatively begin construction in December 2020. The administration is trying to minimize disruption by starting to move things in advance.

Staff appreciated the Stars of JMHS treats.

It was brought up that parking will be an issue during construction. There will definitely be very limited student parking. One parent suggested a double-decker parking structure that could be used as a temporary measure. A public bus plan with the city was also suggested. Beth mentioned that currently the Elk Lodge is a model on how private entities can lease parking spots to students. It was also suggested that the Transportation Department will need to plan and adjust accordingly in order to avoid overcrowding since more students will be riding school buses. Perhaps there is a fun way to incentivize older students riding the bus?

IV. Student Services Report – Ashley Anderson for Tim Buckley

Mr. Buckley is at a conference. Ms. Anderson reported that academic advising has begun, using the new online process. After meeting with their counselor, students can no longer make changes online but can reach out to their counselor if changes are needed.

Mid-year grades for seniors have been sent out.

The department has organized monthly wellness days during Warhawk Time. Some examples of planned activities include mindfulness meditation, therapy dogs during lunch, board games, drawing, and open gym.

A Welcome Walkthrough was recently held, involving a small number of parents, students, and faculty. This was an opportunity to see how JMHS can be more welcoming to all – minorities, those with disabilities, etc. These families may not engage as much or feel included. For example, signage, communication with/from teachers, etc., could be improved. It was noted that the recent issue of "This Week at Madison" for the first time included Door Numbers as a guide. A parent mentioned that signage during construction will need to be improved and increased. Another parent mentioned Mrs. Otto's recent email with an invitation for WINGS partnership – an example of JMHS engaging the community.

Coming soon: Volunteers are needed to be AP proctors during the school day – their job is to escort students and make sure they're where they're supposed to be. One parent suggested that if your child is taking AP classes, it's important to help out when possible so these courses and exams can be offered.

V. Faculty Report –Tammy Peters

Ms. Peters reported that the staff loved the Stars of JMHS treats – bundt cakes and popcorn.

Science fair: 190 projects were reviewed and judged. Mr. Hazen sent thanks to parents (60 judges plus refreshments and Mediterranean dinner) – they couldn't have made it through the science fair without the PTSA!

PTSA also made a donation to a staff party due to a miscalculation. The PTSA has the discretion to spend up to \$300 on something school-related and chose to support the staff in this way.

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

VI. Student Government Report – Beth Eachus for Luke Kurcina

Parking – The students are concerned about parking with the upcoming construction and are looking for private options.

A successful Winter Dance was held 2/8 – approximately 500 students attended.

VII. President's Report – Beth Eachus

Beth thanked Kebra Krol and those who volunteered and donated food for the Science Fair and the Stars of JMHS event.

Beth read a warm note of thanks from a student who received winter clothing from the pantry. She stressed again with the Welcome Walkthrough that it's important everyone feels welcome.

Empower Me Pretty Inc. at Club Phoenix is holding a prom event at the Vienna Community Center on 3/28. There will be over 800 dresses and we want to make sure our students are aware of and have access to this event. Also available will be bra fittings, suits, accessories, cosmetics, and restaurant gift cards. The PTSA has decided not to hold a separate similar event and instead steer people toward this one.

VIII. Treasurer's Report – Tarah Weaver

Tarah stated that our budget is doing well. Membership is a little lower than expected, but we have exceeded our projected donations. The PTSA wants to hold a special vote to increase the Academic Awards and Development budget because of a timing issue at the end of last year.

A motion was made by Tarah Weaver to add \$5500 into Academic Awards and Development due to a timing issue last summer regarding prior year expenses. The motion was seconded by Sonja Marsden and passed.

IX. Committee Reports – Beth Eachus and Committee Chairs

Academic Boosters: Ellen MacGregor stated that the 3rd mock SAT was recently held. The next mock ACT will be on 2/29. This is regular time (not extended). For the tests to be held the last 2 weekends of March, extended time will be available for those who need it.

Parent Programs: Sonya Marsden gave information on upcoming parent programs:

- Drugs & Vaping – 2/19
- Stress – 3/4
- College Admissions – 4/16

MS High School Pantry and Outreach: Susan Kenney had no report. Beth noted that our pantry is doing great – we received numerous donations recently. As kids become more comfortable, it is used more often. All December clothing needs were met and we also partnered with CHO to help obtain bicycles.

All Night Grad: Cathy Wasilewski reported on ANG and talked about what it is – a safe place to celebrate after graduation. There has been a change of venue: This year we will use the VCC, especially Club Phoenix, instead of Oak Marr. Cathy and Sarah Español are surveying the VCC to determine how the facility will be used. There is now likely room to have a DJ and dancing, and more room for other activities.

Ticket sales are low so far but they expect that to pick up later. Yard signs are the main fundraisers – 75 have been sold so far. Letters will go out for area business donations – in kind, food, and money.

New chairs with younger kids are needed to take over planning for next year. A signup for help will come out later in the year.

Staff Appreciation and Hospitality: Kebra Krol thanked parents for donating food and gift cards for the events that were held. She gave a shout-out to Nothing Bundt Cakes for their huge discount for Stars of JMHS and their past support.

The next event will be the teacher/staff appreciation lunch on 4/22. She will send out a signup for food, help, cleanup, etc. Beth noted that Kebra will be rolling off and other parents are needed to run Staff Appreciation in future years.

Orchestra: Preassessment concert will be 3/5. The Great Wolf Lodge trip will be 3/26-27.

Band: Preassessment concert will be 3/11. The Disney parade trip will be 4/16-19.

Drama: One Act plays will run this weekend – consists of 6 shows in 2 separate sets. Cost is \$5 at the door and they are asking for donations for BRAWS.

International Night: Sonya Marsden reported that International Night will be held on 2/21. It consists of numerous cultural performances.

X. New Business

Some Board members are rolling off and a nominating committee is needed. Please contact Beth if you're interested in volunteering to serve on the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.