

**Minutes of the James Madison High School PTSA
Monday, March 9, 2020**

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

In attendance: Greg Hood, Timothy Buckley, Beth Eachus, Sarah Helmicki, Ellen MacGregor, Sonya Marsden, Tammy Peters, Kebra Krol, Pascale Centola, Robin Nguyen, Jennifer O'Beirne, Leslie Conroy, Angela Gutenson, Sarah Lundquist, Naomi Hutchins, Katrina Smart, Luke Kurcina, Chris Lande, Victoria Brombacher, Cheryl Cass, Michael Kowal, Rene Newman, Paul Sullivan, Rebecca Cade, Marie Ann Lefko, Barbara Kopka, Bill Emery, Eric Brunner, Jo Ann Weinhardt, Elizabeth Copeland, Gwen Riddle, Jon and Daphne Williamson, Shannon O'Harren, Christine Nell, Mary Ann Rashid, Mike Ferrara, Steve McDonough, Alison Roccia, Heather Fitzpatrick, James Moskowitz, Stacey Leimbach, Debra Steppel, Dara Dirth, Kathleen Sichenze, JP Kury, John Kane

I. Call to Order and Welcome – Beth Eachus

Beth welcomed those in attendance and suggested that the Presentation on Construction at Madison HS take place at the beginning of the meeting to accommodate those who particularly were interested in this discussion.

II. Presentation on Construction at Madison HS

Fairfax County building staff, architects, and the Madison Construction Manager presented to the PTSA regarding the upcoming construction project. The project has been in process/planning for 18-20 months. Currently, the project is in the permitting process. There are 2 primary areas within the building that will be under construction. Area "A" is around the current library/Administration office area. This section of the building will have 3 levels. After the renovation, Floor 1 will have a vestibule system for entry into the building, administrative offices, classrooms, workrooms, the AV studio, computer lab and computer graphics lab. Floor 2 will have more new classrooms, 2 biochem labs, conference space and storage. Floor 3 will house the library, a writing center, computer alcove, and small group collaborative areas. Library stacks will be on casters to allow for more flexible space.

Area "B" is around the current cafeteria. The cafeteria will remain on Floor 1 and will be expanded for more space. Also on Floor 1, will be a security office and workroom. Floor 2 of Area "B" will have more classrooms, the CAD room, the design/engineering lab and fabrication lab, as well as a workroom and storage.

Construction will last 18-20 months. The project may begin as early as Nov 2020. Plans indicate that the project should be completed by June/July 2022.

During construction, JMHS will have additional classrooms in 4-5 outdoor trailers, to accommodate classrooms that will be impacted during construction. With the addition of the trailers and construction space, it is anticipated that parking will be heavily impacted at the school.

The presenters offered to come back and present to the PTSA on a future occasion to answer additional questions and provide further detail as the plans become more solidified before the project begins.

III. Student Government Report

Luke Kurcina, Sophomore Class President, shared that the Winter Dance was a success in early February. The junior class is very busy planning for the junior/senior prom. The sophomore class is working on their primary fundraiser, Madison Monarchs. This event was formerly called Mr. Madison. It was a "pageant" for senior male students. Now the event will accept nominations from both genders in the senior class.

IV. Approval of May PTSA Meeting Minutes – Beth Eachus

Beth noted that the February 2020 PTSA minutes had been emailed and posted on the JMHS website. Beth asked if there was any feedback. No comments or changes were suggested. Sonya Marsden made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ellen MacGregor seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

V. Principal Report – Principal Greg Hood

Mr. Hood shared that FCPS had established a team that is working with the Health Department to come up with plans to handle the corona (COVID-19) virus within the school system. At this time, they have a link on the FCPS website which is updated regularly with new information as it is available. There is no set plan for closures at this time, but there has been planning for different scenarios depending on how the virus epidemic evolves in the area. In the meantime, JMHS has taken steps to more frequently clean desktops, chairs and doorknobs. Students

have had “public service” announcements to encourage all students to wash hands and take other precautions to protect themselves against the virus.

All international field trips/travel and exchange programs have been canceled by FCPS. Currently, trips within the continental US are still moving forward as planned. At this time, there are no plans to cancel large gatherings, such as sports events and concerts.

Graduation 2021 is now planned at DAR for June 1 in the morning. Graduation for the class of 2020 will take place at DAR for June 2 at 7pm.

Mr. Hood introduced Beth Blankenship who is working on the senior’s Wings program, which is the internship program for seniors who apply to participate in May over a two-week period. In it’s first year, 16 seniors participated in the Wings program. In the 2019-2020 school year, over 230 students have expressed an interest in the program. Students will have the opportunity to identify an internship, take advantage of mock interviews and work on a resume. Ms. Blankenship asked parents to consider hosting a student for their internship, conduct mock interviews or provide other mentoring for students during two workshops (March 25 and April 15), and attend the Exhibition of Experience that will take place after all internships are completed (May 26). If parents can participate and would like more information, they can contact Ms. Blankenship, Lynn Otto, Brianna Kodadek or Elizabeth Dean.

VI. Student Services – Timothy Buckley

Mr. Buckley noted that the next Wellness Day would take place on March 20. These events are planned monthly for students and have included activities such as yoga classes, visits from therapy dogs, and art/coloring workshops. The March 20 event will be a digital citizenship lesson in which students are asked to “technology down” for the day.

VII. Faculty Report – Ms. Tammy Peters

Ms. Peters noted that the teachers are looking forward to Teacher Appreciation week. In addition, teachers would appreciate more hand sanitizer or cleaning wipes for their classrooms if these are available from parents.

VIII. President’s Report – Beth Eachus

Beth thanked Sarah Lundquist who served as the substitute secretary for Sarah Helmicki who could not attend the January or February PTSA meetings.

Beth also noted that the request for additional donations for the JMHS pantry received a great response from the JMHS community. However, there are still some additional needs for the pantry if you would like to donate.

Lastly, Beth shared that the All Night Grad event will take place at the Vienna Community Center this year, rather than at Oak Marr where it was held for the class of 2019. The committee met at the Community Center to discuss logistics and planning.

IX. Treasurer’s Report

Tarah Weaver was unable to attend the PTSA meeting. The Treasurer’s report will be posted on the JMHS PTSA website.

X. Committee Reports

Academic Boosters – Ellen MacGregor noted that the final mock testing of the year would take place in March. The mock SAT will take place on 3/21 and the last mock ACT will take place on 3/28. We will be offering “extended time” for these tests for those with accommodations.

Hospitality – Kebra Krol noted that the teacher luncheon will take place on April 22, and a Grab & Go breakfast will take place on May 6. A sign up genius is available for the teacher luncheon if you would like to donate.

XI. New Business

Beth Eachus asked if anyone was interested in serving on the PTSA nominating committee. Sarah Helmicki will be one member of the committee. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Beth Eachus.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.