

**Minutes of the James Madison High School PTSA
Monday, May 18, 2020**

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

In attendance: Greg Hood, Timothy Buckley, Beth Eachus, Sarah Helmicki, Ellen MacGregor, Sonya Marsden, Tarah Weaver, Kebra Krol, Paul Sullivan, Katrina Smart, Christopher Lande, Shelly Koshuta, Holly DePaul, Angie Gutenson, Sarah Lundquist, Rene Newman, Kim Ellis, Ann Kuhlkin, Ackie Jones, Stacey Leimbach, Gwen Riddle, Abby Shannon, Joy Spafford, Leslie Conroy, Jane Miscavage, Naomi Hutchins, Monica Ansel, Michael Kowal, Alison Wilbricht, Michele Moss, Darleen Ham, Cathy Wasilewski, Elizabeth Copeland, Shannon Siefert, Robyn Nguyen, Stephanie Bollini, Kathleen Sichenze, Sarah Espanol, Sandy Pompelli, Pascale Centola, Sumei Wang, Kathryn Keller, Joy Spafford, Monica Cramer, Tom Kohler, Arn Kritsky, Jenny Thompson, Heba Singer, Pam Styles, Lori Ebert, Emily Korff

I. Call to Order and Welcome – Beth Eachus

Beth welcomed those in attendance and asked for participants to note their names in the chat box in Zoom.

II. Approval of April PTSA Meeting Minutes – Sarah Helmicki

Sarah noted that the April 2020 PTSA minutes had been 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. Darlene Ham seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

III. Principal Report – Principal Greg Hood

Mr. Hood shared some information about graduation for the Class of 2020. On June 2, the day that the seniors were supposed to graduate, there will be several events to recognize the seniors. Teachers can leave messages for seniors which seniors can access starting at 7am using the emailed link. The senior slideshow (15-20 minutes) will be released mid-day for seniors. A prerecorded video for Convocation will last about 1 hour with the Senior Class President delivering a message. This will also be the presentation of senior awards. Throughout the day, based on the students' last names, students can drive by to pick up their "senior bag" with their diploma, cords, cap and gown, a senior class hoodie as well as other items. At a later date, students will be asked to submit a 15 second video for a virtual graduation. The video will be released on June 30. There will be an opportunity for a photo op at some point with very strict guidelines for seniors and their families. There will be a "backdrop" and professional photographer from Lifetouch. Lastly, there is still an option for an actual graduation at some later date.

Mr. Hood suggested that a 1970 Madison alumnus, Tim Dintersmith, who created the Most Likely to Succeed documentary, will be the speaker for the class of 2020 graduation. He was the student speaker at his own graduation in 1970 and will do so again 50 years later. He has offered to throw a party for the seniors that will be similar to the All Night Grad that had to be canceled due to COVID-19.

At this time, Mr. Hood does not know when yearbooks will be distributed. Information is forthcoming from the company that produces these.

With respect to the 2020-21 school year, Mr. Hood noted that Dr. Brabrand will have a decision in June. There is an Education Task force that is establishing "gating criteria" to determine whether students can return to school.

IV. Student Services – Timothy Buckley

Mr. Buckley noted that he has spoken to multiple admissions representatives from many colleges and since all high schools have had interrupted school in the spring, not just within FCPS, this will be noted for admissions for rising seniors. If FCPS cannot have "standard" school in the 2020-21 school year, other states will be in the same position, especially in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. Many schools have become test optional for admissions for 2021, including many schools in Virginia. However, JMHS plans to offer more test dates for the SAT. In addition, the common app will add a question/section on COVID-19, so that students can tell their stories. Applications will look much different in the coming school year.

Mr. Buckley reminded parents that seniors must complete their senior survey. This survey is typically given to students in school and is used to determine where to send final transcripts (e.g., schools, scholarship organizations, etc.) For those students who have not finalized their plans, their transcripts can be sent to multiple schools.

Also, if students need to change where their final transcript goes, they should reach out to their counselor during June. After that, they should reach out directly to Mr. Buckley. Lastly, with respect to the senior survey, the data from seniors indicating accept/deny/waitlist from different schools to which they applied will be input into the Naviance graphs for future grades.

Mr. Buckley indicated that underclassmen should review their courses for next year. Lastly, Mr. Buckley noted that he hoped that seniors can hold on to their school Google accounts longer in order to access their files. FCPS is considering different options for this.

V. Faculty Report

The faculty thanked the PTSA for the distribution of the JMHS facemasks. Teachers found these very helpful, especially during pick up/distribution/collection of items from students. Sonya Marsden reminded parents that they can nominate faculty for the III awards that are given every year by the PTSA. Links to nomination forms are on Facebook and Twitter.

VI. Student Government Report

There was no Student Government Report in the meeting.

VII. President's Report – Beth Eachus

Beth thanked Kebra Krol for her idea to provide the JMHS masks to teachers for Teacher Appreciation. They were purchased from a local company with the goal of supporting our teachers as best as possible during COVID-19. It is possible that some remaining masks will be donated to students who need them or sold as a fundraiser.

In addition, Beth reiterated the III award nominations and said that there would be gift card raffles for teachers that would be to local businesses.

VIII. Treasurer's Report – Tarah Weaver

Tarah Weaver explained that the budget could be found on the website. She also presented some changes that are needed for the budget:

1. Teacher and Staff Appreciation needs to increase by \$800 to cover the facemasks. This money will be transferred from the Faculty Recognition budget.
2. Parent Programs needs to increase by \$350 to cover additional online parent programs that were offered.
3. Since over \$8000 was donated to the JMHS Pantry for students who are food insecure, moneys need to be shifted so that funds donated for Pantry use are restricted for that purpose only.
4. Allocated money in the Principal's Fund needs to be frozen so that funds donated by the PTSA for continuing education conferences can be used in 2021 since these have been canceled in 2020.

Michael Lande made a motion to approve these changes. Sonya Marsden seconded. The budget changes were approved as recommended.

IX. Committee Reports

JMHS Pantry and Outreach – As a follow up regarding the donations to the JMHS Pantry, it was noted that many families in need have received grocery gift cards and delivery of fresh groceries as a result of pantry donations. Also, many local businesses, including Caboose Commons, Chick-fil-a, and 29 Diner have generously contributed to families in need.

All Night Grad – Cathy Wasilewski reported that the ANG committee had canceled the June 2 event. Students will be refunded. Red ribbons were purchased and cut for graduates to tie on their mailbox/lamp post to signify that a JMHS senior lives in the home. There will also be a banner across Maple Ave. The Town of Vienna waived the fee to hang it. Also, ANG plans to raffle gift cards that would have been raffled at the event, and the ANG committee plans to give students gift cards in their Senior Bags that will be distributed on June 2. Much of the financing of the ANG activities was provided by sales of Class of 2020 yard signs. Approximately 300 were sold.

PTSA Scholarships and Faculty III Awards - 28 students applied for the PTSA scholarship. In addition 24 nominations have been submitted for the faculty III awards. Please feel free to submit additional nominations for the III.

Baccalaureate – Sylvia Martin Estes is in charge of Baccalaureate. In this multi-faith service, faith leaders and student speakers will be featured in a video that will be available for members of the senior class.

Hospitality – Kebra Krol has “retired” as committee chair of the Hospitality committee after 6 years. Beth thanked her for all of her service to the school and especially to the teachers.

Academic Boosters – Ellen MacGregor noted that virtual mock testing will be offered as a replacement to the mock testing that was canceled due to COVID-19.

X. New Business

Beth Eachus introduced the Nominating Committee for the PTSA slate for the 2020-2021 school year, Elizabeth Copeland (Chair), Sarah Helmicki, and Shelly Koshuta. Elizabeth presented the proposed slate. There were no additional nominations. The proposed slate stands:

President: Christopher Lande
Vice President 1: Sonya Marsden
Vice President 2: Beth Eachus
Treasurer: Tarah Weaver
Secretary: Sarah Lundquist

Cathy Wasilewski made a motion to accept the PTSA slate as presented. Shannon Sieff seconded. The slate was approved by a majority vote.

Beth noted that the PTSA bylaws are expiring in the spring. Given COVID-19, we can continue to use the bylaws as written. A bylaws committee to review the existing bylaws was created. It consists of Christopher Lande, Angie Gutenson, Elizabeth Copeland and Beth Eachus.

Monica Ansel made a motion to approve the bylaws committee. Ellen MacGregor second. The committee was approved by a majority vote.

Beth requested that if any person wanted to volunteer for the 2020 Audit, to please reach out to her.

At the end of the meeting, Beth recognized the many volunteers who will be “graduating” in 2020. These included Kebra Krol (Hospitality), Cathy Wasilewski (All Night Grad), Ann Kuhlkin (Liaison to Fairfax County PTSA and Loyalty Rewards Program), Shannon Sieff (All Night Grad), Jenny Thompson (Directory), Monica Ansel (Hospitality and Vice President), and Ellen MacGregor (Vice President). She thanked everyone for their many years of service to the school and PTSA. Mr. Hood added that he appreciated all that the parents have contributed to the school, in particular for the support for the staff. He thanked Beth for her service as President of the PTSA.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.