Minutes of the James Madison High School PTSA Tuesday, October 13, 2020

The meeting was called to order over Zoom at 6:01 pm.

In attendance: Timothy Buckley, Greg Hood, Tammy Peters, Alene Kelsey Metcalf, Alison Jones, Amy Martin, Angie Gutenson, Anne Olufunke Asaolu, Beth Eachus, Braden Holt, Carrie Dorsey, Cecili Thompson Williams, Chaowei Yang, Chris Lande, Christine Nell, David Nielsen, Debra Steppel, Delia Troy, Donna O'Harren, Elizabeth Terry-Humen, Emily Korff, Gaynita Williams, Heather Ireland, Heather Rosen, Heba Singer, Jane Miscavage, Jennifer O'Beirne, Kelly Schuette, Kelly Stratman, Laura Benabaye, Laura Plante, Leslie Conroy, Linda Khan, Linh Hoang-Braley, Liza Uchitel, Luke Kurcina, Malini Iyer, Mara Gecan, Maribel Langas Miller, Mary Ann Rashid, Michele Dandrea Lowell, Michelle Boback, Naama Yager Ende, Naomi Hutchins, Pascale Centola, Piper Boatwright, Ravi Myneni, Rebecca Johnson Zara, Rene Taylor Newman, Rita Monner, Robin Worrell, Robyn Nguyen, Sandy Pompelli, Sarah Espanol, Sarah Helmicki, Sarah Lundquist, Shelly Koshuta, Sonya Marsden, Stephanie Brennan, Tammy Dalakis, Tarah Weaver, Urvi Desai, Vincent Nurmi

I. Call to Order and Welcome – Chris Lande

Chris welcomed those in attendance and asked for participants to note their names in the chat box in Zoom if it is different from their Zoom participant name. He noted that the meeting is being recorded to be posted on the JMHS website. Students are here too! The parent program is at 7:00 on college funding. You need to be a PTSA member in order to approve bylaws, minutes, etc. Please join!

II. Approval of September PTSA Meeting Minutes – Sarah Lundquist

Sarah noted that the September 2020 PTSA minutes had been posted on the JMHS website for review. Chris asked for any feedback; no comments or changes were suggested. Beth Eachus made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Heather Ireland seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

III. Principal Report – Principal Greg Hood

Mr. Hood gave the following updates:

Things are moving with virtual learning as expected – there have been successes and challenges. Nothing will ever be the same as being in school. Teachers are learning a lot about what they have to do, students are learning they have to do more, and they are shy. Please encourage students to participate.

Early release days still exist; the schedule is posted to the website. On those days students will go through 75minute periods 2, 6, and 8, and end with lunch.

Care & Connect – similar to Warhawk Time. There are social/emotional lessons on Wednesdays, and Friday includes a survey for them to plan out their next week, including plans to attend office hours. That survey is their Monday attendance.

The Return to School plan as relates to JMHS: There are 8 groups, the first 5 are small cohorts, then a hybrid model. The first students just started at FCPS academies. On October 26 a small group with disabilities will return (T-F) and some English Language Learners will return (3 hours on M). Combined this is maybe 15 students total. Safety protocols will be in place. In late November ELL will add more time, then K-3, then 4-6, then secondary students Feb 1/2nd semester. Would most likely be 2 days/2 days (in person 50% of the time, swap with other half) – all the details not worked out.

Athletics: Conditioning is happening for various sports every day. JMHS follows the rules set by VHSL for anything outside the building. The order of the 3 athletics seasons is swapped (Winter, Fall, Spring).

IV. Student Services – Timothy Buckley

Mr. Buckley reminded the group that 10/29 is the junior PSAT day in the building; more than 400 juniors have signed up – the day is asynchronous for everyone not signed up. This is because faculty will be assisting with the testing.

End of quarter is an early release day – 4th period is eliminated so nothing big is missed. November 2-3 are teacher workday/school planning days.

FCPS is working on a virtual background for BBCU so students might feel more comfortable turning their cameras on.

V. Faculty Report – Tammy Peters

Ms. Peters welcomed everyone. The teachers appreciated the welcome and support at school on SAT day. Teachers are feeling overwhelmed just like parents!

VI. Student Government Report

Braden Holt, the new exec board president announced the new SGA reps: Piper – freshman, Kevin – sophomore, Luke – junior, Vincent – senior. The SGA is focusing on 5 initiatives:

Wellness – healthy habits of students and teachers

Strengthening the voice between students, parents, community, teachers – using many polls, making emails more accessible

Community connection – clubs, activities

Equity and inclusion

Activities and athletics - band, dance, clubs, etc.

SGA will have a canned food drive in November – there will be a box outside the school. Follow the SGA on Twitter and Instagram. They thanked parents and teachers for all they are doing.

Vincent announced the senior breakfast on October 26; they are working on approvals for various details.

VII. President's Report – Christopher Lande

Chris was happy to see so many people even at an early time. Zoom meetings mean people don't have to drive to a meeting.

We are still looking for some positions to be filled – Kilmer liaison, Baccalaureate Committee, Loyalty Rewards program (Amazon Smile and Harris Teeter). Let him know if you're interested. Today is Amazon Prime Day – link your account to James Madison High PTA!

VIII. Treasurer's Report – Tarah Weaver

Our tax return was electronically filed today. The budget we viewed is as of September 30. We are halfway to our dues goal. We are more than halfway to budgeted donations, including academic donations. Several categories have no activity right now. We have also paid our insurance. The Madison Pantry got \$487 in Sep/Oct.

IX. Committee Reports

<u>Academic Boosters</u> – Beth Eachus reported that we are offering mock tests – SAT 10/24 and ACT 11/7 – \$15 for each test, and up to 125 students can take each test. These tests are a fundraiser for academic awards and teacher development. They will be a virtual test but live with a proctor. Students will receive a detailed report and an optional free consultation is available. This is a good way to stand out even when some schools are going test optional.

<u>JMHS Pantry and Outreach</u> – Beth Eachus reported that we are providing bags of food to students and families. We will support a coat drive this winter – look for emails; we are working out the logistics. There is still an Amazon Wish List in place people can shop from to donate. Thanks to all who donated school supplies.

Parent Programs - Sonya Marsden

Tonight's presentation is on college funding. We are thinking about showing Angst – want to get parent feedback. It's about anxiety, includes interviews with teens and experts. Parents/students would be provided a link and have

48 hours to watch. At a later date counselors would be available to answer questions. We want to help relieve anxiety but it's \$650 for only 100 viewers, about half our program budget. There will be info on the PTSA website.

Mr. Buckley recommended offering the movie, and Mr. Hood said this model might work better, with people attending remotely.

<u>Staff Appreciation/Hospitality</u> – Angie Gutenson reported that the travel mugs arrived today if they weren't mailed to teachers. Some will come by school to pick up. A nice notecard included has a photo of the Heroes Work Here sign that was put up on SAT day. We are pivoting!

Linda Khan is organizing parents to do something for seniors, how to make this year special. They are coordinating logistics and figuring out what's allowed. If you have ideas, please let her know. Mr. Hood announced the October 26 celebration with a drive-through senior breakfast, cap and gown pickup, music, etc.

X. New Business

Alene Kelsey Metcalf was thanked for putting the school directory together. Alene reminded people to check their info so it is accurate.

XI. Old Business

As was brought up at the September meeting, we are required to revise the PTSA bylaws every 5 years, based on a template from VA PTA. This was done since the May meeting; very minor changes were made. Beth Eachus made a motion to approve the revised bylaws; Sonya Marsden seconded. The revised bylaws were approved as presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

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