

**Minutes of the James Madison High School PTSA
Monday, December 14, 2020**

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

In attendance: Timothy Buckley, Greg Hood, Tammy Peters, Alecia Pflughardt, Alene Kelsey Metcalf, Andrea Kowal, Andrea Kramer, Becky Kong, Beth Eachus, Choonghoon Hyun, Chris Lande, Christine Nell, Cindy Weinberg, Debra Steppel, Emily Korff, Gail Kelsey, Gwen Riddle, Heather Ireland, Heba Singer, Janine Schraml, Jaysankar Iyer, Jeannette Townsend, Jennifer O'Beirne, Joceline Nahigian, Leslie Conroy, Linda Khan, Louis Sichenze, Mary Ann Rashid, Naomi Hutchins, Pam Konde, Pascale Centola, Ravi Myneni, Rene Taylor Newman, Rick Smart, Robyn Nguyen, Salim Abboud, Sarah Espanol, Sarah Lundquist, Shelly Koshuta, Sonya Marsden, Tarah Weaver

I. Call to Order and Welcome – Chris Lande

Chris thanked everyone for attending and reminded viewers that only members of the PTSA may vote on PTSA matters.

II. Approval of November PTSA Meeting Minutes – Sarah Lundquist

Sarah noted that the November 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; Andrea Kramer seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

III. Principal Report – Principal Greg Hood

Mr. Hood gave the following updates:

We have had small groups, including a pilot group in school – those teachers presented today. The biggest thing learned: Students appreciate being back with people. ESOL and students with disabilities have also been back, but health metrics are going in wrong direction. Group 3 stopped this past weekend so there are no students in the building right now. Students have been pretty good most of the time – everyone is still masked as well as other precautions – but the 6-foot rule is hard to follow!

The athletics program is currently on – there are students practicing in the building with mitigation strategies. Up to now, metrics have been measured by 1) number of cases per 100,000 and 2) percent positive over the past 14 days. A third metric has been introduced, related to mitigation strategies: consistent use of mask, hygiene, distancing, disinfecting, contact tracing, etc. If all that goes well, students could actually go back despite other metrics not looking so good. We are waiting to see what that will look like.

The current plan to return is January 26 for freshmen and seniors, February 2 for sophomores and juniors. This offset gives us time to work with new 9th graders who haven't even been in the building. About 70% of students want to come back in person. Two groups split in half means about 800 students in the building on each day.

To assist those teachers who are working virtually because of their risk, FCPS is hiring monitors – 700+ are needed countywide. About 4 have been hired at JMHS so far. Another challenge: Splitting in half by alphabet could mean different things for different classes – one class could have 6 while another could have 18.

The library is already moved so we lost that space but we are trying to find any space we can to use to spread out.

FCPS has done a study on grades – Madison is similar to others, with a small increase in As, but overall more students are earning Fs than a year ago. Look for the county to make widespread changes to help. We have tried to make grading more consistent but other schools will need to change. Teachers have been good about accepting late work; they may need to reexamine the weight of assignments, but are trying to break things down into small pieces. Final exams might be more flexible – it might be that they can only improve a student's grade.

We are advocating to the College Board to focus on essential standards – we don't have the same instruction time to cover the same amount of material. We are trying to take more interventions with failing students.

Liz Calvert, one of our Assistant Principals, who has been filling in at Marshall Road ES as principal, will be returning to JMHS on January 11.

Construction just went to bid for a contractor. Work should begin in March; classrooms and library have already moved so we'll be ready to start work right away. We are losing a lot of parking, with 10 trailers in back and construction will take spots in front by the library. It is possible that not all 11th and 12th will be able to park. No fee will be charged but they will have to register.

IV. Student Services – Timothy Buckley

Mr. Buckley gave the following updates:

We are entering the Academic Advising season. Things will look different: There will be different curriculum nights for each grade, as well as an Electives Fair and an AP Panel night. In the second week of January, students will get an Academic Advising lesson and attend the Electives Fair. Teachers and administrators will be available to answer questions. Your student's current teacher is the best source to help determine what to take next.

A survey was recently sent regarding students scheduled to return in person. 1670 are returning but several hundred families haven't yet returned the survey. It covers intention to return, and transportation and food needs. Please turn in the survey so we don't have to change rooms around unnecessarily. The bus info is especially important.

V. Faculty Report – Tammy Peters

Mrs. Peters reminded everyone about the new rolling gradebook: All 4 quarters are continually being averaged together instead of starting fresh each time. If your student is in the F category right now, realize that it takes some time to climb out of that. Be patient and don't get frustrated or give up. Know that teachers are willing to try to work with you.

VI. Student Government Report

No SGA members were present; Beth Eachus announced that today was the last day for the SGA canned food drive. The drive replenished the Madison Pantry and also benefitted Food for Others.

VII. President's Report – Christopher Lande

Chris thanked members for their support. We've had a better response this year than expected, even though it's a hard year and people have so many concerns. Thanks for being involved.

VIII. Treasurer's Report – Tarah Weaver

Despite the tough year, membership has been steady and still coming. We are not far behind where we were last year. Donations have been generous. Academic Boosters have received donations and there has been test revenue, with more coming up. Expenses are low because we can't do as much as we'd like for teachers, but we will save that money to apply next year. Administrative expenses have increased because we're online more but they are still relatively low. The pantry continues to get a lot of cash and donations.

IX. Committee Reports

Academic Boosters – Beth Eachus reported that practice SAT and ACT test were held in October and December, and more are coming in January and February. Not as many kids taking but there are great benefits, like a free consultation with an advisor.

Awards – We might do a drive-through, but some schools are pushing to spring. We will definitely honor those students.

Athletic Boosters – Chris Lande reported that a pop-up store with JMHS swag was held today with new items. Revenues are down because there are no food sales, so this is their main fundraising. Naomi Hutchins announced another fundraiser: a yard sign designed by a JMHS student so students feel they are part of something and we can show support for students and teachers. The signs will be available on MySchoolBucks – \$15 or \$25 for 2. There are Senior signs and Warhawk signs – it's meant to be inclusive. The signs will be available at a later date via a contact-free distribution.

JMHS Pantry and Outreach – Beth Eachus reported that an event was held on November 21 to distribute to families in need in our community: Thousands of pounds of food, supplies, books, etc., went home with families. Huge thanks to the staff who helped facilitate this effort.

Today was the date to turn in gifts for the Giving Tree. Ms. Slingerland spoke to many students and got a little bio (maintaining privacy) so donors knew who they were helping.

A former parent recently gave a check for \$3500 to get discounted grocery gift cards to families; another parent held a food drive to get Thanksgiving dinners to families in need.

Beth also thanked 1) CHO (Committee for Helping Others) for their help getting bicycles for students who need them for work; 2) BRAWS, who helped get supplies that were donated at the November 21 event; and 3) the Elks Lodge next door gave turkeys and bags of food for Thanksgiving.

Thanks to all who have helped in so many ways – it's amazing to have such an outpouring of support from the community.

Parent Programs – Sonya Marsden had no updates but she strongly encouraged parents to check out all the free programs offered by The College Funding Coach, Applerouth, etc. There is great information available!

All Night Grad – Sarah Espanol had no report except that the seniors will design a different ANG grad sign to be sold, maybe in March.

X. New Business

Mr. Hood said that there will be no spectators at games at present, but we hope to be able to live stream events. Please subscribe to our YouTube channel – Warhawk Nation Live – because we can live stream if we hit 1000 subscribers.

XI. Old Business

There was no old business.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

November 2020 Treasurers Report							
PTSA Budget for 2020-2021				As of November 30, 2020			
			19-20 Budget	19-20 YTD Actuals	20-21 Budget	20-21 YTD Actuals	Comments
PTSA Revenues							
	Membership Dues - incl. Natl, State & Cnty	\$	12,000	10,555	8,000	7,683	
	less: dues paid to National, State, County		-2,600	-2,168	-1,800	0	
	less: membership drive expense		-300		-300		
	Membership , net		9,100	8,387	5,900	7,683	
	Donations		10,000	15,500	7,500	9,085	
	Academic Booster Donations		3,000	3,047	2,000	1,372	
	Practice Exams		8,500	12,464	5,000	924	
	Miscellaneous - Amazon Smiles and Other		100		100		
	Total Revenues, net of direct expenses		30,700	39,398	20,500	19,065	
PTSA Support and Advancement Program Expenses							
	Academic Awards and Staff Development	\$	14,000	7,512	8,000	0	
	Triple I Awards and Ceremony		2,300	2,750	2,300	0	
	PTSA Senior Scholarships		4,000	4,000	4,000	0	
	Flight School Supplement		2,000		2,000		
	Parenting Programs		1,000	698	1,500	0	
	Teacher and Staff Appreciation		5,500	6,571	6,000	1,827	
	Faculty Recognition		2,000	560	1,000	0	
	Science Fair Dinner		500	366	500	0	
	Student Activity Grants/ Mentoring		2,000	2,000	2,000	0	
	Baccalaureate/Convocation		1,200	450	1,200	0	
	Directories		1,000	750	1,000	0	
	Special Projects		2,000	630	1,000	0	
	Special Education outreach		1,500	429	1,000	0	
	Minority Achievement		1,000	1,000	1,000	0	
	Ethics Day		500		500		
	Principal's Fund		2,500		2,000		
			43,000	27,717	35,000	1,827	
PTSA Administrative Expenses							
	Insurance	\$	350	343	350	343	
	Supplies & Postage		200	112	200	77	
	Website and On-line Accounting software		1,000	1,087	1,100	725	
	Tax preparation		750	750	750	750	
	e-commerce fees/bank fees		500		500		
			2,800	2,292	2,900	1,895	
	Total Expenses (not including Pantry)	\$	45,800	30,009	37,900	3,722	
Madison Pantry and Outreach Expenses							
			1,000	8,158	6,500	50	
	less: Madison Outreach Donations		-1,000	-22,860	-6,500	-1,976	
			0	-14,702	0	-1,926	
	Net Income		-15,100	24,092	-17,400	17,269	
	Beginning Cash Balance		37,110	37,110	61,202	61,202	
	Ending Cash Balance	\$	22,010	61,202	43,802	78,471	
All-Night Graduation - Summary - Cash Basis							
	Net Income (loss)						
	Beginning Cash Balance		15,701	15,701	10,671	10,671	
	ANG Income		25,000	11,515	25,000	652	
	ANG Expenses		27,000	16,545	27,000	0	
	Ending Cash Balance	\$	13,701	10,671	8,671	11,323	