

**Minutes of the James Madison High School PTSA  
Monday, March 8, 2021**

The meeting was called to order over Zoom at 7:02 pm.

**In attendance:** Greg Hood, Tammy Peters, Timothy Buckley; Abby Shannon, Adam Shayne, Alicia Butler-McGuire, Alison Geib, Andrea Kramer, Andrew Neff, Angela Gutenson, Barbara Pak, Becky Kong, Beth Eachus, Braden Holt, Catherine Feather, Cheryl Cass, Chris Lande, Christine Barilla Nell, Cindy Weinberg, David O'Malley, Deborah Gladstone, Debra Steppel, Delia Troy, Elizabeth Terry-Humen, Emily Korff, Eugenia Jacobson, Gayle Balba, Gaynita Williams, Gwen Riddle, Heather Ireland, Heather Rosen, Heba Singer, Janine Bruhn, Jennifer O'Beirne, Kathleen Sichenze, Katie Geiser-Bush, Kelly Breedlove, Kelly Stratman, Kim Jennissen, Leslie Conroy, Leslie Schoeberlein, Lillian Huang, Linda Khan, Lisa Graves-Shaw, Lisa Sylvia, Liza Uchitel, Luke Kurcina, Maha Giavis, Malini Iyer, Mara Gecan, Mehru Adnan, Michele Boback, Naama Ende, Naomi Hutchins, Neal Sikka, Pam Johnstone, Ravi Myneni, Rene Taylor Newman, Rita Monner, Robyn Oskuie, Sarah Espanol, Sarah Lundquist, Sonya Marsden, Stacey Leimbach, Stecia Lansdell, Sumei Wang, Susan Petrovich, Tamara Redmon, Waseem Ahmad

**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 February PTSA Meeting Minutes – Sarah Lundquist**

Chris noted that the February 2021 PTSA minutes had been posted on the JMHS website for review. Chris asked for any feedback; Sarah noted that one parent had informed her they were wrongly listed as having been in attendance. No other corrections were made. Andrea Kramer made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Beth Eachus seconded. The minutes were approved as written with one attendee removed.

**III. Principal's Report – Principal Greg Hood**

Mr. Hood welcomed everyone and reported that this week 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders started back. There were about 295 students in school each day, which is about what was expected. It was wonderful to have them back, and a great success. There will be about 600 more starting this week.

Graduation: 5 schools typically use DAR; most schools use GMU. We thought we would be moved to Eagle Bank (GMU) for more space but it would move our date all the way from June 1-2 to June 14-15. Most recent news: Eagle Bank might be a vaccination center so perhaps nobody can use it. As there are really no other viable spaces in the area, there will most likely be something at Madison, perhaps in the stadium. The governor will possibly increase the number of spectators for outdoor events, which will guide our planning, whether we have 2 ceremonies, how many guests can attend, etc. We should know more soon but we WILL have some sort of graduation.

SGA elections were recently held. This year has shown what our students are capable of; they have been wonderful. SGA members have been contributing around the county in addition to Madison. We are looking forward to more great leadership.

**IV. Student Services Report – Timothy Buckley**

Mr. Buckley gave the following updates:

Assessments: The SAT will be held in the building this Saturday for students who signed up a few months ago. The PSAT will be offered on Monday, April 19 as an option for all 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

AP exams: The county is making a plan and sending out official notice this week. Some AP exams will be virtual (time windows would be either 12-4 or 4-8) and some will be in person. This will be determined on a test-by-test basis – it's not a choice that students get to make. Look for a survey sent to students this week to confirm what APs they are in and whether they want to take the test or opt out. Then we can plan for what's needed for space, etc. You do not need to pay up front this year so the student can opt out up to the last minute.

SOLs will be in play but there aren't as many this year – we are limiting what we can. There are now only 5 SOLs required for graduation – Reading, Writing, 1 math, 1 science, 1 history. APs will be overlapping so Mondays will

be used for SOLs in May. SOLs can be postponed until next year if your student is not comfortable coming into the building. All Social Studies classes that would have had an SOL will a PBL assessment this year instead.

#### **V. Faculty Report – Tammy Peters**

As the issue of students cheating had just been raised by a parent, Mrs. Peters said that the teachers are aware of tricks students can use, especially when working from home. The teachers are so happy to be back in the building and seeing students, putting a face to the name. The PTSA-sponsored lunch was great – one of the best meals ever. It was a great surprise, and they appreciate the donations!

#### **VI. Student Government Report – Braden Holt**

Braden thanked the PTSA for working together. There is a committee working to decorate the LOVE sign in Vienna soon. The All Night Grad committee helped with the February SGA event and will help in March – a celebration and spirit week from the 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a county fair before the Marshall football game, which is Senior Night. They are working to project the game at school so everyone can watch.

A talent show is being planned countywide – more info to come.

Prom: The SGA can confidently say there will be a prom; they are investigating a few different possibilities.

The new president, Luke Kurcina, said he is chairing the Warhawk Voice committee to connect students and teachers – how are they doing, how can we help? They might have virtual suggestion boxes and encourage teachers to provide feedback so we can make changes and work out problems. Please feel free to reach out to the SGA with any thoughts.

#### **VII. President's Report – Christopher Lande**

Chris reported that Baccalaureate didn't really happen as usual last year, and we don't have anyone who has stepped up to chair this year. Please let him know if you're interested in helping. Also, please pay attention to the many emails, websites, etc., coming out – this includes messages from the governor, county, health department, etc.

#### **VIII. Treasurer's Report – Tarah Weaver**

Our budget is in pretty good shape and can be found on the website.

#### **IX. Committee Reports**

Academic Awards – Beth Eachus announced that JMHS will hold an online awards assembly similar to what the National Honor Society did recently. March 22 is the target date and it will be recorded.

Academic Boosters – Beth Eachus announced that there will be a Mock SAT on Saturday, April 10 and a Mock ACT on Saturday, April 24.

Staff Appreciation – Angie Gutenson reported that the staff lunch on Friday, February 26 was very successful. Several restaurants donated food via One Neighborhood Foundation: Momo House, Bazin's, Maggio's, Maple Avenue Restaurant, and Nothing Bundt Cakes. Please support them to show your appreciation! There will also be a gift card raffle every Friday for teachers; these are donated by parents. More information on donating can be found on the PTSA website.

Athletic Boosters – There is no new report but please support the Boosters and visit their website via the PTSA website.

Parent Programs – Sonya Marsden announced there will be another parent program on Planning for College Admissions after Spring Break. Previous program recordings are on the PTSA website.

JMHS Pantry and Outreach – Beth Eachus thanked those supporting the pantry. There will be a big event on March 20 as they hope to provide more than the usual bags of food for Spring Break. An alum parent has made a large ongoing donation to help families in need. You can drop food at school as well as giving through the Amazon wish list.

## **X. New Business**

Virginia PTA – Beth Eachus announced that the Virginia PTA is holding its 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting this month. JMHS will send a few representatives to this virtual meeting. Some of the resolutions that the membership will vote on include 1) restraint and seclusion and 2) Special Education funding, services, training, and oversight.

Adopt a Senior – Robyn Oskuie announced that she wanted to find a way for the community to support the seniors and make them feel seen. She has created a private Facebook group where senior bios and pictures are available so people can adopt a senior. There is more information on the PTSA website; please reach out if you want to participate.

## **XI. Old Business**

All Night Grad – Sarah Espanol said they don't know a lot yet about what will happen but they will definitely be following news and updates closely to see what is allowed. Thanks to all who have cooperated and assisted so far. Some parents brought balloons and decorations for the return to school this week. Senior celebrations have been combined with ANG.

In closing, Chris mentioned that it's time to start thinking about the PTSA Board for next year and asked people to consider positions. If you are interested or you want to be on the Nominating Committee, please let him know.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.