

**Minutes of the James Madison High School PTSA
Tuesday, April 13, 2021**

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

In attendance: Greg Hood, Timothy Buckley; Abby Shannon, Adam Shayne, Andrea Kowal, Andrea Kramer, Anne Collett, Barbara Rousseau, Bea Wolman, Beth Rice, Beth Eachus, Catherine Feather, Cecili Thompson Williams, Chris Olechna, Chris Oskuie, Chris Lande, Christine Barilla Nell, Cindy Parker, Cindy Weinberg, Donna Bobalek, Donna O'Harren, Douglas Gaston, Ellen West, Emily Korff, Gwen Riddle, Heather Ireland, Heather Rosen, Heba Singer, Irina Smirnoff, Janine Bruhn, Jennifer O'Beirne, Jenny Forbes, Jo Ann Weinhardt, John Davison, John Simms, Karin Sullivan, Kate Jones, Kathy Swaak, Katrina Smart, Laura Benabaye, Leslie Conroy, Leslie Schoeberlein, Linda Khan, Lisa Kelso, Lisa Sylvia, Lynn Collins, Molan Rehberg, Malini Iyer, Maribel Langas Miller, Mary Ann Rashid, Matt Troy, Michele Kennedy, Michele Martin, Mona Rewari, Pascal Centola, Ravi Myneni, Rachel Boyle, Rene Taylor Newman, Rita Monner, Robyn Nguyen, Sandra Williams, Sandy Pompelli, Sarah Espanol, Sarah Lundquist, Shelley Young, Shelly Koshuta, Sonya Marsden, Stacey Leimbach, Stephanie Bollini, Stephanie Brennan, Steven Hubbard, Suzanne Garrod, Tammy Dalakis, Tarah Weaver, Val Roush, Yelitza Luna

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 March PTSA Meeting Minutes – Sarah Lundquist

Chris noted that the March 2021 PTSA minutes had been posted on the JMHS website for review. Chris asked for any feedback. Tarah Weaver made a motion to approve the minutes as written; Beth Eachus seconded. The minutes were approved as written.

III. Principal's Report – Principal Greg Hood

Mr. Hood apologized for seemingly conflicting emails sent out recently. The recommendations initially changed for elementary school to 3 feet but not for middle and high school. Then the next day the range was downgraded, allowing us to go to 3 feet in certain situations, which allowed for opening up more.

We are assuming, if you're a 2-day student, that you want to come back 4 days and we will plan for that. Everyone is welcome. Parents were given an opportunity, however, to opt out of increasing the number of days in person. Initially we brought back struggling students. All virtual students will need to wait to see how the new system goes so we see what we can manage with regard to social distancing before we can try to move anyone from virtual.

It's been great having students back so far – lots of smiling eyes. The students are doing great with mitigation strategies. There are difficulties in classrooms with more desks, but the cafeteria is the biggest challenge, especially as the size just decreased with construction. We are using outside and other spaces as much as possible. If there is bad weather, we'll create inside spaces in classrooms with supervision.

We sent information to the Transportation Department about the students going to 4 days so they are prepared.

Fall athletics: We have LOTS of district champs and big winners – congratulations! Football is in the regional final and field hockey could get there this week.

Graduation: Jiffy Lube Live is available on our planned date, June 1, which is great news. Graduation will be held there at 2pm. The venue can hold 10,000 people in indoor covered space. The Governor's order permits the lesser of 5,000 or 30% of venue – probably 3,000 can attend. Everyone can graduate together and we're estimating maybe 4 guests per grad. We might need to reassess getting additional funds from families to cover costs.

Concerts, prom, etc., use different criteria – they can only have 100 at a time. Concerts are also really hard, even though we can do marching band – again, they are in a different category.

Prom tentative date is May 22: We are working with SGA to coordinate something, perhaps in the back of the building, with a tent, DJ, decorations and a Signup Genius to keep attendance within the limits.

Right now, we are planning to move ahead with the 4-day plan regardless of a change in metrics. However, if there are 2 transmissions within 14 days, we would have to change things. Each school can operate differently – it's on a case-by-case basis.

IV. Student Services Report – Timothy Buckley

Mr. Buckley gave the following updates:

Summer school will have lots of options this year. Traditional new credit or retake class still exists, and the price has been cut in half. Also, credit recovery of some sort will be offered. (Remember, there are no Fs this year.) If they get “no mark” they are eligible for credit recovery (all academic classes).

Summer orientation (Bridges) will definitely happen in the weeks of July 26-30 and August 2-6. We always make sure we do some before band and other activities start up.

Flight School orientation will be August 19, which is when schedules should be released. We will have the mentor program again – freshmen will meet with them.

V. Faculty Report –

Mr. Buckley said Mrs. Peters wanted to thank the PTSA for all the kindnesses and support they've shown: lunch, cookies and weekly raffles.

VI. Student Government Report –

Chris reported that the SGA is planning to decorate the LOVE sign on the trail for mid-May to mid-June. They plan to wrap each letter with things that can be written on by different classes.

They are also working on prom and a meetup for the freshman class.

VII. President's Report – Christopher Lande

Chris reported that everything is changing quickly. Parents have been very helpful, wanting good things to happen. Be prepared for a lot of emails and reaching out for help for all these activities. It's hard to do advance planning but we need to react more quickly. There are more opportunities to do things than earlier this year. We are hoping for more restrictions to be lifted.

VIII. Treasurer's Report – Tarah Weaver

Tarah pointed out a particular line item in the March budget: Miscellaneous revenues. We're getting a lot of money donated by parents for teacher appreciation donations, so we have \$1780 to spend and need to come up with some ideas. Sonya Marsden made a motion to approve the March budget; Beth Eachus seconded. The March budget was approved.

We passed the financial audit for the period August 1, 2019, to July 31, 2020, and the books are balanced. Stacey Leimbach made a motion to approve the financial review audit report; Beth Eachus seconded. The report was approved.

IX. Committee Reports

Academic Awards – Beth Eachus announced that the academic awards were held last week and thanked Mr. Buckley for doing such a great job putting it together and presenting. We will send letters to those with a GPA of 4.0 or above.

Academic Boosters – Beth Eachus announced that there will be a Mock ACT on Saturday, April 24. There might be one in the summer if there is interest.

Staff Appreciation – Beth reported that the \$1780 mentioned by Tarah was originally meant to help pay for the “back to school” lunch when we partnered with Vienna Foodies and costs were covered. Instead, the committee plans to do a breakfast with Best Buns, lunch with The Sandwich Shop, plus individual small items. We have also held raffles, for which about 50 different gift cards were donated.

Athletic Boosters – Stephanie Bollini announced that we are still finishing fall sports with field hockey and football, possibly also girls golf. Spring sport tryouts started this week. On Monday the 19th there will be another popup spiritwear store at the stadium concession stand. You can always join Athletic Boosters – all the money goes back to the school to support programs and upkeep. Stephanie also thanked Mr. Kenny, Mr. Baird, and Ms. Colwell for making sports happen at JMHS.

Mr. Hood mentioned that FCPS has changed the mask policy for sporting events: When athletes are exerting themselves, they don't need the mask on during actual play. However, they must wear it on the bench, moving to and from the field, etc.

Parent Programs – Sonya Marsden announced there will be another parent program on April 15 - Planning for College Admissions, presented by Jed Applerouth. The info to preregister is on the PTSA website. Previous program recordings are also found there.

Sonya also announced the Make a Difference scholarship – \$1000 will be given to 3 seniors for involvement in community service and other factors. Applications are on the PTSA website; deadline is May 4.

The Triple I Award is for teachers who Innovate, Instruction, Impact. Please nominate a teacher and tell us how they've gone above and beyond. Forms are on the PTSA website; deadline is May 22.

JMHS Pantry and Outreach – Beth Eachus thanked those supporting the pantry. They worked with ESOL on a recent Giving Day to give clothes, food, hygiene items, etc. At the end of the year they will work with ESOL on another Giving Day, focusing more on hygiene and cleaning items than clothes.

If you try to drop things off, please go to Door 1. If the bin isn't there you can still drop at the school. It's been confusing with all the construction. There is also an Amazon wish list, and monetary donations are always welcome! Please contact Beth.

X. New Business

There was no new business.

XI. Old Business

All Night Grad – Sarah Espanol announced they've been meeting to consider all alternatives. Thanks so much to the administration for being thoughtful and considerate. They worked with seniors on February and March celebrations – parents donated some items. They started Friday raffles of gift cards.

They will plan with administration on prom and whatever else we're allowed to do. They can always use more help!

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. By the end of the week, we hope to present a list of nominated parties, and we want to be as inclusive as possible.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.