

**Minutes of the James Madison High School PTSA
May 10, 2021**

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

In attendance: Greg Hood, Timothy Buckley, Tammy Peters; Abby Shannon, Andrea Kowal, Angie Gutenson, Beth Eachus, Brad Wilder, Braden Holt, Cheryl Cass, Chris Lande, Christine Barilla Nell, Cindy Weinberg, Dara Dirth, Debra Steppel, Elizabeth Copeland, Gwen Riddle, Heather Ireland, Heather Rosen, Heba Singer, Jo Ann Weinhardt, Leslie Conroy, Linda Khan, Mary Ann Rashid, Michele Kennedy, Mona Rewari, Naomi Hutchins, Piper Boatwright, PJ Milton, Rene Taylor Newman, Sandy Pompelli, Sarah Espanol, Sarah Lundquist, Stacey Leimbach, Terry Ayotte

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 April PTSA Meeting Minutes – Sarah Lundquist

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

III. Principal's Report – Principal Greg Hood

Mr. Hood gave the following updates:

More than 500 students have signed up for prom; it's possible we can open up to guests from other grades or schools. FCPS helped us out so it's no cost to the attendees.

Graduation: Will be held at Jiffy Lube Live on June 1 at 2pm. Seniors will meet at JLL, whether on their own or with their families. We aren't able to get a lot of buses because it's during the school day but we will have a couple available for students and families who don't have any other means to get there. Seating: We expect to be able to have around 5000 people but the 6-foot spacing requirement is taking up a lot of space. We are working to figure out where seniors will sit, and where families and others will sit. JLL and TicketMaster are ticketing options. It could be that you might 5 seats together or maybe 2 under cover and others in grass. Each student should get 4, maybe 5, tickets. We have 543 graduates – and we hope that most will attend – but not all will fit under the covered area.

Next year: The plan is to offer 5 days in person. We don't know yet if it will mean social distancing or what lunch will be like. Vaccines are now approved and available for ages 16+ and 12-15 should come soon. Families who want to be virtual must request to do so for medical reasons. Virtual school means your teachers might not be from Madison although it's your base school. The concurrent model wasn't ideal, so it's great we don't have to continue that.

Final exams: These don't really look the same because of the new rolling gradebook. If teachers have planned culminating activities, that can be incorporated as part of the 4Q grade, not its own final grade. Dates of May 19, 20, 21, 25 are the senior final reflection period.

Item collection is important, including laptops, but we won't take them until you're done.

Convocation will be held in the gym on May 26. We can have 900 people. The seniors won't wear cap and gown although they'll receive them that day.

Graduation rehearsal is May 27; tickets will be given out then. May 28 is the last day for seniors to turn in and collect items.

June 8 is now an asynchronous for underclassmen because of Election Day. The last day of school (June 11) will be a quick round in each class.

Construction is looking good and on schedule. The roof is gone on the library. Everyone has adjusted well.

IV. Student Services Report – Timothy Buckley

Mr. Buckley gave the following updates:

Rising sophomores: An event is happening on June 10. (More to come.) We are allowing these students to participate in Bridges this summer if they wish – this will be held the last week in July and first week in August. We will create an additional orientation for those rising sophomores in August.

The deadline has been extended to request Pass/Fail but students still have to make the request before they get their final grade.

AP exams have already started. There are some conflicts and scheduling issues, including with senior events. Make sure your student downloads the digital testing app before the exam!

V. Faculty Report – Tammy Peters

Mrs. Peters wanted to thank the PTSA for Teacher Appreciation Week with raffles, box lunches, etc. It was a wonderful week!

VI. Student Government Report – Braden Holt

Piper Boatwright, freshman president: There will be a freshman Summer Send-Off on June 10 to let them know they are seen; we want them to feel included. This will be the same day as computer dropoff. There will be food and fun things to do.

Braden Holt: Prom signup is in full swing – anyone now can sign up. Slots have been filling up. The design was approved for the Vienna LOVE sign. We will get supplies and start decorating May 15.

VII. President's Report – Christopher Lande

Chris reported that everyone's hard work makes his job easier. It's also great to see things coming to fruition. Things are not perfect but are better than they were! We are looking forward to the future.

VIII. Treasurer's Report – Tarah Weaver

Beth Eachus reported for Tarah:

We are in great shape financially. We wanted to point out that two items in ending cash balance are restricted: \$8000 restricted for the Pantry and there are \$10,000 in funds to cover anything necessary related to construction.

A few items aren't reflected on the current budget but will be soon as events occur and receipts are turned in. Now is a good time to ask for more money for next year!

The PTSA needs a new Treasurer next year. Please consider taking on this important role while we are in such good shape.

Heather Ireland made a motion to accept the April budget as presented; Elizabeth Copeland seconded. The April budget was approved.

IX. Committee Reports

Academic Awards – Beth Eachus announced that letters that haven't come in for those who got a 4.0 or better last year but they are expected soon.

Academic Boosters – Beth Eachus stated that there is definitely interest in a summer Mock SAT and ACT to help students understand how to get ready. More information to come.

Staff Appreciation – Angie Gutenson reported that we started Staff Appreciation Week with Anita's breakfast burritos, which were well received. The week ended with sandwiches from The Sandwich Shop. There were gift card raffles, with multiple winners every day. There is no set plan for the end of year but we're working on it. Angie extended thanks to Beth Eachus for all her help and mentoring.

Athletic Boosters – Mr. Hood announced that we are now in the spring sports season. Girls' field hockey and girls' basketball have both been state champs. Kids are excited to be out and playing. We can open numbers to more visitors. The school is responsible for updating names/numbers of champions on the outside wall, so Athletic Boosters helps, as it costs about \$500 each time it's updated.

JMHS Pantry and Outreach – Beth Eachus reported that the Pantry is in great shape with regard to funding. There has been great success with the Adopt a Senior program. There will be a Giving Day on May 22, focusing more on food, hygiene, and cleaning items than clothes.

Parent Programs – Beth Eachus reported for Sonya Marsden that no more programs remain this year. Scholarship deadlines have passed and the committee will be convening to determine winners.

X. New Business

Chris announced the slate of nominees for next year's PTSA Board:

Beth Eachus, president

Abby Shannon, 1st vice president

Gayle Schlueter, 2nd vice president

Sarah Lundquist, secretary

Treasurer - open

The next meeting, which will include the vote on the Board, will be held on June 3. It's hopeful that it will be hybrid in nature: held both in person and on Zoom as a test drive for meetings next year.

XI. Old Business

All Night Grad – Sarah Espanol announced what the ANG committee has been working on: Seniors are going to Six Flags on June 4 as a non-FCPS event. It's after graduation, so they are no longer FCPS students. We will buy the all-inclusive tickets and they can hang out together at our dedicated pavilion. Please help spread the word that students need to buy tickets! It's a tight turnaround to get the tickets delivered and handed out in time. Students are responsible for their own transportation. Parents are welcome as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.