

**Minutes of the James Madison High School PTSA  
Tuesday, October 12, 2021**

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

**In attendance:** Greg Hood, Timothy Buckley; Andrea Kramer, Becky Kong, Beth Eachus, Christene Hendon, Connie Leung, Dara Dirth, Eliza Morss, Elizabeth Terry-Humen, Gayle Schlueter, Ginger Piercy, Gwen Riddle, Heather Ireland, Heba Singer, Janine Bruhn, Michael Kowal, Michelle Boback, Rene Newman, Robyn Nguyen, Sarah Español, Sarah Lundquist, Urvi Desai

**I. Call to Order and Welcome – Beth Eachus**

Beth welcomed all to the meeting.

**II. Approval of September PTSA Meeting Minutes – Sarah Lundquist**

Sarah announced that the minutes from the September meeting had been posted to the PTSA website for the last few weeks. Andrea Kramer pointed out one date typo (in the SGA report, October 9 should have said October 8.) Gayle Schlueter moved to approve the minutes as amended. Mike Kowal seconded the motion, and the motion to approve the minutes as amended was passed.

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

Mr. Hood gave the following updates:

As he mentioned in last month's meeting, due to a national shortage of substitutes in addition to teachers, monitors are needed to cover when teachers are out. Thankfully we were able to bring on 2 monitors recently. When they are not in class, they are assisting with other tasks.

Construction is on target right now. The steel grid is up in place at the front. The goal is to be fully done and open for the start of next school year. When the construction is complete, we can remove the trailers and will have access to more parking.

We continue to have a very low COVID transmission rate and few cases. Three students are currently "on pause" due to exposure. Beginning November 8, athletes participating in winter and spring sports are required to be vaccinated. It is possible that this will be the case for the performing arts as well. Staff will soon be required to be vaccinated or undergo frequent testing.

The SGA did a great job on Homecoming Spirit including Spirit Week, the parade, and dance. 1300 tickets were sold to the dance – the largest number ever. Car pickup at the end of the night went very smoothly. A few years ago we had the Homecoming parade on a teacher workday so more people, especially students, could attend from the Madison school pyramid. We are hoping in the future to get more schools an early release that day. Perhaps something can be coordinated with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vienna Elementary School next year.

Monday, October 11 was a professional development day. Presentations offered focused on topics such as Schoology, equity, grading, etc. This was combined with another high school so teachers had a variety of options as to what they could attend.

Our teachers will be leading a training session in November on grading and assessments.

Dr. Elizabeth Dean will be our PTSA teacher representative starting in November.

As mentioned last month, the TikTok challenge in September was about damaging bathrooms. We were lucky to only experience minor damage. There is allegedly a monthly challenge but we haven't seen anything happen yet. We might work with the SGA to create our own monthly challenge in a more positive, fun way that's not destructive.

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

Mr. Buckley gave the following updates:

Tomorrow is a big test day like we've never done before: seniors will take the SAT, and sophomores and juniors will take the PSAT. The whole staff and whole building will be involved. The underclassmen should mostly be done about 12:00; there will be two (grab and go) lunch shifts. Seniors will be done about 12:30. Buses will leave at 12:55 and run again at 2:45 for students getting extended time. Freshmen will stay home to work on asynchronous work.

On October 18 we will hold the first of three SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) screeners this year; this is a countywide movement. For more information, type "SEL" into the FCPS search bar, and you can see the questions students will be asked. It doesn't get too deep – mostly focused on resiliency, sadness, whether they have a trusted adult, etc. It will be 3 weeks until we get results, which will go to counselors and advisory teachers to know what needs to be worked on. The next screener will be in February, then again at the end of April.

The week of November 15 we will be doing a wellness screening including SOS (signs of suicide). If an answer is flagged, we will support those students immediately. For this screening they will watch a video and take a quiz. Every year, we are able to flag students showing signs of depression. It's usually done for grades 10 and 12, but the county wants grades 9 and 11 to be covered as well. We are trying to screen ALL students this year.

As a staff we have been trying to focus on recognizing where students are right now. That might mean rethinking practices – students won't come in as they would have in a typical fall. Teachers shouldn't try to make it up or rush but meet them at their level. Teachers have been adjusting but the county hasn't given them new overall standards or pacing guides to follow.

Regarding 4<sup>th</sup> period, Mr. Hood shared that there will be a survey for staff and students to possibly make some changes in time for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Advisory and Warhawk Time would stay but the Return period might change.

#### **V. Faculty Report**

Dr. Elizabeth Dean will be the new faculty representative to the PTSA. Mr. Buckley thanked the PTSA for its support so far.

#### **VI. Student Government Report**

Luke Kurcina couldn't attend but Beth Eachus reported on his behalf that the SGA was excited by the level of participation in Homecoming and hoped the students had fun.

#### **VII. President's Report – Beth Eachus**

Beth noted that the SGA usually asks for funding for homecoming but because the ticket price was higher this year, they did not need it. Beth would like to use some of the Special Projects funds to do something nice to thank the SGA for all their efforts. We will work with the SGA sponsors to determine an appropriate celebration.

Beth participated in the Fairfax County PTA meeting last week. As we've heard, there is a shortage of teachers and subs, creating a need for monitors. The Reflections arts program is something we haven't hosted at Madison in the last 10 years. We've missed the deadline to be a host but, if someone is interested, SEPTA could offer those students an opportunity – just let Beth know.

Beth was appointed as our Hunter Mill representative and is now serving as the chair of the HR Advisory Committee for FCPS. It is focused on teacher retention and recruitment as well as other HR concerns. If you are interested in helping or have ideas, let Beth know. Abby Shannon is participating in Curriculum Review for FCPS.

Financial support of the PTSA has been great so far. We are so grateful for this community!

#### **VIII. Treasurer's Report – Janine Bruhn**

Janine provided the following report for the period September 1-30:

The 2020-2021 financial review (previously called the audit) has been completed. The Financial Review Committee (Katy Elkowitz, Becky Kong, Janine Bruhn) found the records to be organized and complete. The committee provided a few recommendations to help the treasurer effectively manage the recordkeeping and outline good Treasurer practices for the 2021-2022 year. The report will be submitted to VA State PTA prior to the due date of November 15, 2021.

Treasurer activity through September 2021:

- PTSA revenues through September are \$20,555. The PTSA account has had limited expenses through September 30, incurring \$3,474 to date.
- All Night Grad income (mostly donations) has started to come in. Total to date is \$1,975.
- VA State PTA dues will be paid by November 1 based on the current membership total of 472. (It was noted in a later report that 3 new memberships had just come in, bringing the actual total to 475.)
- The JMHS PTSA insurance policy has been renewed for the 2021-2022 year and submitted to VA State PTA as required.

- The PTSA taxes have been initiated with the accountant Turner, Leins & Gold LLC. The tax preparation will be completed in October.

Monthly income and expenses – this report includes both August and September since expenses were not provided in the last Treasurer report:

August - September, 2021			
	Aug 2021	Sep 2021	Total
<b>Income</b>			
200 Membership and donations, net	0.00	0.00	0.00
210 Membership and donation revenues, gross	0.00	0.00	0.00
211 Donations - general	5,050.54	4,497.97	9,548.51
213 Membership dues	4,328.14	3,524.37	7,852.51
<b>Total 210 Membership and donation revenues, gross</b>	<b>\$ 9,378.68</b>	<b>\$ 8,022.34</b>	<b>\$ 17,401.02</b>
<b>Total 200 Membership and donations, net</b>	<b>\$ 9,378.68</b>	<b>\$ 8,022.34</b>	<b>\$ 17,401.02</b>
300 Academic booster revenues, net	0.00	0.00	0.00
310 Donations - academic boosters	1,232.77	998.59	2,231.36
311 Practice Exam expenses	0.00	323.00	323.00
<b>Total 300 Academic booster revenues, net</b>	<b>\$ 1,232.77</b>	<b>\$ 1,321.59</b>	<b>\$ 2,554.36</b>
375 Miscellaneous	275.00	325.00	600.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 10,886.45</b>	<b>\$ 9,668.93</b>	<b>\$ 20,555.38</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 10,886.45</b>	<b>\$ 9,668.93</b>	<b>\$ 20,555.38</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
600 Student and Parent Support	0.00	0.00	0.00
610 Food Bank	-520.00	-73.55	-593.55
<b>Total 600 Student and Parent Support</b>	<b>-\$ 520.00</b>	<b>-\$ 73.55</b>	<b>-\$ 593.55</b>
700 Community and Hospitality	0.00	0.00	0.00
702 Hospitality committee expenses	0.00	3,101.50	3,101.50
<b>Total 700 Community and Hospitality</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,101.50</b>	<b>\$ 3,101.50</b>
800 Administration	0.00	0.00	0.00
801 Insurance	0.00	343.00	343.00
803 Website and On-line accounting fees	0.00	29.50	29.50
<b>Total 800 Administration</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 372.50</b>	<b>\$ 372.50</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>-\$ 520.00</b>	<b>\$ 3,400.45</b>	<b>\$ 2,880.45</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>\$ 11,406.45</b>	<b>\$ 6,268.48</b>	<b>\$ 17,674.93</b>
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After some discussion, a motion to use \$300 of Special Projects funding for SGA appreciation/celebration was made by Gayle Schlueter. Dara Dirth seconded, and the motion was passed.

## IX. Committee Reports

Membership – Robyn Nguyen reported that the PTSA has 475 members (Beth Eachus brought up 3 new memberships) as of today as well as some donations.

Staff and Teacher Appreciation – Dara Dirth reported that the committee had mapped out events for the year – some bigger and some smaller. There will be a Thankful Thursday weekly teacher/staff raffle – parents will be asked to donate gift cards to local eateries, and a few names will be pulled each week until the end of 2021. A smoothie lunch will be held on October 29 to celebrate the end of the quarter, and there will be a snack bar in November. Dara noted that information goes into eNews, Mad Memos, social media, etc. It could also be added to “This Week at Madison.”

Choir – Beth Eachus read the Choir report: Mad Music Day will be held on October 20 (hosting pyramid elementary and middle schools) with a concert that night. Pie sales are wrapping up. Choir and orchestra will take a field trip to the Kennedy Center on November 12. The Snowman event will be held on December 11. (Elizabeth Terry-Humen later noted that the Orchestra report is the same as the Choir report since they are doing many activities together.)

Drama – There was no report.

Band – Heather Ireland reported that on October 9, the JMHS marching band took 1<sup>st</sup> place in Class 4A in the preliminary competition at the BOA Regional, receiving caption awards for Music, Visual, and Overall Effect. At the final competition, JMHS was named to 4<sup>th</sup> place overall, competing against other bands from Virginia as well as Pennsylvania, Connecticut, North Carolina, and New Jersey.

The band will continue to perform at the football game halftimes and will march in the Vienna Halloween parade on October 27. They also have two competitions on October 23 and will be headed to the State Championship at Liberty University on November 6. October 29 is 8<sup>th</sup>-Grade Night, when the middle schoolers can sit with the band.

Sign up now to participate in the Vienna Turkey Trot on Sunday, November 21, which is a fundraiser for the band and the Vienna Volunteer Fire department. Registration can be found at <https://www.viennaturkeytrot.org/>.

Academic Boosters – Beth Eachus reported for Abby Shannon that 4 mock tests have already been offered online. These are a great way to try out the two different tests (SAT and ACT). The awards assembly will be held soon. There was a discussion about how to get letters earned 2 years ago to those students. We can catch up this year with students who are still here and will figure out a way to contact those who have graduated.

JMHS Pantry and Outreach – Beth Eachus reported that the pantry is doing great on food, but not as many students are picking up food this year. Perhaps deliveries can be arranged if they aren't comfortable picking up. There will be another winter clothing drive – Ms. Slingerland has created a survey for this year with specific information such as size, etc., and will follow up with a Signup Genius so people can help fill those needs.

We are also partnering again with CHO on a bicycle drive to help students who need them for school or work.

Parent Programs – Gayle Schlueter announced that the first parent program of the year will take place on Thursday, October 21 at 7pm in person in the auditorium. Brock Jolly will present on college financial aid. Parents will need to register in advance.

Gayle is finalizing programs for the rest of year, most of which will be virtual. Potential topics include resilience in kids, executive functioning skills, college admissions (in the spring, geared for juniors), and social media/digital citizenship. If you have any suggestions or ideas, please reach out to Gayle.

Directory – Beth Eachus announced for Alene Metcalf that directory access will come soon and will be available to all parents, regardless of PTSA membership status.

All Night Grad – Sarah Español asked for people to join the ANG committee. Sarah has created a QR code and Google form to collect ideas. ANG will be held at Vienna Community Center. The committee has already started meeting to plan and will talk to seniors to get them excited about attending.

## **X. New Business**

Mr. Hood noted that a lot of performing arts programs lost enrollment numbers during the pandemic. We are trying to help boost that from the elementary level on up.

## **XI. Old Business**

As there was no old business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.