

**Minutes of the James Madison High School PTSA
Tuesday, March 8, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

In attendance:

Greg Hood, Timothy Buckley, Elizabeth Dean; Abby Shannon, Andrea Kramer, Beth Eachus, Eliza Morss, Elizabeth Terry-Humen, Gayle Schlueter, Ginger Piercy, Heather Ireland, Heba Singer, Michael Kowal, Pascale Centola, Rene Taylor Newman, Sarah Español, Sarah Lundquist, Urvi Desai

I. Call to Order and Welcome – Beth Eachus

Beth welcomed all to the meeting.

II. Approval of February 8 PTSA Meeting Minutes – Sarah Lundquist

Sarah announced that the minutes from the February 8, 2022, virtual meeting had been posted to the PTSA website for a few weeks. Andrea Kramer pointed out that One Neighborhood Foundation, not Vienna Foodies, was the official sponsor of the January staff event. Michael Kowal moved to approve the minutes as revised; Andrea Kramer seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion to approve the minutes as amended was passed.

III. Principal's Report – Principal Greg Hood

Mr. Hood gave the following updates:

Mask update: The policy shifted last week and has led to a more welcoming environment as teachers and other staff don't have to constantly remind student to put on/pull up their masks. On the first day of optional masks, perhaps 2-3% of students did not wear masks, and that number has climbed. There were no cases last week and only one this week. The new protocol means a weekly email is no longer sent to parents.

Addition: They are making great progress on the addition/renovation and are on schedule to finish for the start of the 2022-23 school year. They have been putting tar on the roof lately so the smell is unpleasant, and the administration is moving classes as necessary. Other than that, the construction has not been interfering with the learning environment.

After spring break we will get the full cafeteria back, which is about 6 feet plus a hallway. One main hallway leading to the cafeteria will also be opened. After summer we will regain additional space outside, as 13 trailers (some of which are currently undergoing repair) will be removed from the property then. No construction and no trailers will open up more parking, so next year all seniors and some juniors will be eligible for parking spots. We are currently looking at furniture for the new space in a model space. As with everything, supply chain issues exist. Our library will be very large and one of the nicest in the county.

Basketball: The girls' basketball state final vs. Osborne Park will take place Friday at VCU. This will be their third trip to the state championship in 3 years. As with the boys' football team recently, we hope to arrange a police escort to get them to 66, spirit bus, etc. We will also try to stream the game live since it's during the school day.

Wings internship program: This is a program in which seniors can spend last the 2 weeks of the year doing an internship. The idea is to find what they are passionate about. Then they return, reflect, and share out what they learned. Parents and others are invited to this session. This year we are partnering with the mayor and Chamber of Commerce so there are more internships available, though many kids find them on their own. The program runs May 9-20; they need to complete 30 hours in that time, but it is possible to come in and out.

The last full day of classes for seniors will be May 19, then there are some half days starting May 20. Convocation will be May 26, Kings Dominion May 27, then the Memorial Day holiday, graduation rehearsal on May 31, and graduation on June 1. Graduation has moved back to DAR Constitution Hall at 10am.

IV. Student Services Report – Tim Buckley

Mr. Buckley gave the following updates:

AP schedule: May 3 was a cultural observance day, which was shifted to May 2. AP exams now set for May 2 will stay in place. If a student needs to get moved, it will be arranged. The AP exams that already moved from May 3 to 17 will NOT move back.

Friday, March 11 there will be a senior breakfast during Warhawk Time. The senior photo will not be taken that day but scheduled later.

This Saturday, March 12 we are hosting the SAT here. As for fall exam dates, we expect to continue with the Senior SAT day in mid-October, which would be free to all students who wish to take it, ensuring equity across the board. Scores would get to schools in time to be considered even if not by the student November 1 application deadline.

Later this week the counselors will finish pulling students; all will definitely have been met by March 18. The Academy class deadline is this Friday – be sure to get the form filled out. Space is tight as there are more applications for the academies than usual.

After March 18 there will be no changes for next year permitted through April 15. Staff planning will start March 28.

Monday, March 14 will be a sophomore college planning night in person. The following Monday will be “part 2” of the juniors session, which will be virtual and go into more detail than the first session.

V. Faculty Report – Elizabeth Dean

Dr. Dean mentioned Cultural Responsiveness training – that the focus is the same across the county. The administration has also talked about how we use data – focusing less on the quantitative and more on the qualitative. Talking to students tells a different story. Even before COVID they were trying to get experiential data. This can be a very powerful, eye-opening experience, and they hope to return to that. Students in the last few listening groups have asked to bring back the “shadow students” program.

VI. Student Government Report – Alyssa Kowal

SGA is preparing for several events this spring:

- Spring Formal (March 26) will be held in the main gym with masks optional.
- Madison Monarch (May 14) is a newly developed talent show event featuring seniors, and monies raised will be used for Prom.
- Prom (May 21) will be held at the State Theatre.

SGA is running a community closet that will collect donated dresses and mens clothing for dances. Donations can be dropped off at Madison.

The Vienna Student Creativity Contest is being promoted.

VII. President’s Report – Beth Eachus

The DECA competition was this weekend and went very well. The Robotics team also did well over the weekend. Congratulations to the students and thank you to the staff and parent volunteers.

Our Madison Special Olympics athletes will be participating in the Marshall HS Fanquest tournament on Friday, March 25. Our athletes have been practicing their basketball skills during Warhawk Time in the Main Gym and are excited to participate on the court with their peer buddies.

We are asking for volunteers for our Nominating Committee. All Executive Board positions are for 1 year only but board members can serve a second year in the same position. Sarah Lundquist is rolling off as Secretary, but others new to their position intend to stay. If you are interested, let Beth know.

VIII. Treasurer’s Report – Janine Bruhn

Janine was out of town due to a family emergency and will provide a report at a later date.

IX. Committee Reports

Baccalaureate – Gayle Schlueter

This is an interfaith service for seniors and their families and will be held at the Vienna Presbyterian Church the night before graduation. We need faith leaders and students to be speakers. Traditionally, Madison Madrigals also perform.

Academic Boosters – Abby Shannon

Academic certificates, letters, and pins have come in. The awards ceremony for those who got a 4.0 or higher in 2020-21 will be held virtually (and recorded) on the evening of March 22. All classes will be recognized, and National Merit winners will also be commended.

JMHS Pantry and Outreach – Beth Eachus

Giving Day will be held March 26 – we will send extra food home with insecure families and include cleaning and hygiene supplies and gift cards. If you have donations or want to give back, feel free to collect items or raise money. All support will be greatly appreciated.

Parent Programs – Gayle Schlueter

The Digital Safety program was held last night – it will be available on a video platform for 3 months. The link will be posted soon on the PTSA page.

The last program of the school year will be held virtually on April 27 from 7-8:30pm. In “Path to College” Dr. Jed Applerouth will discuss planning for college and will include an introduction to the digital SAT. This will be geared toward younger classes.

Staff and Teacher Appreciation – Beth Eachus (for Dara Dirth, Angie Gutenson, Karla Mihalak)

A different event is held each month, and Thankful Thursdays occur each week. Last month we partnered with teachers for Tomorrow and had coffee, donuts, and treats for staff on Valentine’s Day. Next month we will host Stars of JMHS on March 28.

All Night Grad – Sarah Español

The committee and Mr. Buckley will start promoting ANG through a raffle at least weekly through Spring Break. The committee is working on details like food, prizes, and entertainment. A lot of lawn signs have been sold, which raises money for the celebration.

Membership – Robyn Nguyen
Nothing to report.

Choir – Pascale Centola
State Assessments will be held March 17 at Langley HS. The concert here will be March 15 at 7pm. Orchestra and Choir will go on a spring trip to Williamsburg and Virginia Beach. There are 6 students going to All State Choir, with 3 alternates.

Drama – Pascale Centola
Rehearsals have started for “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.” The musical will run April 28-30, and surprise faculty and staff will appear in the show! A parent meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10.

Orchestra – Elizabeth Tery-Humen
Spring Assessments were held last week and went well. There will be a Dining for Dollars at Ledo’s on March 16.

Band – Heather Ireland
Spring Assessments will be held March 18-19. The band concert will be held March 10 and the jazz band concert on March 24; wind symphony will play in the Madison Pyramid Concert on March 23. Winter Guard will be in the AIA Competition March 26 at South County HS.

The Band is being recognized for winning the State Marching Band Championship at 10am on March 21 by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and by the Town of Vienna on March 29 at 6:30pm at the Vienna Community Center.

Athletic Boosters – Tim Buckley
The girls’ basketball state championship game will be played on Friday. All other spring sports are up and running.

X. New Business

Liza Morss announced that the Fairfax County Council of PTAs (FCCPTA) has 5 \$1000 scholarships available for seniors who are PTSA members. Go to their website (www.fccpta.org) to find out more.

Abby Shannon mentioned the Adopt-a-Senior program that was done during COVID in 2021, in case someone is interested in starting it this year.

Beth Euchus thanked Elizabeth Terry-Humen for doing her first Mad Memos in March.

XI. Old Business

As there was no old business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.