

**Minutes of the James Madison High School PTSA
Wednesday, February 15, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance:

Timothy Buckley, Michael Rath, Missy Walsh; Avery Cañedo, Kathleen Cañedo, Tim Cañedo, Tammy Dalakis, Beth Eachus, Angela Gutenson, Paris Henderson, Lisa Kelso, Taylor Kelso, Andrea Kramer, Chris Lande, Regan Morgan, Eliza Morss, Christine Nell, Robyn Nguyen, Danika Pflughardt, Julie Philipp, Ginger Piercy, Vijaya Raghu, Gayle Schlueter, Abby Shannon, Beth Shiriny, Nathan Stuart, Jessica Stuart, Elizabeth Terry-Humen, Chris Torregrossa, Jessica Vertman, Mallory Vertman, Catherine Williams.

I. Call to Order and Welcome – Beth Eachus

Beth welcomed everyone to the meeting. She and Mr. Buckley introduced JMHS' new Assistant Principal, Michael Rath. Mr. Rath introduced himself to the group.

II. WINGS Portfolio Presentation – Avery Cañedo, Taylor Kelso, Danika Pflughardt, Nathan Stuart, Mallory Vertman

Each student gave a brief presentation about an aspect of the new WINGS Portfolio, showing how students use it throughout high school to create goals, highlight extracurricular interests, and reflect on what they have achieved during their high school career.

Mr. Buckley: students work on the WINGS Portfolio during Warhawk Time and Study Hall; 2022-23 is the first year that the Portfolio has been offered to the entire school.

The WINGS Portfolio is not to be confused with the WINGS Senior Experience. For the WINGS Senior Experience, the senior consults with their advisor to work on a passion project or internship during the last two weeks of senior year. The program ends with a Presentation of Learning.

III. Approval of January 3 PTSA Meeting Minutes – Beth Eachus

Beth announced that the Minutes of the January 3, 2023 meeting had been posted on the PTSA website.

Andrea Kramer moved to approve the Minutes as presented. Gayle Schlueter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the motion passed to approve the January 3, 2023 meeting Minutes.

IV. Principal's Report – Tim Buckley & Michael Rath (on behalf of Liz Calvert)

PTSA Appreciation:

- Mr. Rath thanked the PTSA for funding the staff training program given by *New Hampshire Learning Initiative*. This funding was requested by Ms. Calvert and granted by the PTSA at the January 3, 2023 meeting.
- Mr. Rath also thanked the PTSA for the furniture in the new teacher's lounge as well for the ceremonial ribbon-cutting and breakfast for faculty and staff which the PTSA held on January 20 to commemorate the gift and the lounge's completion.

One Kind Act Vienna: Mr. Rath encouraged families to send the Front Office any news or event images that support this theme. JMHS is working hard to promote this program throughout the Madison Pyramid.

Safety Concerns at School:

In light of events at schools nationwide, Mr. Buckley said that JMHS is being proactive about possible threats to the school community.

- The administration is meeting with faculty and staff to discuss school safety and threat preparedness
- JMHS reacts immediately to info concerning any threat
 - JMHS' security team are all former members of law enforcement; they actively work to get to know students; they know that yelling is not a productive strategy
- Narcan is stationed throughout the building in case of suspected overdose; 35 faculty have been trained thus far in its use.
 - Faculty & staff are being updated regularly by Michael Murphy, JMHS' Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist (SAPS), about what to look for regarding behaviors and accessories linked to current drug trends
- The *Student Rights & Responsibilities Handbook* (SR&R) will be reviewed with students during Advisory on Friday, February 17, and there are changes to come that are designed to enhance school community safety.
 - Parents were informed by email on February 15 of the coming changes
 - Among the changes are:
 - **Advisory:** students must remain in their assigned classroom; they may not be in the halls or switch classrooms during Advisory period

- Students that arrive late to school and during Advisory will check in with Front Office and then go to their Advisory classroom
- **Warhawk Time:**
 - Students may travel to
 - Library (with a prearranged pass)
 - Cafeteria
 - (1) teacher's classroom per Warhawk Time
 - Students may not spend Warhawk Time in the hallways; there will be "sweeps"
- **Bathroom Use:**
 - Bathrooms continue to be an issue with multiple students per stall
 - Parent added that some students will not use school bathrooms due to concern about drug/vaping activity
 - "One student per stall" rule will be enforced
 - If there are multiple students in a stall, this gives probable cause for the students and their possessions to be searched, and they will be brought to the office.
 - Search protocols
 - No student or student's possessions will be searched unless parent has been contacted
 - If parent wishes to be present, search will not take place until parent has arrived.
 - Search will likely be conducted by security team member with two administrators present
 - If banned items are found during a search, there will be disciplinary action, likely applied in a tiered system.

V. Student Services Report – Tim Buckley

Course Selection: Counselors are continuing to advise students about their course selections. Some classes are already at capacity, making course change requests hard to fulfill. Teachers are a student's best option for advising about course placement. Parents: please continue to discuss course selection at home and consider your student's 2023-24 academic schedule in the context of your student's life as a whole. Well-rounded students are preferable to stressed-out students who are stretched too thin.

ASL: Significant student interest is making it increasingly likely that American Sign Language (Level 1) will be offered as a World Language option at JMHS in 2023-24.

VI. Faculty Report – Missy Walsh

Ms. Walsh thanked the PTSA for outfitting the new Teachers' Lounge and for the breakfast provided the Staff Appreciation Committee at the ribbon-cutting on January 20. The Lounge is a great place for teachers to gather for departmental meetings, trainings, collaborations with colleagues and relaxation.

VII. Student Government Report – Tim Buckley (on behalf of SGA representatives)

The Winter Dance on February 4 was a smaller (250+ students) but nice event. The SGA's current project is *Fitness February*.

VIII. President's Report – Beth Eachus

Teachers' Lounge Ribbon-Cutting (January 20): Great success as reported above; many thanks to the Staff Appreciation Committee and their hard work. The PTSA paid for the furniture but not the TV.

IX. Treasurer's Report – Beth Eachus (on behalf of Janine Bruhn)

The Treasurer's Report was not presented. A report will be posted later in the month on the PTSA website.

X. Committee Reports

JMHS Food Pantry and Outreach – Beth Eachus

Thanks to ongoing generous donations from the JMHS community, the Pantry ran a successful Winter Clothing Drive and continues to

- give a bag of food weekly to Madison students-in-need
- provide hygiene items to students-in-need
- partner with BRAWS (Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters)

Adopt-a-Senior is a spring program designed to encourage those seniors in need of extra support as they complete their graduation requirements. The PTSA is grateful for partners in the community who seek to become involved as mentors for these at-risk seniors, in addition to offering their generous financial support.

Staff & Teacher Appreciation – Angie Gutenson

Angie thanked the Madison community for their continued support, particularly in helping the committee keep on budget by providing gift cards to the restaurants the committee uses for Staff & Teacher Appreciation events. If more gift cards are provided than can be used for a particular event, the extra cards are either raffled off or used towards another event.

Recent and Upcoming Staff and Teacher Appreciation Events:

- February: candy in mailboxes for Valentine's Day
- March: *Stars of Madison*, red carpet event with *Bundtlet* cakes from *Nothing Bundt Cakes*
- April: Anita's burrito breakfast
- May: lunch from *Potbelly*
- June 7: *Crumb!* cookies on (the morning after graduation)
- June 16: last-day-of-school celebration with lunch from the *Sandwich Shop*

Membership – Robyn Nguyen

The PTSA has 486 current members, and membership numbers are on target.

Science Fair – Beth Eachus

Many thanks to the 40+ community members who volunteered to judge the Science Fair. The PTSA provided snacks and treats at the event to thank them.

Academic Boosters – Abby Shannon

- Recognition Awards: Students who were recognized this fall at the Academic Assembly and are still waiting for their Academic Letter or pin will receive them shortly.
- Mock Testing: virtual Mock ACT on February 25

Parent Programs – Gayle Schlueter

Parent Coffees: This is a new program in which parents get together informally to ask questions and share experiences. *Parent Coffees* are held on the first Wednesday of most months at 7 PM at *Panera* on Maple Avenue in Vienna.

- December 7: College Q&A
- February 8: course selection
- **March 1**: topic TBA
- **April**: (may be skipped due to Spring Break)
- **May 3**: topic TBA

Parent Presentation (virtual): A program is planned on student stress and mental health, date TBA.

Making a Difference PTSA Scholarship – Gayle Schlueter

The application for the PTSA's *Making a Difference* Scholarship will be available on the PTSA website by the end of February.

All Night Grad (ANG) - Ginger Piercy (on behalf of Sarah Español and Jennifer Hallworth)

- The theme is almost decided for the event
- Most entertainment vendors have been booked
- Letters are going out now to businesses to ask for financial and in-kind donations
- March 9: A TV will be raffled off for those students who bought their tickets by March 3.
- It helps immensely for ANG food and entertainment planning to have students buy tickets in advance

Athletics – Chris Lande

Spring sports tryouts begin February 20. If your student is an athlete but doesn't make a team, consider Madison Crew, says Chris Lande: www.warhawkcrew.org

MAD Drama – Eliza Morss and others (on behalf of Sarah Lundquist)

The *ONE ACTS: Student-Directed One Act Plays*, will be performed at JMHS on

- Thursday, February 16 at 7:30 PM
- Friday, February 17 at 7:30 PM
- Saturday, February 18 at 2:30 PM and 7:30 PM

Only 3 ONE ACTS are performed at a time. To see all 6 of these productions, go twice! Tickets are \$5 cash at the auditorium door.

Marching Band – Catherine Williams

10 students participated the District 12 Band earlier this month. The Bands' assessment concerts are in March

Winter Guard is in the midst of competition season, which will continue into March.

Choir – Beth Eachus

43 students participated in the District 12 Choir earlier in the month, and many Madison students were chosen to be soloists.

The Citrus fundraiser for Choir and Orchestra has begun. The link to order fundraising fruit can be found in *Mad Memos*.

Orchestra – Beth Eachus

Orchestra is preparing for its annual Assessment. Concert:

- February 23 - Pre-assessment concert at JMHS
- March 4 - Assessment concert at South Lakes High School
- May 23 - Spring concert

XI. New Business – Beth Eachus

Nominating Committee for 2023-24 JMHS PTSA Board: The 2023-34 PTSA Executive Board will be entirely new as all current board members' terms expire at the end of this school year.

The following candidates were proposed to form the Nominating Committee: Cindy Chang, Elizabeth Terry-Humen and Chris Torregrossa.

Chis Lande moved to approve the Nominating Committee slate as presented. Gayle Schlueter seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the Nominating Committee slate for the 2023-23 JMHS PTSA Board was approved.

XII. Old Business

There was no old business.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.