

James Madison High School PTSA MINUTES –

October 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by PTSA President Regan Morgan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Liz Calvert, Tim Buckley, Regan Morgan, Angela Sorrell, Beth Eachus, Tana Keeffe, Pascale Centola, Andrea Kramer, Catherine Williams, Sarah Lundquist, Michelle Fraser, Elizabeth Terry-Humen, Dana Stewart, Janine Bruhn, Kara Reynolds, Chris Toerregrossa, Joelle Shen, Lynn Collins, Liza Lavivishina, Cindy Weinberg, Ginger Piercy, Quentin Murray

I. **Call to Order and Welcome – Regan Morgan**

II. **Approval of August 29 PTSA Minutes – Reagan Morgan**

Regan announced that the Aug 29th meeting minutes have been posted to the PTSA website.

Sarah Lundquist moved to approve the minutes as presented. A vote was taken and the motion passed to approve the Aug 29 minutes. Regan announced that the vote passed by majority vote and is adopted.

III. **Principal's Report – Liz Calvert**

A massive thank you to parents for the Homecoming activities. It was an amazing event.

Thank you for smoothies they were a Huge hit and the teachers loved them.

Stated that the staff and students are getting into the rhythm of things now at this point in the year.

Update Structure Professional Development – 3 buckets of focus. What it means and normalize your grades- having consistency between teachers. Next month - feedback to the students for moving forward with this grading structure. This semester intro to new grade format. Then in February we will restart the process.

Next year focus on consistency especially for the seniors.

The Belonging work is still in progress. We still need parents to volunteer. We will put out a message soon. How it will look and the needs identified. Will lay out if we need more data or we can start planning. It will start being put together – please Email Principal Calvert if you know of anyone interested in getting involved.

Another communication will be coming out about cell phone usage in school. Students have been observed using their phones / watches during class. Teachers have been noticing students looking at watches/ phones etc during instruction time. We will send a message to the students but are also asking for parents help in discussing at home.

There is a school mode and directions will go out to families to enact.

The last couple of years have been emotional and difficult for people coming out of the pandemic. The energy this year is feeling more energetic and different. We are happy to see it. The development of middle school kids is SOOO important to Freshman entering high school and this year it has been noticed.

The current Senior class and SGA are tremendous.

There are so many groups from Madison on Instagram. You can follow all of them.

Angela : question: How the arrest of the coach has impacted the teachers and students, How are they reacting. Calvert response: The investigation started in the summer. Some families were already aware of something happening. It is important to know that no student was harmed. It was a good person who made a bad mistake, but the law is the law and there are consequences.

Mr. Buckley: Mr. Kenny and I met with the team and everyone in the program. We had a face-to-face discussion with everyone. They joined together as a unit and the athletes have the support of the counselors, Buckley and Mr. Kenny if needed. Resources were made available to them if wanted or needed to discuss.

Calvert: The whole community has pulled together to deal with it. Rules have to be followed, so it was reported and everyone is moving on. We are monitoring the adults and the kids.

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

Tomorrow is Senior SAT and Junior and Sophomore pre-sat. If the students plan to take the test, they would have had to sign up already. Junior and Sophomores come in and take the pre-sats. There will be 1100 digital Sat tests administered tomorrow.... we are a little nervous! Jen F. has done absolutely an amazing job putting this all together. Tim is so grateful for all her work and preparation for this.

PSAT will be shorter because it is digital - 2 hr 10 mins. The day still goes to 12:55. Will have two lunch shifts. All is posted on Schoology. The freshman will not be in school. There is a link on Naviance to work from at home. Career and post secondary information is available for freshman and a "how to" use x2VOL. Buses will depart 12:55.

Next week on the 19th will be the first SEL screener. You can go online to see the questions. The county is trying to assess where the kids are currently. Information retrieved from the screening will be used on two levels...the school level and the county level. They are looking to see if student engagement level is going up or down. Do the students feel like they have a trusted adult in the building? Where might the lesson planning need to go from here? Counselors will have access to their students results and advisory teachers will have access to their students reports. They just look at it them and if there is a RED FLAG on a specific student then they may pull that student in to talk.

The end of the quarter is NOV 3. Which rolls into election day and a student holiday. The students current grades are a snap shot. Nothing is set in stone. No more are the days with quarter grades being in the past and moving on... now it is a rolling grade book. Everything will still be available to the students to demonstrate they know the content.

The end of Nov is wellness screening. SOS program (signs of suicide). 9th and 10th graders will be screened thru PE. If they do not have a PE class then it will be done through their counselor. 11th graders through their advisory classes.

Tomorrow is a regular start time.

V. **Faculty Report – Liz Calvert**

Liz reported that we do not have a faculty advisor yet, but the smoothies were a big hit!

VI. **Student Government Report – Joelle Shen/ Quentin Murray**

“Hoco” was a huge success. We had just under 1300 tickets sold.

The **Can Food Drive** want to spend 10,000 in rewards for students. The school goal is 5000 cans. The last 2 years we have exceeded that goal. We will be connecting with pyramid schools and will be seeking 500 cans from each school. The drive will run from Nov 10 – Dec 13th.

Having Homecoming outside was a success and seems to be preferred. If weather permits, we will continue to have it outside.

Liz Calvert: The SGA has advocated for the urinal dividers and we finally got the work order back. The money has been earmarked so it will happen, we are just not sure when! The new budget has allowed for it.

VII. **President’s Report – Regan Morgan**

Regan reported that we are still pushing on PTSA membership – please remind friends and family to please join.

We had a wonderful PTA member come up at the open house and they offered to make new yard signs for “Home of a Warhawk” . It was sent to Thoreau also for rising students.

Madison is hosting a Special Olympics Soccer tournament this weekend.

The Superintendent is coming 10/24 from 630-730pm. You can pre-register on line for the event.

VIII. **Special Guests** None

IX. **Treasurer’s Report – Kara Reynolds**

Kara August there was an audit. We have completed all compliance activities. Insurance policies done and submitted info and docs to PTSA. Overall financial status thru Oct 6th: We have raised 18k w/ expenses of just over \$5k; mostly administrative and Teacher Appreciation. These numbers excludes the pantry now. Beth Eachus made a motion to approve. Motion accepted. All approved. Regan passed the motion.

Panty donations are over \$3k to date.

Membership/ donations funds are at about 70% of where we want to be.

X. **Committee Reports**

Staff & Teacher Appreciation Michelle Fraser- Angie not here

Staff Appreciation Day: Nov 15th. This is a zero budget event so Sign ups will be available on Facebook for teacher appreciation- Fall Treats. Donations needed!

JMHS Food Pantry and Outreach- Beth Eachus

*Rustic love brought the \$3k for the food pantry and the #2013 girl scout troop created power packs for the pantry as well. VPC volunteers sorted, packed and filled the bags in our pantry. There is a big giving day in November coming up with gift cards and hygiene items to add on to the regular food donations. Does the SGA drive help the pantryYES! It helps replenish the pantry.

We will do a **Winter Clothing Drive** again this year. We will be collecting information from the students who need assistance from 10/2-11/7. Once the list is finalized, it will be open. The list should be open November 7 – December 7 and available for sign up. It will be shared with the community.

Sat Nov 18th – 10am – 12:00 pm is Giving Day

We will be connecting with Tony Thomas on Elk Club turkey donations. We will ask the community to fill needs and it will be open to all students/ families in need.

Parent Programs – Beth Eachus

We have a couple of partnerships in the community. Apple Ruth is another group that we do a webinar covering new digital SAT.

It is the first time hosting the soccer **Special Olympic Tournament**. This Sunday morning at 8 am. Oct 15th. There will be 6 teams.

Mad memos will ask for a special call out for help on November 18th for specific needs.

All Night Grad – Jennifer Hallworth

First meeting tonight. Sold 66 signs already. Great group of new and returning people. Tim Buckley was a huge help with promoting and giving away prizes!

If know anyone who likes to plan, send them Jen's way!!!

Athletic BOOSTERS – None

Academic BOOSTERS- Angela Sorrell

48 students signed up for mock SATs, it is a fundraiser.

Also there will be an academic award ceremony for the students who have over a 4.0 weighted GPA.

MAD Drama – Sarah Lundquist

The Fall Show is Deadwood Dick. It is a little different as it is an interactive crowd. The show will be Thursday-Saturday, Nov 9-11 at 7:30 pm with one Sat 2:30 matinee. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 the day of or at the door.

Directory: Sarah got all the information to show in the directory. It went out Sept 29th. The email went out, so if you reviewed your info should be accurate. You can override info if not accurate. Teachers have the option to have access also.

Marching Band- Catherine Williams

The Band won first in their group at the Herndon Showcase. They received extra awards for color guard. October 21 is the **Bands of America**. On October 28th they will be in Lynchburg for the state championship.

The Band supports the **Turkey Trot** and will march in the **Vienna Halloween parade**.

The Band is selling **white house ornaments** and they are available on the band website.

Choir & Orchestra - Pascale Centola

Mad Music day is October 17th and it is an all day event. Our students will put on a concert that day for middle school and 6th graders in the pyramid.

Auditions for district choir hosted at Madison will need volunteers

We are hosting the **Snowman Concert** on December 9th – it is a fundraiser for chorus and orchestra. It will be on Dec 9th in the am. Time to be announced.

PTSA Scholarships – No update

XI. **New Business**

Rick Wormli is a former FCPS teacher from Carson Middle school. He is an advocate for presentations of learning. He is a well know author and speaker. Over the summer WTOP saw Principal Calvert's report and reached out to him. He will come out to speak to parents

to discuss and explain why we are doing what we are doing with the grading system. There will be a 6:30pm business meeting in the auditorium right before his speech.

XII. **Old Business - None**

7:51 the meeting was adjourned by Regan Morgan