

James Madison HS PTSA MEETING NOTES: February 13, 2024

Call to order- 7:05 PM Regan Morgan

In attendance:

Regan Morgan, Beth Eachus, Angela Sorrell, Tana Keeffe, Liz Calvert. Tim Bukley, Andrea Kramer, Sarah Lundquist, AJ Benker, Chris Torregrossa, Kara Reynolds, Elizabeth Terry-Human, Ginger Piercy, Melissa Keppel, Barbara Johnson, Lija L, Paris Henderson

Approval Of November Meeting Minutes- First, Chris Torregrossa (as edited). Second, Andrea Kramer. Regan Moves to adopt. All approved. Motion adopted.

Principals Report – Liz Calvert

- Holiday treats, soup day, international night, science fair...the soup in particular folks really loved. Thanks!
- Chronic absenteeism – 40% in DC – FFX County looking at us now closely. We received an award for our low rate. 17.9%

10% or more is considered chronic absenteeism. It is a moving target by the week. Our

- school's accreditation is tied to the chronic Absenteeism rate and because of this, we thought we would send out messaging around the issue so that parents better understand. When families take trips, it counts toward the Chronic Absenteeism level, even if the school is notified ahead of time.

Madison is working with the staff to create reports showing the students with Chronic Absenteeism. They decided against sending out a "report card" for attendance, but instead sent EVERY parent of an enrolled student an update on where their child stands in attendance. These reports that are generated help apply resources within the building to help address this issue. They have assigned the chronic absenteeism rate to each grade level. This week was 11.6% overall among all classes. They are bringing awareness to the Madison community. The county gives a daily score. Bottom line: We need kids in seats.

- Monday: This is where we are by school and by grade level so everyone can see. Noted from day 1 to today for the current academic year, the report shows that the senior class has missed over 10% of classes. The county does not look by grade level, but Madison does to assess where to put resources. Madison looks at it by class period as well. If a student gets 5 or more absences within a period, the Assistant Principal sends a pass to that student, and they have a meeting to determine what the problems may be and how to help and correct. Progressive discipline comes into play at that point.
- Email Principal Calvert any additional thoughts.

- SENIORS: A senior message went out for planning for the end of the year. If a family needs more than 5 tickets for Graduation. they need to submit a request via a link. They will do a lottery.
- WINGS! Please reach out if your child does not have a shadow experience set up, We have plenty of volunteers available.
- Kings Dominion: Was trying to determine if was going to do it this year. Heard many students said no so they took a vote and 53% of the students said yes. They are not sure how long this trip will be a part of the Senior experience, but this year it will. A questionnaire was sent to ask if the students of they want to pay \$100 for bus and tix or if they would prefer to do something less expensive and more local.
- Parking challenges: Madison is trying to figure out how not to park on the public street, but we have sophomores getting their licenses and there is no place to park. We do have buses and they are half empty. We are not sure how to solve the parking problem but are working on it.
- Regarding traffic flow at the rear of the school. Madison had someone from security come out to advise on flow. The recommendation was implemented but is still not great. P Calvert is going back to safety and her SRO to reassess and see if anything can be done to improve the situation.
- Belonging survey– The survey was sent out and we looked at data. We will report out when get the results put together.....419 kids responded.
- 1600 students participated in the SEL survey last year – 69%+ felt like they had an adult connection in the building. Need to work deeper on it.
- OVERDOSES: There was a rumor that we had an overdose in the building. We had an emergency, but not an overdose. It is mandatory to send a notice out if we have one in the school. Fentanyl is a huge issue and is being taken seriously.
- Madison is designated International Society of Technical Innovation. We were chosen to be a light house school. This means we are looking at how to infuse technical skills into the curriculum. All teachers will engage in this effort next year. We are currently working on how to roll it out. The plan is to insert the ISTI in all classrooms.
- The County has put together a team of teachers, parents, kids and administrators to put together policies for grading that are consistent across the county. Madison was chosen to be a part of this process. We will do focus groups: Administrative team, teachers, parents, students. There is a possibility that we may use the next PTSA mtg and have the focus groups right after an abbreviated meeting. We need honest feedback to do right by the kids. This is a FCPS policy, not Madison. The groups will be looking at a rolling vs traditional grade book, the use of zeros, the use of percentages vs letter grades, should all grade book be weighted grades, should there be a minimum number of assignments in gradebook, etc. Do they aim to move off grading and onto Instructional practice.

## Services Report –Tim Buckley

- Start with a celebration – Alice Whitener has moved forward from the pyramid and is the Region 1 Professional Employee. She was chosen among all the eligible employees in the building.
- We are in the middle of academic advising. We are done with current 10<sup>th</sup> graders and are moving on to 11 graders. We are working on advising now and it is scheduled to go through March 13<sup>th</sup>. Sherry Maserich is back in the building to help with Ashley's case load. She will not be here through the end of the month. Kelly Hoffman the intern and Tim Buckley will be covering the students Sherry Maserich could not get to. They hope to announce that Ms. Hoffman can be a sub for the remainder of the year.
- Students get up to 6 free AP tests: If a student has more, they will be informed. Those with more than 6 need to pay the college board.
- AP testing: Madison is looking for AP proctoring volunteers. In a room, collect materials, distro materials. Monitor tests. A counselor or administrator will always be in the room with you.
- As of Wednesday Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have sent out senior transcripts. All will have gone out manually or on App.

## Faculty Report- AJ Benker

- The Science Fair went off very well. Mr. Hazen, Ms. Vallampati and Ms. Miner ran the fair. The students' projects were a step above previous years. More procedural work was done ahead of time on Chemistry books to get a clear direction. Assistance from other areas outside chemistry was used as well to help. Very proud of everything.
- Robotics: Benker is the sponsor for the Madison Robotics Team, the "Warbots". At the beginning of the year, they give you the game. At the end of 8 weeks, the team must have a robot as big as a coffee table, that can shoot things, climb and more. It takes the whole time to complete the robots and they are handed over from the programmers the day before the competition. The drivers must take it and go within a day! It is a tight schedule.
- The first qualifying competition is March 2/3.  
March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Patrick Henry HS in Ashland the qualifying matches are 11:00am-7:00PM.
- March 3<sup>rd</sup>: Qualifying matches are 9:30am-12:30 pm and playoffs 2:00-6:00 PM.
- The second qualifying competition in March 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> .  
March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Meridian HS in Falls Church 11:00 am-7:00 PM. March 24<sup>th</sup>:  
Qualifying matches 9:30 am- 12:30 pm. Playoffs 2:00-6:00pm. District  
Championships- IF QUALIFY, will be April 4-6<sup>th</sup> in Virginia State University in  
Petersburg, VA.

- All are open to the public.

Student Govt Report-none

Treasurer's Report- Kara Reynolds

- Fully balanced and reconciled. Much more optimistic. At 90% of rev goals. Help from yard signs and the donations.
- Motion to approve 1 – Andrea Kramer 2. Beth Eachus. Regan Moves to adopt. All approved. Motion adopted.

President's Report-

- Warhawks signs are sold out! It produced \$1800 of rev approx.
- Thanks to the Science Fair volunteers. There are 22 projects moving forward to Regionals. Snacks and dinner for judges and teachers were provided The PTSA needs a nominating committee for next year's board. We need to assess who is staying and who may be moving on. There must be three people minimum on the committee, with ultimately an odd number total.
- Feb 19<sup>th</sup> First day of ON THE WATER for CREW. It is not too late to register if have a student interested. They are selling Mulch as well for one of their biggest fundraisers!!!

Committee Reports:

\*Outreach- Beth Eachus

- Winter Clothing Drive: We met the needs of many students and families. Thank you! We have some cards that were from some students as a thank you.
- Giving Day in November: We had a huge number that were able to be helped. Rustic Love, Cease Hunger, VPC, One Neighborhood Foundation gave to help our efforts. CHO donated over 20 bikes with helmets and locks. Jude Adler has a nonprofit called Mummies for Mouths and with his proceeds he donated \$1000 for the food pantry. Some Girl Scout groups donated as well.
- There will be another giving day before Spring Break- Date TBD.
- April 19<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of April 26<sup>th</sup> is the date scheduled for "FEET MEET" the Special Olympics Field Day. It hosts schools with K-12 grades. Hoping for more schools and as many or more volunteers this year!
- We are wrapping up this year's Basketball season next weekend. The kids play unified with students who do not identify with a disability. Been a nice experience and a joy to do.

\*Academic Boosters-Angela Sorrell

- November – I worked with student services to complete the Academic Awards. PTSA provided cookies for all students who got an award. It was streamed this year so the parents could watch. Parking is so limited it prevents in person attendance by parents.
- Mock ACTs will be held on Nov 18th. A third-party conducts and \$360 was raised.
- Mar 2<sup>nd</sup> is next mock ACT and will be the last one for the year.

\*Teacher/Staff- Regan Morgan

- Angie wanted to share: We really enjoyed our newest event. Hospitality we did home cooked soups and chili to celebrate our teachers, and it seemed to be a huge success and received well by all.
- Tomorrow Feb 14<sup>th</sup> candy bars will be decorated and delivered to the teachers.
- In March, the Friday before the Oscars, we will roll out the carpet with our Oscar themed decorations and bundtlets from Nothing Bundt Cake for each teacher and staff in our annual Stars of JMHS hospitality event...because our WARHAWK teachers and staff are the real stars!
- DECA: Nearly 100 Deca students will be competing in the first week of March in States hoping to qualify for Nationals in Anaheim, CA. This is double the amount of States competitors we had last year. We wish them luck!

\*Band – Andrea Kramer

- It is the time of year for music programs. We are happy to report that 8 JMHS band students were selected and participated in the District 12 Band Performance on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additionally, 2 students were selected for the All-Virginia Jazz Ensemble. One was Top Performer of the state – an Upright Bass player
- Now the focus is on winter indoor season for the Color Guard. One competition has already taken place and the next is on February 17<sup>th</sup>. It is a local competition against other high schools to be held at Mount Vernon High School in Alexandria. This year they feel good about where they are classified, and they came in second place. They are feeling great.
- Madison was chosen as the school that will be the assessment site for the Middle School Band Assessments on March 8/9<sup>th</sup>.

\*CHORUS – Sarah Lundquist/ Beth Eachus

- District chorus concerts were held sat – there were more Madison students than other schools. 2 singing. 45 Madison students.
- The Chorus Concert in the pyramid will be March 5th at 7:30. No school but concert that night. There are several all-state singers.

\*Directory & MAD Drama – Sarah Lundquist

- MAD Drama's Deadwood Dick was met acclaim from both critics and audiences but suffered from low ticket sales.
- 22 MAD Drama students attended the VA Thespian Festival for 3 days in early January, enjoying workshops, competitions, presentations, networking and live theatre. Four students earned superior ratings in Thespy events (in solo monologue and solo singing categories) that have qualified them to compete at the International Thespian Festival in late June 2024 at Indiana University.
- Next Up: MAD Drama presents the student directed One Acts on February 15<sup>th</sup>-17. Evening start times are new – 7 PM. Tickets are \$5 each only at the auditorium door. Five of the plays will be presented both Thursday and Saturday night at 7 PM. Four of the plays will be presented Friday night at 7 pm and Saturday afternoon at 2:30 Pm.
- Cappies Gala auditions for singers, dancers and orchestra are open to all Madison students. The Cappies are the "Tony Awards" for DMV theatre programs held at the Kennedy Center on Monday, June 10. Information and forms have been posted to the JMHS PTSA Facebook page.
- Kids camp is coming! This will be a drama-filled day for younger students with a Pippin theme on Friday May 3 to encourage their involvement in theater programs in middle and high school. More details to come!

\*All Night Grad – Jennifer Hallworth

- We had a meeting tonight and we are doing well. Plans are going well. Our biggest change is that we are adding a Silent Disco. You put on headphones, and you dance. We hope it will help many of the students get through the lull of the 2-3 am time.
- We are also adding back 10-minute massages.
- Tim Buckley will help with raffles to start pushing the ticket sales. Have your kids buy their tickets and tell their friends to buy!
- Volunteer if you can, even if do not have a senior! It is very entertaining.

\*New Business- Paris Henderson

- Working on the BELONGING. It is going well. Finding out a lot about our community and our different backgrounds and ethnicity. We are looking at sites for grants.
- We are looking at other schools in the area to help them create a food pantry. Partner with a more established PTSA's and get them going with more in house programs.
- We have been translating mad memos to multiple languages.
- How we do our PTSA meetings in the future? Not everyone can get here in person, so how we do we offer a recording to view later or share the meetings live? Looking at all options.

- There is a possibility for our programs to reach out across high schools and to lower level ages to teach and mentor/ tutor in band, arts, etc.
- A survey out about how to do better, be better. Waiting for the results.

ADJOURN: Regan Morgan 8:05 PM

Upcoming Events:

2/15-2/17 MAD Drama One Acts

2/19 Student Holiday, President's Day

2/21 Madison Orchestra Concert, 7 PM

3/5 Student Holiday, School Planning Day

3/12 PTSA Meeting, 7PM Library

3/22 End of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter