

JMHS PTSA November 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Regan Morgan, Kara Reynolds, Elizabeth Terry-Humen, Lynn Collins, Katie Bitner, Mark Lender, Christine Choe, Ginger Piercy, Liz Calvert, Timothy Buckley, Alice Whitener, Gayle Schlueter, Jen Hallworth, Beth Eachus

Call to Order: Regan Morgan at 7:03pm

Approval of October Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve Gayle Schlueter. Seconded and moved Elizabeth Terry-Humen. Approved and adopted as is.

Principal's Report: Principal Liz Calvert

There is a lot happening at Madison right now. Fall sports and band are wrapping up their seasons. The Robotics Team is in full swing. Opening weekend for theatre this weekend.

JMHS Football Update & Hayfield Secondary School Controversy

Football is still playing and is currently undefeated.

Principal Calvert touched upon the current Hayfield Secondary School Football team controversy. The Freedom HS football coach was hired by Hayfield. When he moved over to Hayfield, he was accused of bringing over 22 football players from Freedom and other schools. This topic has been reported on by WTOP. So many kids left Freedom that they could not field a freshman football team and their varsity team has been decimated (this is a team that had won 2 state championships in a row). Freedom HS was only able to play 6 games this season.

At Hayfield, at least 15 Hayfield students transferred to other Fairfax County schools due to the influx of Freedom and other school transfers onto the Hayfield football team.

VHSL, the governing body of Virginia HS sports, looks at eligibility and sportsmanship. FCPS Superintendent Dr. Reid did confirm that all Hayfield transfers do legitimately live in the Hayfield district and followed all of the guidelines to establish residency. However, the Freedom parents, upset by their decimated football program, went after Hayfield with regard to sportsmanship by reviewing VHSL regulations and the spirit of the law to not destroy other schools' programs. VHSL did their own investigation and banned Hayfield from post-season

play for two (2) years. There was an appeal, which was denied, and the 2-year post-season ban remains in effect.

From Madison's standpoint, in the Concorde District, all of the principals and the DSA's all work together to ensure that all transfers meet all eligibility and sportsmanship requirements.

A discussion followed re: eligibility. If you moved to another school district, your child may not be able continue in their sport that season. But there is an appeal process that allows you to prove that all eligibility requirements have been met and the move to another district is legitimate. You do not automatically become eligible in your new school district if you have moved.

Madison All Female Wrestling Tournament

Madison will be hosting an all-female wrestling tournament on December 14, 2024. We will have 150 female wrestlers here.

Lots of great things happening!

Thank you for the Fall Treats

Thank you for the fall treats! They are always a big hit.

Communication Update

Administration has gotten feedback that they have been sending out too many e-mails. Sometimes it cannot be helped if the county tells us that an e-mail has to go out TODAY.

We are concerned that these e-mails are getting buried and no one is reading them.

The current e-mail schedule is:

- Mondays – This Week at Madison
 - have been streamlined to provide links rather than long descriptions
 - go to whole school
 - all *This Week at Madison* e-mails are archived on the JMHS website
- Wednesdays – Class-specific e-mails (seniors, juniors, sophomores, freshmen)
- Thursdays – E-mails from Student Services (testing, academic advising, etc)

Will try to stay with this schedule.

Mission & Vision

Work has started on November 4th with faculty and staff. Tomorrow (November 13th), we will get feedback from all students during advisory. Presentation was given to both SGA classes and they helped shape the lessons being used with the students tomorrow. We will adapt these lessons for parents. We will get feedback from students up until the holidays, and then open up feedback for parents in January.

Awards Program – Madison Stars

Teachers recognizing students and parents recognizing students for accomplishments outside of school that Madison might not know about. If you know of a student who has done something in the community, please nominate the student for a Madison Star. Currently trying to figure out how to recognize students – on JMHS website, on X, on JMHS Instagram, on school TVs. Parent nomination forms may be modified to get permission to post accomplishments online.

Chronic Absenteeism – why it is important

Currently, the chronic absenteeism rate is good at 8.1%.

Virginia DOE (Dept of Education) has come out with a brand new framework for accountability and accreditation. These 2 things used to be together, but now they are considered separately. All of the data from this year counts for next year for accountability, but they have not defined all of the measures yet. We used to get rated by Levels – 1, 2, 3. Now, each school is rated 0 to 100.

Ratings are based on

- Mastery (50 pts)
- 3E (Employment, Enlistment (ASVAB) & Enrollment – Dual enrollment, AP classes, work-based readiness)
- Chronic Absenteeism (5pts)

Currently, Madison is one of only six (6) high schools in Fairfax County that are in the top range. TJ is #1. We are currently 3rd at 92.2% in the distinguished range. If we drop out of this range, we are then considered to be “in need of support.”

Accreditation is never a concern for Madison. But this new accreditation model is like a report card, which will be public information. We want to be in the top tier and stand out. Chronic absenteeism is something that we can control and where parents can help out.

If you want more information, please e-mail Principal Calvert.

Questions:

Boundary Issues – timeline for discussions? Dr. Reid is hosting a boundary meeting at Madison on December 18th. Dr. Reid is doing a listening tour and will have recommendations for the school board by the end of the year. Principal Calvert does not have any other details, but will share them once she has anything she can share.

Student Services Report: Timothy Buckley

Free Immunization Clinic

Immunization Clinic at Madison today, November 12th. Fairfax County Health Dept provided free immunizations to students who were still in need of immunizations to be compliant. Madison reached out to 150 families. Two (2) students were immunized today.

World Language Credit Exam

Tomorrow, November 13th, Madison will provide the World Language Credit exam for the first time in-house (Fairfax County usually does this). We will have 44 students take the World Language Credit exam where they can earn up to 3 credits in their native language or a language they are proficient in. 12 different languages will be tested tomorrow.

Schedule Changes

From April 4 – August 13, Madison counselors processed 245 unique schedule changes.

From August 21 – today (they are still coming in), counselors have processed 351 changes for a total of 596 schedule changes (not including the 7 day window right after the schedules first came out).

Student services will continue to try to do a better job of having those hard discussions with students and parents about classes. Mr. Buckley recognizes that sometimes schedule changes need to happen, but the counselors will continue to work with students and parents to review schedules properly.

When class sizes change (due to schedule changes), it affects staffing. When an additional instructor is needed, this comes from the instructional budget, which then may impact the school's ability to pay for class materials, which can in turn affect staff morale. So we are trying to work with families to be more mindful of class choices.

Faculty Report: Alice Whitener, School Counselor

Madison staff are grateful for PTSA communication and opportunities to support and partner with the PTSA.

They are working with students on how to talk to the adults in their life (how to reach out to teachers, get the support that they need, etc).

Looking forward to Spring Academic Advising and the Souper Bowl

- 6-muffin tins suggested for the Souper Bowl (a staff member brought one into their staff chili cook-off)

Treasurer's Report: Kara Reynolds

State PTA dues have been paid

1st quarter reconciliation with 3rd party has been done

Surge in PTA memberships and outside donations after Regan's call for members

- 80% of budget has been met
- 92% of membership has been met
- 97 % of donation

Academic Booster donations are down – Maybe a targeted donation campaign?

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report – Gayle Schlueter. Seconded by Jennifer Hallworth.

Treasurer's Report approved and adopted as provided

President's Report: Regan Morgan

Push to make up deficit ~\$4000 revenue to cover expenses and programs

November Vienna Vintner Partnership – currently ongoing

Considering Business Sponsorships – We have been contacted by local businesses such as tutoring and counseling companies asking to partner with JMHS PTSA.

- The Flint Hill Elementary School PTA sponsorship levels were introduced as an example.
- Regan suggested sponsoring Teacher Appreciation events because that is one of our biggest line items.

- PTSA is putting feelers out to see how the membership feels.
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Discussion – is this a good idea?

- The Thoreau PTA introduced business sponsors last year. Sponsor logos were placed on the PTA website as well as weekly PTA newsletters
- Depends on why we need it? For food pantry?
 - The \$4000 deficit is needed to do our basic programming, scholarships, etc.
- Do we move funds from ANG? Would prefer not to keep moving funds from ANG while they are trying to shore up their accounts.
- Can we put sponsorship info on the back of awards programs flyer?
- Principal Calvert expressed concern about tutoring and counseling providers who ask Madison to promote them – guarded because she does not want JMHS to look like it endorses particular businesses, especially since FCPS offers free tutoring. She suggested that we use caution and be aware of optics – make sure we know what the businesses are.
- Maybe target specific events for sponsorship?
- Theatre, choir, band, athletic teams – all have sponsors in their programs.
 - Example at band concert - they put up a slide thanking sponsors prior to the concert.
- Question is where the sponsorship information goes.
 - Robotics Team wears sponsor logos on their team t-shirts
- Partnership with Vienna Vintner is like a sponsorship. Similar to Dining for Dollars – we advertise, and then the advertisement has an end date.
- Will see how the Vienna Vintner fundraiser goes before moving forward.

Next PTSA Meeting – January 7, 2025

No December PTSA meeting – will have one in January – next meeting is January 7th at 7pm.

Committee Reports:

Mock Testing & Academic Awards – Regan Morgan (on behalf of Angie Sorrell)

Academic Awards Assemblies

- 10th grade Academic Awards Assembly is this Thursday, November 21st from 9-11am
- 11th and 12th grade Academic Awards Assembly is next Monday from 9-11am

- Students who earned a 4.0 for the prior academic year. They receive a letter the first year they earn the letter. In subsequent years, they earn a pin.
- Looking for volunteers – set up, refreshments, etc. – a sign up will be posted
- Volunteer time is closer to 1.5 hours. Program will be 9:45-10:20am. Requires 20 minutes prior to assembly to have students in their seats
- Assembly is for students only but is livestreamed for parents and families.

Mock Testing

Mock ACT test will be later on this month. Approximately 8 students signed up for October's mock test.

Pantry & Parent Programs – Regan Morgan / Beth Eachus

Pantry – 3 ways to give back this holiday season

- Winter Clothing Drive – sign up has been published
 - SUG is already filling up. If the SUG fills up, a PTSA member suggested sending out an e-mail asking folks to donate to the pantry instead
- CHO Bicycle Donation
 - CHO is beginning their bicycle donation event
 - CHO repurposes bicycles – Madison students have benefited from this bicycle drive
- Canned Food Drive
 - SGA has started their canned food drive

2025 Baccalaureate

- Date & Location for 2025 Baccalaureate is June 2nd (evening before Graduation) at Vienna Presbyterian Church
- Will ask for suggestions for faith leader speakers earlier.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation – Regan Morgan (on behalf of Angie Gutenson)

- November Fall Harvest Treats – lots of volunteers have been signing up to help
- December – Grab & Go Breakfast

Choir / Theatre – Elizabeth Terry-Humen

- The MAD Drama production of Puffs begins this week – Thursday, Friday, and 2 shows on Saturday. Purchase tickets online
- Snowman Concert on December 14 – great for little ones (choir & orchestra event) – there will be plenty of signage because it is the same weekend as the Wrestling Tournament
- Choir hosted the District auditions last weekend. Clare Rowan did an exceptional job with organizing this event, recognized by visiting teachers, students, and families

All Night Grad – Jennifer Hallworth

- **Time adjustment** – 10pm – 3am – starting and ending earlier
 - Graduation is in the morning – kids were exhausted for ANG due to late start
 - Maybe keep them from drinking prior to the event
- Jennifer is going to the Sr breakfast on November 21st to engage the seniors. Will try and raffle something at the breakfast to raise excitement
- Ms. Whitener is a senior sponsor – this year’s class is very engaged on social media. Ms. Whitener suggested asking the senior officers to post about ANG regularly.
- Principal Calvert suggested that a marketing student might want to take on ANG as a project.
- 50 tickets have been sold so far

New Business:

None

Adjourn: Regan Morgan at 7:55pm