

SJLES PTA MEETING MINUTES

Date & location: Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:30pm, Zoom

In attendance: (13) Diana Choi, Carolyn Adams, Tara Scully, Angela Kramer, Mary Brown, Maria Laskey, Emily Vainieri, Meg Ballman, Jenna Groman, Meg Halvorsen, Kathy Etheridge, Alexcia Redd, Dan Notari

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 6th at 6:30pm

AGENDA:

1. Event Updates
2. Upcoming Events
3. PTA Leadership Changes
4. Treasurer Report
5. Teacher Appreciation
6. Administration Update
7. Other Business

MINUTES:

1. Event Updates:
 - Turkey Trot: We had great turnout – 65 entries, with most being from 1st and 3rd grade. Winners will be determined and announced next week.
 - Book Fair: We made over \$500. Diana will let Mr. Ellis and Ms. Pauller know – they have 1 year to use the funds.
2. Upcoming Events:
 - Restaurant Nights: Diana has started contacting restaurants to set up Restaurant Nights (Pachanga, Chipotle, Chick-fil-A, Glory Days). Jenna and Kathy are willing to help make calls. Meg H. will set up a Google Doc to coordinate contacting restaurants and the monthly schedule.
 - i. Pitch: SJLES PTA will hand out flyers and advertise for them. We ask them to donate a certain percentage when given a flyer (generally 5-25%). Restaurants will ask for our EIN – 521333666. We can also consider telling locally-owned / small restaurants to **not** give us a percentage this year as a way to help out (e.g. Eattini)
 - ii. Attendees offered restaurant suggestions, including: White Oak Tavern, EC Diner, Eattini, Squisitos, Mission BBQ, Ernestos and Mi Casa.

- We should also look at other local businesses that we can drive business to using similar model, e.g. Pottery Stop. Its too late for holiday gifts, but consider around Valentine's Day?
 - Attendees discussed additional ideas for virtual events:
 - i. Pinot's Palette in Turf Valley does Zoom painting parties – we could organize by grade level.
 - ii. Virtual Bingo Night – We can provide a printable Bingo card or kids can draw their own. Prizes can be special days (e.g. stuffed animal day, crazy hair day) or possibly Dojo points (Ms. Redd will check on this). Tara knows someone who runs regular virtual bingo nights and will ask for information on how they run it.
 - iii. Grade-level parent meetings no longer seem to be of interest as people are adjusting to virtual school – but we have a long way to go!
3. PTA Leadership Changes
- Carolyn Adams is moving home to Australia. Meg H. is willing to take on Carolyn's roles (Volunteer Coordinator and Corresponding Secretary). Thank you, Meg!
 - Diana will be stepping down from President next year. We need someone to take her spot ASAP so they can shadow and learn from her.
4. Treasurer Report
- Kathy shared an updated on the budget. We started the year with around \$18,000. So far we have disbursed \$800 and deposited \$2,3000 (mainly from membership). The budget will be updated monthly and Kathy has reorganized the Google Drive folder to organize budget spreadsheets, receipts, etc.
 - The PTA received the annual request for a scholarship donation from the Howard County PTA. SJLES PTA usually donates \$100. The Board will vote on this, with decision by March.
5. Teacher Appreciation
- Mary shared a suggestion that was successful at Patapsco Middle School – large Tervis cups with school logos, filled with candy. It cost \$900, and Mary will get more details on how many cups that included. Ms. Redd agreed to keep them at school until all the teachers pick them up.
6. Administration Report:
- Ms. Redd shared appreciation from herself and Mr. Notari for attending conferences, staying engaged, and expressing support for teachers. Lunch Bunches have been the highlight of their weeks and have been a great way to stay engaged with the students. Coffee and Conversations with parents have also been successful.
 - The CogAT (3rd and 5th grade GT Testing) is not taking place in December – future timing is TBD.
 - Question: Can parents email gift cards to teachers for holidays, and are there any limits or restrictions? Ms. Redd will check on any limits, but under \$25 is definitely not an issue. For emailed gift cards, please let the teachers know to

look for them, as they may look like junk mail. Parents can also bring gift cards to school and they can be put in teachers' mailboxes, but again please alert the teachers since few staff are coming into the building currently.

7. Other Business

- Diana asked if the PTA should continue to meet monthly, even if there are fewer events this year. The group agreed to continue meeting, and that it is helpful to stay connected.
- Attendees discussed how to get more people to come to PTA meetings and take on leadership roles. Everyone should ask friends to join a meeting 'just to listen' – help them realize it does not need to be a big commitment! We can also consider having one month's meeting being social – PTA-sponsored time for parents to chat and commiserate.
- Anyone interested in volunteering or just finding out more about volunteering should email Meg H. (Volunteer Coordinator) sjlesptavolunteer@gmail.com
- Link to PTA website: <https://sjlespta.org>
- Follow PTA on Facebook (official notices & events): <https://www.facebook.com/SJLESPTA>
- Join PTA families group (discussions/sharing/connect with community): *St John's Lane PTA Families*