

SJLES PTA MEETING MINUTES

Date & location: Wednesday, November 3th at 8:00pm, Zoom

In attendance: (17) Meg Ballman, Chelsea Berube, Mary Brown, Tiffany Burns, Sandi Cresswell, Sarah Day, Kathy Etheridge, Jane Fisher, Sara Goggin, Jenna Groman, Meg Halvorsen, Dan Notari, Tolly Peddicord, Rachel Somerville, Emily Vainieri, Vanessa Zawodny, Dina Zhuravel

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 1st at 8:00pm

AGENDA:

1. Welcome
2. Monthly Updates
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Upcoming Events
5. Follow-Up Discussions
6. New Items of Business
7. PTACHC Update
8. Principal's Report
9. Next Steps and Q&A
10. Adjournment

MINUTES:

1. Welcome: Meg Halvorsen, PTA President, welcomed attendees to the meeting.
2. Monthly Updates: Meg H. provided an update since the last meeting, highlighting the following:
 - a. Membership is up to 185, including 43% of staff members and 30% of SJLES families.
 - b. Movie Night was a great success, with a \$565 net profit. Thank you to Tiffany Burns and Maria Laskey (chairs) and the committee!
 - c. Squisito Restaurant Night resulted in \$120 in cash and \$120 in Squisito gift cards. Thank you to Allyson Jackson (Restaurant Night coordinator)
 - d. Thank you also to: Sayli Moskowitz (Walk to School Day Coordinator), and Jane Fischer and Ms. Peddicord for heading Original Works.
3. Treasurer's Report: Kathy Etheridge shared an update on the budget.
 - a. Regarding the budget format and categories changes that were discussed last month, Kathy has created new categories to clarify income vs. expenses and adjusted several budgets according to new information gathered (Original Works and Yearbooks). Kathy shared a revision to the budget to more accurately reflect projected income/expenses and asked that a vote be held on the revised budget.

- i. Emily Vainieri motioned to vote on the new budget. Meg Ballman seconded the motion.
 - ii. All attendees voted 'Aye' and the motion was passed.
 - b. Kathy noted that the PTA has almost reached expected income for membership and has exceeded income expectations in several categories – spiritwear and family fun. Expenses this month were generally for grade level teams and fundraisers.
 - c. Kathy is working on the 990 which is due on the 15th of this month.
 - d. level teams and fundraiser expenses.
4. Upcoming events
- a. Turkey Trot: Mary Brown and Linda Ferguson are the chairs, and Vanessa Zawodny and Kathy Etheridge are on the planning committee. Planning is progressing, and attendees were invited to stay on the call after the PTA meeting adjourned to discuss planning details.
 - b. Staff Lunch during conference week: Generally this is a dinner, but a lunch is being planned due to teachers being given the option of doing conferences remotely and not all will be staying for dinner. Mr. Notari requested lunch be on Tuesday and delivered at 12:00.
 - c. Toy Drive: The PTA will look at different options for how to run this. Ms. Peddicord suggested discussing with Ms. Poirer to see if any SJLES families could benefit from this.
5. Follow-Up Discussion Items
- a. Flyers in folders: Ms. Berube reported that most communication has been electronic, and there has been a large decrease in flyers being sent out – no help is needed this year.
 - b. Grade level parents: Sign-ups went out and 11 parents have signed-up so far. Ms. Berube said team parents have been finalized for each grade.
6. New Items of Business:
- a. Bingo Night: Dates need to be changed due to orchestra/band needs. This will now be held on January 13 and 14th, with snow dates the following week. Since this cannot be held outdoors in January, attendees discussed whether this can be done indoors. Mr. Notari is comfortable with it being indoors, following all rules about masking, etc. Capacity limits were discussed - Meg Halvorsen will look this up; Ms. Peddicord noted that the PTA has occasionally used the Mt. Hebron cafeteria in the past for more capacity. Meg Ballman is sending a survey about fall events and will add a question about whether people are comfortable with an indoor event for January.
 - b. Costco Fundraiser: Attendees discussed the best time to hold this fundraiser, as it is a 30-day period. It was agreed to do so ASAP so that people can use it for holiday shopping.
 - c. Amazon Smile: Kathy Etheridge also suggested promoting Amazon Smile again, for upcoming holiday shopping.
7. PTACHC Update: Tiffany Burns provided an update from the most recent PTACHC meeting. She shared discussion regarding due processing procedures for children with disabilities. A motion was passed to ask Howard County to prioritize students (age 5-11)

to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in school – an official statement will be sent. The state PTA nonprofit status is still in limbo; in the meantime, PTAs can send a check to pay dues to the National PTA, and this will eventually be distributed to the State PTA.

8. Principal's report

- a. Mr. Notari thanked all attendees for everything being done to make the school a better place. He recommended reading [Dr. Martirano's message](#) (dated 11-3-2021) which expressed how hard the staff is working for the children this year. He asked that everyone remember to assume the best of everyone – ask questions but do not create negative narratives. He asked for the PTA's help in spreading this message.
- b. The end of the quarter is here – there is a lot happening, report cards will be issued soon. Teachers are doing a great job assessing capabilities and progress – there is a lot of data to analyze. Conference information will be coming out on Friday – the logistics will look different, so please read carefully.
- c. Mr. Notari ended by saying how happy the kids are – there is a lot of joy at school. Pumped Up Recess and Spirit Week were a lot of fun, and it was wonderful to see all the kids and teachers playing together.

9. Next Steps and Q&A

- a. Meg Halvorsen shared that she has been documenting what is in the PTA closet – thank you to Mary Brown who previously organized this! If anyone is able to help her work through everything and document it, please contact her.
- b. Ms. Peddicord thanked Jane Fisher for her help organizing Original Works, and thanked everyone for the orders. The deadline has been extended to Friday – spread the word!
- c. Jane Fisher asked Mr. Notari if any information has been received about how the vaccine roll-out for ages 5-11 could work – Mr. Notari has not received any information yet.

10. Adjournment: Meg Halvorsen adjourned the meeting.