

## **SJLES PTA MEETING MINUTES**

**Date & location:** Wednesday, January 5th at 8:00pm, Zoom

**In attendance:** (20) Meg Halvorsen, Jenna Groman, Meg Ballman, Emily Vainieri, Tina Harkness, Dan Notari, Mary Brown, Avanti Shetye, Ashley Callaway, Sarah Park, Dina Zhuravel, Tolly Pedicord, Jane Fisher, Tiffany Burns, Maria Laskey, Sandi Cresswell, Kyle Robson, Kathy Etheridge, Tara Scully, Erin Coleman

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 2nd at 8:00pm

---

### **AGENDA:**

1. Welcome
2. Monthly Updates
3. PTACHC Update
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Upcoming Events
6. Principal's Report
7. Next Steps and Q&A
8. Adjournment

### **MINUTES:**

1. Welcome: Meg Halvorsen, PTA President, welcomed attendees to the meeting.
2. Monthly Updates: Meg Halvorsen provided an update since the last meeting, highlighting the following:
  - a. For the Toy Drive, families were asked to contribute to Homewood Center's Treasure Sale. Thank you to Linda Ferguson for dropping off the toys and donations, and thank you to everyone for contributing!
  - b. PTA meetings will continue on the same schedule - 1st Wednesday of each month at 8pm.
  - c. Calendar adjustments were announced following the last meeting, notably:
    - i. Book Fair will be held March 21 - 25
    - ii. Outdoor Bingo Night will be on April 22nd from 6-8pm
    - iii. May Day will still be on May 21st from 1-5pm
    - iv. Outdoor Ice Cream Social will be on June 3 from 6-7pm
3. PTACHC Report: Jenna Groman attended the January PTACHC meeting, filling in for Tiffany Burns. The PTACHC received a presentation by Caroline Walker regarding Blueprint and how HCPSS is responding to requirements - but noted that there is not enough funding to accomplish these and advocacy is needed for funding from the County. A motion was passed regarding an amendment to CB-9, to declare that the PTACHC's position would be to not reserve school capacity for new development if the

school system is over capacity at the grade level, as the school capacity may be needed for redistricting to address pre-existing capacity needs. It was noted that Policy 6010 Redistricting was updated in December with a target utilization of 90-100%. Additionally, James LeMon and Colleen Morris answered questions regarding COVID response and staff challenges

4. Treasurer's Report: Kathy Etheridge provided an update on the budget. She noted that the PTA made the payment for Original Works - thanks to Jane Fisher and Tolly Pedicord for spearheading this initiative. Expenses continue to trickle in.
5. Upcoming Events
  - a. Meg Halvorsen noted that a [Sign-Up Genius](#) has been created to get involved in planning upcoming events.
  - b. Event planning chairs are:
    - i. Book Fair: Sandi Cresswell and Emily Vainieri
    - ii. May Day: Meg Halvorsen
    - iii. Ice Cream Social: Mary Brown
    - iv. Bingo Night: Jane Fisher and Linda Ferguson
    - v. Silent Auction: TBD - needed!
  - c. There are many ways to contribute in both big and small ways - review the [Sign-Up Genius](#) and [more info on the website](#).
  - d. Silent Auction: Participants asked if there is still a concern about signing up for a teacher's time as part of the silent auction at May Day. Mr. Notari said that it cannot happen off-site and food cannot be included. Mr. Notari will follow-up as to whether or not activities can occur before/after school in the building, or only during school hours.
    - i. Other prior hits included: pull the fire alarm (for a fire drill), hit a teacher with a pie in the face, art time with Ms. Peddicord or gym time, front row tickets to Kindergarten and 5th grade graduations, and dunk tank (can pour water over heads, but no actual dunking).
6. Principal's Report
  - a. Mr. Notari said he does not have any new COVID updates. He does not have information on when KN95s will be available. He noted that all close contacts of a positive case will be contacted, whether or not the child is vaccinated - but if vaccinated, they will not be required to quarantine.
  - b. The school received 66 responses to the survey, which were overall positive. Results echoed other feedback that students are happy to be back in school and are engaged; the school is keeping families well informed; and the school is a caring and inclusive community - students feel connected. Suggestions provided include: parents would like opportunities to volunteer / help in classrooms, there should be more opportunities for outdoor lunch (this is not always possible due to staff availability to supervise); there should be better handling of student conflicts / bullying; there should be better diversity of teaching staff, and there should be more recognition of students and achievements. Many of these suggestions / concerns are already being considered by the staff. Mr Notari requested that all parents contact him if they have any concerns that they don't feel are being addressed.

- c. Mr. Notari answered a question about how absences are being handled currently, if students are being kept home due to COVID concerns. He noted that students can be withdrawn after 10 days, and there are state mandates that address absenteeism. There will be a centralized message coming out regarding this issue.
- 7. Next Steps
  - a. Meg Halvorsen will send out the Sign-Up Genius for spring events and will arrange a Zoom call for people who signed up to begin brainstorming.
- 8. Adjournment: Meg Halvorsen adjourned the meeting.