

SJLES PTA MEETING MINUTES

Date & location: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 8:00pm, Zoom

In attendance (22): Meg Halvorsen, Tina Harkness, Jane Fisher, Emily Vainieri, Dan Notari, Tiffany Burns, Jen Alexander, Tara Scully, Ashley Callaway, Mary Brown, Linda Ferguson, Yardley Young, Shelley Post, Meg Ballman, Kevin Yang, Sandi Cresswell, Marianne Gutshall, Candace Knott, Stephanie Errera, Jenna Groman, Lily Park, Heather McCormack

Next Meeting: April 12, 2023 at 8:00pm, Zoom

AGENDA:

1. Welcome
2. Treasurer's Report
3. Monthly Updates
4. Current / Upcoming Activities
5. Open Board Positions
6. Principal's Update
7. Additional Discussion Item
8. Adjournment

Minutes:

1. Welcome: Meg Halvorsen, PTA President, opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.
2. Treasurer Report: Candace Knott shared the Treasurer Report.
 - a. February expenses were primarily for special projects, 5th grade t-shirts, Multicultural Night, staff meals during conferences, and May Day expenses.
 - b. Income was primarily from the Read-a-Thon - which was a smashing success! The PTA earned \$13,440 for the Read-a-Thon, most of which came in during February.
 - c. Due to this success, the PTA has an unexpected revenue of \$9,000. Meg Halvorsen and Candace met with Mr. Notari to discuss school needs and suggestions were also requested in the February PTA meeting. The Board of Directors met to discuss ideas and recommends a \$9,242 increase to the budget for the following:
 - i. \$1,500 to Family Fun - Pumped Up Social
 - ii. \$4,000 to Staff Appreciation - end of year meal and staff gifts
 - iii. \$317 to Operating Expenses - additional Square reader
 - iv. \$1,250 to Community Programs - donation to the Homewood School and contribution to PTACHC scholarship

- v. \$1,175 to Student Activities - refreshments at the 5th grade graduation, Congressional hearing lunch, and Book Fairy program
- d. After Candace presented this proposed budget adjustment, Meg Ballman motioned to approve it and Tara Scully seconded the motion. 18 SJLES PTA members voted 'yes' and 0 'no' votes were received, and the proposed budget adjustment was passed.
- 3. Monthly Updates:
 - a. Read-a-thon Prizes have been set home. Please contact the PTA if there were any issues. Thank you Vanessa for chairing!
 - b. Multicultural Night was a great success! Thank you to Stephanie for leading planning and the full team of volunteers and families who participated.
- 4. Current / Upcoming Activities:
 - a. The online spirit wear sale is currently open, using a new vendor. The sale will close March 13. Thanks to Linda for organizing!
 - b. Hershey Park tickets are on sale until March 24.
 - c. The PTA is providing Field Day t-shirts to all students. A size request form was sent out - responses are due March 31.
 - d. Yearbooks are available for order until April 16.
 - e. The next Restaurant Night is March 15 - Ledo's Pizza!
 - f. The Book Fair is coming up the week of March 17-23. Thanks to Sandi and Emily!
 - g. Bingo Night is on Friday, April 14 (rain date is April 27). Order forms for tickets and pizza will be sent home with students. Thank you to Jane and Sharon!
 - h. The PTA is coordinating with teachers for their school supply lists in order to provide an opportunity to purchase through the PTA.
- 5. Open Board Positions:
 - a. The PTA Board will have many open positions next year! This is a great opportunity to get involved and support the community. All officers are elected for a one-year term, and the President and Treasurer have a limit of two consecutive one-year terms.
 - b. PTA Board positions include: President, 2 Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and 2 PTACHC Representatives.
 - c. Please let Meg Halvorsen know if you're interested in one of the open positions. Voting will be held during the May meeting.
 - d. For information on each position, position descriptions and current officer emails are available on the [website](#) (additional detail is also available in the [Bylaws](#)).
- 6. Principal's Update:
 - a. Mr. Notari shared school updates - there is lots coming up at school this spring, and the staff and students are all doing great.
 - b. Kindergarten registration is open - please spread the word and encourage parents to register new kindergarteners early. This helps with planning and staffing.
 - c. The MSDE scorecard will be available tomorrow - it's the first scorecard in several years. The kids are all doing great.
 - d. Jaguar BINGO is coming up! Everyone will get a prize.

- e. The school is celebrating Rehan Syed and Bryn Mabee! Rehan's poem won first place for the State of Maryland 2nd grade poetry content. Bryn was selected as 2023 Carson Scholar, based on academic achievement, integrity, civic and social responsibility, and will receive a \$,1000 scholarship award for her college education.
 - f. The PTA Board works so collaboratively with the school administration and has done so much for the school community. Mr. Notari offered support to whoever steps into these roles for next year!
7. Additional Discussion Items
- a. Tara Scully asked about capacity for before and after care next year - the program offered at the school by Howard County Recreation & Parks is already on a waitlist, even before registration has fully opened up. Tara will look into what we can do to advocate for increased capacity.
 - b. Ms. Alexander shared that the Green School Committee is planning an upcoming Jaguar Garden Day, in which each grade will help maintain the gardens and grounds during recess. It is scheduled for April 13 (rain date April 14).
8. Adjournment: Meg Halvorsen summarized feedback and adjourned the meeting.