<u>**SJLES PTA MEETING**</u>

Meeting Date and location: Wednesday March 6, 2024; Zoom

Board Members in Attendance: K. Brewer, C. Agbakwuru, C. Buzzerd, C. Matthews, S. Day, S. Kurdian, S. Sherry

Agenda Item	Minutes
Call to order Approval of Feb. 2024 Minutes President's Report (K. Brewer)	Called to order at 8:03 pm Had some wonderful events over the past month including Multicultural Night. Thank you to all those who orchestrated, participated, and attended. Discussed the planning for 2024-2025 board nomination process. Using past procedures and our bylaws, we don't have a formal nominating committee, but rather use a self-nominating process. Will create a Google Form for those interested in putting forward their nominations, whether an incumbent or new nominee. Will be putting out notifications for open board positions (i.e., those who will not have an incumbent) and the process in the newsletters. President position is one that will be open.
Principal's Report (D. Notari)	Thank you for a wonderful slate of events in February including Multicultural Night and an upcoming Cultural Arts Events. Thank you for support in Staff Appreciation Week and had several hundred shout-outs for staff from parents and community. Living through budget season - with reduced federal funding from COVID, lower student enrollment, and Blueprint MD's Future, funding is much more limited. Board meeting March 7 to finalize budget to present to County Council will be telling in terms of how the board will consider impacts and possible cuts.
Treasurer's Report (C. Mathews) -financials	Financials presented. Current fundraising totals are in balance with expenses.
PTACHC Report	Biggest discussion item has been the budget. Hoping that SJLES parents and community speak to their board member and Council member. Cuts include increased class ratios, eliminating some ES GT courses, eliminating 3rd Grade strings, eliminating certain positions, SE aides. Cuts are reflective of reduced funding and increased mandates from Blueprint (e.g., universal PreK).

Ongoing Business
  a. Enrichment grants
  b. Report on Board of Education roundtable (C. Agbakwuru)
	a. One new grant application for review by board this week. After this grant, assuming it is funded, we will close out the grants.
	b. There was a session with PTA presidents/reps with the Board of Education. The discussion centered around how to make the schools and school system more inclusive. Also discussion on how to make the schools more supportive of mental health and

	well-being. Discussion on county's plan on annual raises for HCSPSS state. Point was made by the interim superintendent that the Blueprint indicates there should be annual raises but is challenging with fiscal situation. Board indicated there were multiple strategies and attempts to increase funding to support the Blueprint. Another theme was having an objective policy for infrastructure upgrades, there was a concern about lack of transparency with past infrastructure upgrades at schools (i.e., upgrades do not appear to be data-driven). Questions on county's hiring process and the slow background checks and screenings of new hires.

Committee and Event reports (various)
    a. Healthy Minds
    b. Book Fair
    c. Bingo Night
    d. May Day
	a. Healthy Minds planning has coalesced around having a video on Healthy Minds as part of a virtual campaign, introducing healthy minds program and content and resources for topics seen in the needs assessment. Looking to conduct an end-of-year picnic that celebrates mental health and well-being, also having a May Day booth that will have resources and materials for mental health. .
	b. Book Fair starts in 2 weeks. Planning is well underway, including posters and flyers. Looking for community donations to the Book Fairy, which is a program for students from underserved families that might not otherwise afford to purchase a book.
	c. Bingo Night updates
	d. May Day updates
	e. Staff appreciation - helped with Staff Appreciation at the school, will have snack bars
	f. April 4 Clark's Ace Hardware restaurant night, one additional restaurant night upcoming