

JRE PTSA Meeting

10/7/2020

Note: This meeting was held online using the meeting platform Zoom.

Attendees:

Shawn Clark – Principal
Meredith Rietz – Co-Chair
Kate Munzinger – Co-Chair
Robin Barone – Treasurer
Brooke Fossey – Secretary
Kim Winter
Lori Leitgeb
Megan Frank
Marni Kleper
Wendy Vitek
Mary Refermat
Staci Thibodeau
Amy Connell
Sarah Pelusio
Danielle Shannon
Caitlin Schmalstich
Tricia Picarilli
Sheila Greenhill
Tiffany Bonus
Renee Barr
Terese Manfredi Hill
Carolina Hale
Leslie Allen
Kara Ricotta
Kim Chin
Jennifer Carter
Valerie Nolan
Brett Goldstein
Zeynep Oksuz
Stephanie S.
Na Li

1. CALL TO ORDER – Co-Chairs
 - Welcome and Call to Order at 7:03 pm

2. ESTABLISH A QUORUM – Co-Chairs
 - Quorum Established

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Brooke) - *Secretary*

- Confirm Receipt of Draft March 10, 2020 Minutes by Members. Minutes were posted online on the JRE PTSA website and shared on the chat function of Zoom.
- Call for Corrections to Minutes – none.
- **Motion to Approve March 10, 2020 Minutes by Sarah Pelusio. Seconded by Meredith Rietz. All in favor. Motion carries and March 10, 2020 minutes are approved.**

4. SCHOOL UPDATE (Mr. Clark) – *Principal*

- A sincere thank you for everyone's patience, especially with arrival and dismissal. The school is working on implementing the pick-up app but they are still troubleshooting problems with it before rolling it out.
- NY State is moving ahead with English Language Arts and Math assessment in the spring for grades 3-5.
- School Council is still being held for 4th and 5th grade. More information will be forthcoming.
- QR Codes will be disseminated to all students in case school must go fully remote. The QR Code will allow for a one-stop login for learning apps.
- The kids have been doing so great with mask wearing and social distancing required. New friendships are forming!
- New staff are doing amazing.
- There is a continued need to make sure that remote kids and remote teachers are still feeling connected.
- Administrators are planning for the January semester change where families have been promised they can make the switch to a different learning model if desired.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT (Robin) – *Treasurer*

- Budget Discussion and Vote – the budget was posted online and was also shared in the Chat function on Zoom.
- Because no money was spent for part of last year due to COVID, we have a strong budget for this year. The only fundraiser we did not get to do last year was the Ice Cream Social.
- We are attempting to run each program this year, and if we cannot do so, we will save the money for next year.
- Because of COVID, our allotment from the District is down from \$6.75 to \$4.75 per student.
- Budget allotment was increased by \$400 for Read to Succeed this year.
- Teacher appreciation budget was increased because money comes from JRE Magnet sales and is earmarked for teacher appreciation.
- JRE students wrote a letter to the PTSA concerned about cafeteria waste and asking for help. The PTSA suggested using Impact Earth for zero waste services for some of the school fundraising events and made an accompanying \$350 increase to the budget for those services.

- We are unsure if we will be able to run all of our fundraisers so we don't know what we will be bringing in this year
- No operating expense changes. Must keep 30% reserves
- Lori Leitgeb asked about Square 1 Art: last year it made less money than expected, so are there opportunities to make that closer to what we are budgeting. Because we have more students from MCE, we expect our fundraisers will do a little bit better. The last two years, it has made the same amount, so perhaps we should be budgeting less for this. Discussion: let's lower the estimate for it.
- Amy Connell mentioned that BOCES funding is use-or-lose so we are starting off lower this year. Sarah Pelusio confirmed this, and said there are a lot of options for virtual field trips this year.
- Each program chair will think about if there are virtual or socially distant options for how to do our programs this year.
- **Motion to Approve the Budget by Caitlin Schmalstich. Seconded by Meredith Rietz. All in favor. Motion carries and Budget is approved.**

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS – *Reports from each Committee Chair; PTSA Chairs will update for those not in attendance.*

- Art Ambassador – We have a new Art Ambassador
- Square 1 Art – Leslie Allen. The kids are working on their projects at school, and they will be sending order forms shortly. It was decided not to do remote learners for Square 1 Art, but it seems like parents could pick up the form and return it on their own. Would need to be submitted by October 22. Leslie will follow up.
- ASEP – Tricia Picarilli. After school virtual options are being offered.
- Book Fair – Danielle Shannon. Fair is in Jan/Feb; there will be options for online. Teachers can have a wish box again.
- Box Tops – Danielle Forringer. There is an app to scan your receipt. Meredith and Danielle are trying to get creative about how to get more receipts scanned. Terese: consider asking people to go out and buy certain products and immediately scan. Kara: you can forward your Instacart receipt and it counts.
- Bike to School Day – Brooke Fossey. May 5, 2021. There is always an option for socially distant riding and including remote students. We can get creative once we see what the spring brings. Mention was made about how to include remote learners in each of the programs.
- Ice Cream Social / Open House – no update at this time.
- D&I Liaison – Met as a committee (Lori and Tiffany) this week. Teachers and staff have been very interested in trainings. Workshops will be offered to present on these topics for parents. **Workshop offering: October 29, 6-9pm, over Zoom there will be a D&I workshop on Hidden Bias and Microaggressions given by Julie Barker.**
- Courtyard – Brett Irving. Until volunteers can be in the building, there is no work that can take place.
- International Day – Joan Simpson. It is in the budget with every hope we can do it.

- PTSA Membership Chair – Kara Ricotta. Please sign up to join the PTSA if you have not!
- Read to Succeed – Mary Refermat. Budget was increased. Mrs. Sweeny is not at school this year, so Mary will work on the program areas that she usually does. They will need to figure out how to give out prizes without Room Reps coming into the classroom.
- Rise Against Hunger – Carolyn Linehan. It is in the budget with the hope we can do it.
- Spirit wear – Terese Manfredi Hill. Spirit wear will be open for sales from now until November 30. T-shirts, dry fit wear, and sweatshirts will be available. Discussion about how to include remote learners with spirit wear and doing a raffle. MCE used to have a resale option, where families could resell their shirts and proceeds go to the school. Work with the 5th grade to create the spirit wear for the next year?
- STEAM – Carrie Ovando. No update at this time.
- Teacher and Staff appreciation – Megan Frank and Kim Winter are working on this. Welcome back Teacher Luncheon was cancelled due to COVID, but they will be going in on Wednesday with a snack bar with prepackaged snacks and drinks and signs up thanking teachers. Home packages for remote teachers. Thank you Kim and Megan!
- Yearbook – We have a new Yearbook Chair – Tony.
- 5th grade transition team – no update at this time.
- Webmaster – Kara Ricotta. Send any updates to Kara!

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

7. NEW BUSINESS

- **Light the Loop: Families can carve a pumpkin and bring it to the bus loop of the school October 24 between 4:30pm and 5:30pm.** From 6pm-8pm, you can drive through the loop to see all the pumpkins lit up. Suggested \$5 donation to PTSA to participate. Drive through event only. You must pick up your own pumpkin at the end of the night.
- Because the PTSA cannot host the Super Sale at Mendon HS, instead October 17 will be Super Sale Saturday and everyone can join the Super Sale Trail 9am-3pm for host-your-own-garage sale.
- Monday through Friday of the week of October 17 will have other fundraising opportunities.
- Will there be any guidance given about Halloween? Mr. Clark will be providing information about a COVID-friendly Halloween next week.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

9. ADJOURNMENT – (BY GENERAL CONSENT OR MOTION) – Co-Chairs

- **Motion to adjourn by Kate Munzinger. Seconded by Meredith Rietz. All in favor, and meeting was adjourned at 8:31pm.**