

# **JRE PTSA Meeting**

September 22, 2021

This meeting was held in-person at JRE School with an option to join virtually via Zoom.

## **In-Person Attendees:**

Leah Kedley – Principal  
Danielle Shannon – Co-Chair  
Kara Ricotta – Co-Chair  
Robin Barone – Treasurer  
Brooke Fossey – Secretary  
Tori Starr – Teacher Rep  
Kara Cannarizzo – Zoom Liaison  
Sara DeLaurentiis  
Christina Ficicchia  
Mary Refermat  
Christy Tenhaeff  
Katie Ward  
Karleen West  
Karen Wilson  
Lindsey Yu

## **Zoom Participants:**

Evan Adelman  
Kim Chin  
Allyson Doherty  
Christie Flaherty  
Megan Frank  
Mohammed Karim  
Marni Kleper  
Cara LaVine  
Anna Schotthoefer

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chairs
  - Welcome and Call to Order at 7:05 pm
2. ESTABLISH QUORUM – Chairs
  - Quorum established.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Secretary
  - Confirm Receipt of Proposed June 9, 2021 Minutes by Members.
    - Minutes were posted on the website.
  - Motion to Approve June 9, 2021 minutes by Mary Refermat. Seconded by Katie Ward. All in favor. Motion carries and June 9, 2021 minutes are approved.
4. SCHOOL UPDATE – Principal
  - Every day is getting better and better.

## JRE PTSA Meeting

September 22, 2021

- We are still adjusting daily to changing COVID procedures.
- Still short on some positions, so we are trying to be efficient.
- Back-to-School Picnic is happening next week.
- JRE is now at full capacity.

### 5. FINANCIAL REPORT – Treasurer

- Robin presented a draft budget and explained why she raised or lowered some allotments due to expectations around increased enrollment, COVID restrictions, and fundraising trends during COVID. At this PTSA meeting, the Program Chairs discussed with Robin what needs to be included in the draft October budget. Robin will make updates and circulate a finalized draft next month.
- General conditions: enrollment has increased, and under COVID we couldn't do as much fundraising.
- We will make it clear that the JRE spirit wear is a fundraiser.
- School supply kit fundraiser brought in more money.
- District Allotment is down to \$4.25 for a total of \$2,045.

### 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS – Reports from each Committee Chair

- Art Ambassador – Hinda Mandel
  - Brainstorming for spring.
- Square 1 Art – Leslie Allen
  - Students have begun working on their art projects and forms should go home in the next few weeks.
- ASEP – Megan Frank
  - Will be back at full capacity. Will begin the second week in October. Fall offerings, in person, include:
    - Girls on the Run (new)
    - LEGO
    - Yoga
    - Chess
    - Art
- Book Fair – Danielle Shannon
  - Aligned with Read to Succeed, in January/February. We are planning for an in-person book fair, but we need a spare room to have it in, which we do not have. We may also have an online sale.
- Box Tops – Kara Ricotta
  - Scan receipts with the app
- Bike to School Day – Brooke Fossey
  - Bike to School Day will be May 4, 2022
  - Joan Simpson of Pope Joan Design Studio made us a BTSD logo and Brooke has been printing out stickers from Sticker Mule. How many do we need? 494 students total
  - Kara suggested spirit wear for the event with the logo

## JRE PTSA Meeting

September 22, 2021

- Touch base with Ms. Kedley by February to start getting logistics worked out (i.e. bike racks).
- Cultural Arts – Christina Ficicchia
  - Will touch base with Liz and Ms. Kedley.
  - No field trips this fall.
  - Consider monthly programming for teachers.
  - Robin Barone is Treasurer for the Sam Patch. That could be a possibility.
- Courtyard – No update
- Ice Cream Social / Open House – No update
- D&I Liaison – Lori Leitgeb

**1. Our goal with the DEI committee this year is to help find ways to foster diversity, equity and inclusion as a lens to look through the work and activities we provide as PTSA for the schools across the board.** One way we are trying to support the great efforts of the volunteers is by providing name tags and color coded dot stickers corresponding to child grades for parents to wear at the back to school picnic so we can easily identify new people to talk to in a similar cohort or reach out to a new cohort (K and 1 especially) that we may not know. The goal is to build parent connections and community, especially with less connection over the last year. If parents have a wider network, they have multiple avenues to reach out to when they have questions or need support. Be looking for that (still working it out with Kim) and help us promote it at the event by wearing your dots and names!

If you have other ideas or would like some help with how we may make the program you are running more inclusive, let me know and I would be happy to brainstorm!

**2. Shana Cutaia, our new Director of Student Services, will be giving a presentation to parents via Zoom on Monday, October 18th at 7pm about the new Equity Policy the district adopted and what that means for parents and their students.** This will be part of our monthly DEI meeting. We will have that in e-news shortly but encourage all to attend.

Topic: DEI Meeting

Time: Oct 18, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82864642713?pwd=UXFDQnhEZWZFOVJyYnNLNXNhbWY4QT09>

Meeting ID: 828 6464 2713

Passcode: 3v7Uw9

# JRE PTSA Meeting

## September 22, 2021

**3. Also, the district is actively interviewing candidates for the new position of Equity Coordinator. The district hopes to have that filled and started soon to support the central focus of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion this year.**

- Directory
  - PTSA pays for the online directory but it's only used by a fifth of the kids and the price has gone up significantly. We use Friendship Lists more regularly and almost all families sign up.
  - Is there a better way to do Friendship Lists/Directories to save money?
- 5th Grade Transition – No update
- International Day – Kara Cannarizzo and Marni Kleper – No update at this time
- PTSA Membership Chair
  - 650 district-wide, goal 1,000+.
  - Could Room Reps include a membership link when they send out Friendship Lists?
- Read to Succeed – Mary Reformat
  - We can plan for parents to come in through proper COVID screening. It would be beneficial to have K-3 parents come in to introduce the game. Perhaps 5<sup>th</sup> graders could introduce the game to younger children. Prizes are donated and the grand prizes are always lunches with the Principal which the kids love.
- Rise Against Hunger – Caroline Linehan is coordinating In-Gathering. No update at this time.
- Spiritwear – Megan Dean
  - Over \$6,000 in sales already.
- STEAM – No update
- Super Sale
  - Super Sale Trail again this year
  - October 16, rain date October 17
- Teacher and Staff appreciation – Megan Frank
  - It's going great and there's another event this week.
  - Planning to do two or three more before winter and then do a lunch.
  - A suggestion was made not to feel hemmed in because there are more people who want to contribute than there are slots available.
  - 85-90 staff total
- Yearbook – No update
- Webmaster – Kara Ricotta
  - Goes out every Thursday. If you need something included in E-News, send to Kara before Wednesday mornings.
- Welcome Back Picnic
  - Planning is going well and pizza sales are going strong. Keeping it simple, but allowing kids and families to socialize in a safe environment.

**JRE PTSA Meeting**  
September 22, 2021

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A suggestion was made to introduce an anti-bullying initiative.
- A suggestion was made for future meetings to only report on upcoming events or changes to programs instead of all Program Chairs reporting out each time.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.