

Johnston Middle School PTO

Meeting Minutes

02/05/15

Opening

The regular meeting of the Johnston Middle School PTO was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on 02/05/15 in the JMS Library by Melanie Rosen, PTO President.

Present

A roster of attendee names and contact information was collected and is available from the PTO upon request.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held September 2014, October 2014 and November 2014 were circulated for review and were put forth for vote to adopt on motion of Ms. Dineen, seconded by Ms. Haverkamp. Minutes were adopted by majority vote.

Open Issues

- Welcome by Melanie Rosen
 - Presentation of revised JMS PTO website and links to various programs
 - Budget is displayed/presented by Treasurer, Nicole Lewis
 - No questions
 - Budget was put forth for approval by motion and was adopted by majority vote
 - Talentfest (Fall 2015)
 - Requests are made for interest and explanation given of past event; chair is needed
 - Anne Guerra is in contact with persons interested in chairing and circulated sign-up sheet for interested volunteers
 - Options were discussed for different ways to present the event
 - Landscaping
 - Chair, Elizabeth Shaw, has been coordinating several projects around campus: trees trimmed, planting, SPARK park cleaned up; concrete pad being designed for placement of greyhound sculpture
 - Looking for interested student/parent volunteers to plant and work on an upcoming Saturday
 - Contractor has offered plants for cost
 - Lighting has been replaced and wiring re-worked
 - Nominating Committee
 - Committee is being formed to set ballot for next year's officers
 - Request is made for interested volunteers and reference to website and job descriptions is made
 - Voting takes place at Spring meeting
- Anne Guerra speaks re Star Fund Update
 - Sample granite tiles are displayed
 - Explanation is given of planned placement of stars and the donation levels

- Approx.. \$12,000 has been collected to date
- Requests are being made to local business donors and they will also be recognized on the PTO website
- 02/23/15 is Star Committee meeting to discuss purchases to be made by the fund
- Discussion of sustaining the Star program going forward
- Coin collection is ongoing in classrooms for “classroom” starts
- Mr. Sanders speaks
 - Cellphone/backpack policy is confirmed/reviewed by Mr. Sanders
 - Students are not permitted to have cell phones in class
 - Mr. Sanders became aware of photos and posts involving JMS students and is concerned
 - Backpack policy has not changed; the SDMC institutes both backpack and cell phone policy; PTO representatives to the SDMC are Michelle Maislin and Ellen Tagtmeier
 - The 2015/2016 master school calendar has been modified (as agreed between SDMC and administration)
 - Schedule changes: JMS will move to a 10-period schedule over 2 days
 - Day begins w/ 42-minute study hall/homeroom
 - Periods 1 – 5 alternate with Periods 6 – 10
 - 70-minute class periods
 - 3 lunch periods, 35 minutes each
 - Students will have math every day
 - 6th/7th grades will have English/reading every day
 - 8th grade will have language arts
 - IPC will become optional elective for 8th graders
 - Middle school chief officer is supportive of the schedule changes
 - Class sizes will decrease with this plan
 - Creative Writing is new magnet offering at JMS in new school year
- Ms. Dineen speaks
 - Presents Student Anthology Project and explains the goals and project
 - Submission guidelines are given
 - Self-published book for art/writing
- Steve Martin speaks
 - HP delivered the professional plotter/printer and he explained its use/application for JMS and PTO printing projects/banners, etc.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 by Melanie Rosen, PTO President. The next general meeting will be at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2015, in the JMS Library.

Minutes submitted by: Regina Puccio, PTO Secretary