

Johnston Middle School PTO

Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2014

Opening

The regular meeting of the Johnston Middle School PTO was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on September 4, 2014 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. 36+ parents were in attendance.

Open Issues

- Welcome by Mr. Sanders
 - Discussion of plans for fence to completely enclose outer perimeter of campus; bids are being reviewed; work is being done to limit outside access points
- Welcome by Melanie Rosen
 - Discussion of proposed projects to be sponsored by PTO this year
- Anne Guerra, 1st VP, speaks
 - Discussion of auditorium needs: leveling of stage, working on canned ceiling lights, stage rigging/lights, drapes/curtains are aging
 - Discussion of other magnet area needs: lockers/storage for Band, replacement of backdrop for stage, covered/enclosed sound booth in auditorium
- Discussion of general campus beautification or landscaping needs/requests
 - Approximate amount of \$30,000 is discussed as budget for campus landscaping plans
- Jan Huff, After School Program Chair, speaks
 - General discussion of aftercare programs is presented, including structure, programs and staffing
 - JMS teachers/staff will be working with students to help with homework and projects as needed
 - Students will be attending on-campus sporting and other activities during aftercare
 - JMS aftercare program is projected to raise \$6,000/month this school year
 - Request for laptop cart for use by aftercare students is discussed
 - Discussion of best plans for parking/pick-up for aftercare
- Barbara Haverkamp, Greyhound Newsletter Chair, speaks:
 - Newsletter will be distributed twice/month via email and posted to JMS website
 - Send any campus news/noteworthy items to Barbara for addition
- General discussion of carpooling and ideas for coordinating/connecting potential carpooling groups

- Gloria Pereira, 2nd VP, speaks
 - Work is being done toward communication and messaging options between the PTO and parents/families
 - On-line program options, fees, services are being reviewed to find best match for our needs
 - Goal is to have a communication system in place within next two months
- Nicole Lewis, Treasurer, speaks
 - Presentation of budget
 - Some minimal adjustments will be made following recent information on membership and aftercare; changes will be published to website
 - Budget is unanimously approved by oral ballot/vote
- Veronica Simmons, Uniform Shirt Sales Chair, speaks
 - More shirt inventory is expected to arrive next week; call-out will be made
 - Volunteers are requested for helping sell shirts before/after school
 - Discussion of school store cart that could be housed in cafeteria, possibilities of staffing sales and safeguarding inventory
 - Campus wi-fi access can be spotty and causes issues w/ acceptance of credit card sales
- Mr. Sanders speaks
 - reminder of Open House dates/times/schedule/general info
 - Fundraising Discussion
 - Cherrydale, school-wide fundraiser, funds JMS campus needs (i.e., smart boards, phones in classrooms)
 - PTO fundraisers (uniform sales, aftercare) supplements school-wide fundraisers
 - Current JMS enrollment is approx.. 1760 (+/- 1360 families); expects slight decrease in that number after review/work-through of improperly enrolled students; working to get additional staff in place to accommodate enrollment numbers (smaller academic class sizes are preferred)
- Discussion of PTO membership levels
- Parent Question: is there a “buy-out” option for Cherrydale fundraiser?
 - Mr. Sanders is open/supportive to a buy-out option, but is hesitant to put one in place for current fundraising already underway because of contracts in place already with vendors and proposed sales agreements; this option can be discussed for future fundraising campaigns
- Ann Guerra speaks
 - Need for additional volunteers to coordinate Box Tops and other fundraising programs
 - Reminder to use Target/Randall’s/Kroger links to fund JMS
 - Questions about Kroger program will be addressed this week and info communicated
- Discussion of students that need service hours for participation in various organizations; use of these volunteers is encouraged

- Veronica Simmons, PAC chair, speaks
 - Brief description of PAC (Parent Advisory Committee) is given; look for further information at Open House
 - Ms. Godwin is JMS teacher contact
 - Four meetings/year are set and TEKS info will be presented
 - February meeting will give testing info/tips
 - April meeting will address promotion standards
- Parent questions and discussions from the floor:
 - Can we get information on opportunities for working parents to do from home?
 - How much notice is given to parents regarding volunteer needs
 - Traffic issues; telephone calls to City of Houston Parking Management are suggested
 - Who coordinates volunteers?
 - Mindy Cox, Membership Chair, responded to questions
 - Is there a way to coordinate bulk school supply purchases for items that are “general use” i.e. disinfectant wipes, tissue
 - Mr. Sanders is looking into options
- Parents are reminded to register for VIPS and given general information about the process
- Open House shuttle services will run to/from locations at St. John’s Presbyterian Church and Westbury Methodist Church all evening

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. by Melanie Rosen, PTO President. The next general meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on October 2, 2014, in the JMS Library.

Minutes submitted by: Regina Puccio, PTO Secretary