

# **Jamestown Elementary School PTA**

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Tues., Nov. 10, 2020**

**7:00 pm**

**32 Attended Virtually**

### **1) Welcome & Administrative Matters** – Shelly Heinrich

- a) The meeting agenda was approved
- b) The October 2020 meeting minutes were approved
- c) The board and administration introduced themselves

### **2) Principal's Report** – Michelle McCarthy

- Level one return started this week for special needs students. Jamestown has six students who returned, utilizing three classrooms and outside space. No teachers are in the building, but assistants are helping the students. They are on a modified schedule.
- Jamestown received art and music supplies from APS, and pick-ups will be scheduled for use by virtual students.
- Library curbside pick-up has been successful. They continue to happen on Wednesdays.
- Student council election will be next Friday, November 20.
- The goal is for each classroom at Jamestown to accommodate 13 people with distancing. APS contracted with CTMA to do ventilation work to expand several classrooms from a 9-person capacity to 13-person capacity.
- Teachers used the October teacher work days to set up classrooms, and classrooms are now ready for students to return.
- Jamestown and APS are meeting required number of days and months for the school year.
- No decision has been made on summer school.
- There was a community question about the short- and long-term effects of drop in enrollment for Jamestown. Mrs. McCarthy reported that many families who are not enrolled this year have indicated they plan to return next year. If there is a continued drop in enrollment, that will affect staffing. Decisions will be made in the spring.
- The state announced they are planning to require the Standard of Learning tests, typically administered in June. Jamestown is currently preparing to give students those tests, be it in person or virtually.
- Teachers continually monitor whether benchmarks are being made. Mrs. McCarthy is confident benchmarks are being met. Teachers know students better now, and will begin to use asynchronous Mondays to meet with small groups or individuals for intervention.
- Dr. Roache encouraged community members to read the superintendent's messages, sent via email. The next school board meeting is November 17.
- Upper grades are not clustering for math groups, but they will soon begin to be pulled into smaller groups. Some small groups have started for reading in the upper grades.

### 3) **Volunteers' & Officers' Reports**

#### **a) Internal Relations – Carrie Gray**

- Shelly thanked Carrie and room parent coordinator Stephanie Carpenter for the Halloween celebration.
- Stephanie Carpenter will reach out to room parents soon for holiday celebrations and teacher gifts.
- Alison Cassels reported on SEPTA. This week is the monthly meeting with a speaker on Internet safety.
- Beth Friend, outdoor education liaison, has been working to get outdoor spaces available.
- Junior Great Books is a parent-run book club that will begin in 2021.
- It is not known how the school play will look this year. Carrie is working with Chris Wilson, the director of previous years' plays, to brainstorm with the 5th graders to create video productions. The school play was eliminated from the budget this year, but Carrie will work with the Treasurer to see if the PTA can support virtual productions. Parents may also be asked to contribute.
- Run Club was also not considered in this year's budget, but community interest has led to brainstorming about a way to get students active in the spring.

#### **b) External Relations – Trish Madden**

- An email will go out next week with one big ask for the holiday season for our Randolph partnership. It will include a coat drive, a monetary drive for Thanksgiving, and sign up genius for gifts.
- Trish put out a call for girl/ boy scout groups or sports groups who wanted to help assemble grocery bags for Randolph as a community building activity.
- PTA membership holds at approximately 50%.
- After seeing how successful the virtual Halloween was, Trish asked for ideas and volunteers of other events the PTA could support. No events can be held on school grounds, but there might be other ways to build community.

#### **c) Communications – Erin Baynham**

- All yearbooks have been picked up, except one. The PTA made a \$4,600 profit the 2019-2020 yearbook.
- Erin is still collecting photos from anything school related for this year's yearbook. Please make sure any photos are above 1 MG.
- The directory file was received from the front office this week. Expect an email asking to verify information.

#### **d) Fundraising – Liz Cummings**

- Jamestown merchandise has arrived.
- Save the Date for the Book Fair the week after Thanksgiving (November 30-December 4). A new vendor, READ, is hosting the book fair this year, virtually.
- Liz is working on some new virtual fundraising initiatives, many of which came from ideas from the PTA membership. Please continue to share ideas.
- Liz is exploring school pictures through Lifetouch.

**e) Treasurer – Jason Marino**

- The PTA Budget passed by 103 yays to 2 nays.
- The PTA has \$72,600 in the bank.

**f) President – Shelly Heinrich**

- Shelly gave an overview of recent communications from APS
- The 2021-2022 APS calendar is open for review. It will be voted on later this month.
- The online verification process received a 71% completion rate.
- The school bond was approved on Election Day.
- APS scaled back boundary redistricting due to Covid, and are only dealing with schools with immediate need. Tentatively, larger boundaries will be addressed in 2022.

**4) Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm**