

PTA Meeting Minutes – APPROVED

January 5, 2015 7:32 PM

- Introductions – Attendees introduced themselves.
- Agenda was approved with additions
- Minutes for December meeting were approved.
- Principal's report
 - On 2/2 from 6:30-7:30PM Amy Miknis will give a presentation on Gifted Services.
 - Ms. Boyers, the counselor for rising 6th graders at Williamsburg will give a presentation on transitioning from 5th grade to middle school during the PTA meeting on 2/2. She will also talk about the Spanish placement test that Jamestown will be giving in March.
 - Mary Gaynor has asked to use the artist in residence funds to instead procure more materials to support the STEAM initiative. She would like to purchase more supplies to further the projects her students are doing in the STEAM arena.
 - Three teachers have taken a seminar on incorporating yoga into the classroom. These teachers will be training the rest of the staff at the next staff meeting. This supports the cognitive break that was added to the school day this year.
 - Play practice has started, and is off to a fantastic start.
 - Jamestown teachers will continue to incorporate the outdoors into their classes as long as conditions permit.
 - 2/10 is an early release day, and Jamestown will be "reading the day away."
 - The grade 3-5 math academy was very well received. The building of the parent math academies has led to increased vertical planning amongst the respective grade teachers, with first learning from the activities of kindergarten (and vice-versa) up through fourth and fifth grades.
 - Signups for the next academy are up.
- Special Report – Mary Kusler on Every Student Succeeds – the replacement for No Child Left Behind
 - Mary is the director of government relations for the NEA.
 - One of the goals for No Child Left Behind was that we would see 100% pass rate for students by 2013/14.
 - No Child Left Behind did promulgate the disaggregation of data, allowing users to see the breakdown of test results by socioeconomic, special needs, etc. groupings.
 - NO Child Left Behind has contributed however, to the end-of-year SOL becoming so important in our evaluation of teachers and schools.
 - In the new rules, the NEA put forth three primary concerns.
 - Expand accountability – provide access to higher level coursework and arts/music
 - Expand the voices listened to – ensure the people making the law actually listen to the teachers/administrators who have to teach/instruct on a daily basis
 - Reduce testing – decouple the high-stakes results from No Child Left Behind
 - The State of Virginia will determine the measures of accountability
 - There are no direct reductions in testing, but there is the opportunity to make choices/trade-offs
 - An Audit of the number of assessments and which are duplicated will be performed.
 - Effects of the Every Student Succeeds will be starting soon, but full effect is 2017/18 school year.
- Fundraising – Grace Shea
 - We have about 60 fewer students than last year, but only brought in about \$100 less than last year.
 - We are looking at new winter fundraisers for next year

- Perhaps bringing back wrapping paper
- Wreaths
- Original works
- Merchandise orders are due 1/20 with delivery to Jamestown 2/3. This is the last chance to order merchandise for this year.
- The Winter auction is 2/20.
 - We need big ticket items for the live auction.
 - We have a special need for parents of Kindergarten/First grade parents to host a parent party, as those are big money-makers.
 - A girl scout troop is offering a parents night out on 2/20.
- Community Relations – Maurine Fanguy
 - We are planning a Bingo night for 1/22.
 - On 2/27, we will have the folk-dancing night like last year. It will be a pot-luck as well.
- Internal Relations – Jen Leonard
 - The gift card program was very successful.
 - The Jamestown social worker distributed cards to the families at Jamestown in need.
 - The remainder of the cards were delivered to the social worker at Barrett.
 - The Nominating Committee is starting up.
- Communications – Sara Batla
 - The newsletter will have a new look on Friday.
- Treasurer – Rod Pick
 - Finances continue to look good.
- President’s Report – Tom Jensen
 - We are about the switch to advocating for the CIP. The CIP vote in June will be the last time to ensure we have funds to address the overcrowding plans until 2018.

Adjourn 9:02 PM