

Approved PTA Meeting Minutes
December 2, 2014 7:30 PM

- Introductions – Attendees introduced themselves
- Agenda was approved as submitted
- Minutes from November 4, 2014 were approved with the request that the spelling of Jensen be corrected from Jenson
- Principal's report
 - Principal Schaffner reported on the Eagle Scout project that has beautified the courtyard. She noted that the Jamestown alum who has worked so hard for his Eagle Scout badge has worked closely with Ms. Payack, Mary Van Dyke and the facilities team to enliven and refresh the courtyard. He has spent over \$600 on materials for the work, and Principal Schaffner asked if the PTA would consider picking up the tab. The PTA approved the reimbursement.
 - Principal Schaffner then talked about JES academic performance assessment and tracking. Jamestown has specific goals for students in Math, Science and Reading; this year JES is making an extra effort to cohesively track and evaluate the overall student achievement of those goals.
 - Some of the newer tests at Jamestown are providing formative data for collection (PALS, DRA, beginning-of-year and end-of-year match assessments, etc.). This year, staff is working to assimilate this data so that it can be passed on to a student's successive teacher to improve continuity.
 - Students are taking more interactive achievement tests that mimic the style of SOL testing. These tests have "higher-level" thinking questions and TEI (Technology Enhanced Items) like those seen on the SOL.
 - Teachers and staff are part of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) that meet and discuss progress and evaluate how well students are absorbing the material. These groups meet for at least 80 minutes per week.
 - The PLCs plan assessments together based on how students are doing, and ensure that all students receive the same assessment.
 - Principal Schaffner then discussed the classroom libraries. Reading is a prime focus at Jamestown this year. Classroom teachers are using their funds to enhance their classroom libraries. Principal Schaffner noted that any extra money that the PTA could put forward to support this initiative would be very well received.
- CIP Liaison – Mary Kusler/Courtney Barton
 - The Superintendent's proposal for addressing the middle school overcrowding was presented to the School Board. The proposal was to build a 960 seat school at the site of the Wilson school. This new building would house the HB, Stratford and preschool programs. The current HB site would be renovated and become a 1000 seat neighborhood middle school.
 - The Superintendent's proposal leaves Arlington about 300 seats short of the expected need. This would be filled by an expansion at one of the existing middle schools
 - Ms. Kusler voiced concern with the current situation. Primarily, there is another meeting for public input on the Superintendent's proposal on 12/3, and this allows time and energy to sway the board from taking action. Jamestown will continue the support of measures to alleviate the overcrowding – we need to keep focused on the goal.
- Boundary Update – Tom Jensen
 - President Jensen re-iterated that no plans are in place currently to change Jamestown boundaries. The Jamestown PTA will continue to foment a positive message for choice and flexibility in setting boundaries.

- Budget Advisory Committee – Sharon Levine
 - The 2016 budget is currently in play.
 - At this time, there is an expected 24.8 million dollar shortfall. This does not include construction funding.
 - 14.1 million of the shortfall is attributed to increased enrollment
 - 8.7 million is to give teachers a step increase
 - 2.1 million is to provide consistent instructional time across all elementary schools in the county. This is the new term for equalizing FLES across the county.
 - The rest of the shortfall is for additional debt servicing, ongoing costs for the new school, and start-up costs for the new school.
 - Currently there are two primary thoughts for closing the gap.
 - One idea is to ask the county for more money either through a modification of the revenue sharing agreement or just an increase in funding
 - The other main avenue is to increase class size
- President Jensen provided a statement in support of the Superintendent’s proposal.
 - A modification to include the 12/18 decision point was suggested and accepted.
 - The modified letter of support was approved by the PTA.
- President Jensen asked if there was any concern with the PTA actively engaging in discussion on long-term school financing and siting. No objections were raised.
- Community Relations – Various in lieu of Jennifer Leonard
 - Sara Batla reported that we have several positions that need to be filled
 - CCPTA, Taylor Liaison and Building Level Planning Committee member roles are all vacant
 - The Winter Fundraiser has been moved to 2/28.
- Internal Relations – Whitney Glaccum
 - Vera Cardinale reported on the Wellness Committee
 - The Wellness Committee is working to further engage parents and students
 - Created and inspired by JES, the farm to school program has been adopted by the county and is now in all Arlington County Elementary schools.
 - The Wellness Committee is also working towards promoting exercise along with a healthy diet
 - Oakridge and Jamestown are pioneering a school health index self-assessment
 - New policies regarding EpiPens, e-cigs and hand-washing are in the works
 - New USDA food standards are in process as well
 - A proposal was made for JES PTA to pay for a speaker to present a session on mental health. The Wellness Committee will review the proposal and funding and report back to the PTA
- Communications – Sara Batla
 - The Jamestown school directory is at the printers.
- Treasurer – Rod Pick
 - Jamestown PTA received a clean opinion on the audit.
 - The PTA’s finances continue to look good so far. Rod reviewed the highlights for November.

Adjourn 9:30 PM