

February 2018 Jamestown PTA Meeting Minutes – Approved

February 6, 2018 7:33 PM (24 people present)

- Everyone introduced themselves
- The agenda was approved
- The Minutes for January were approved
- Tom Jensen, PTA President, reported that he is in search of a parent to head up the Nominating Committee. Jamestown parent Peter van Voorthuizen volunteered for the position.

Principal's Report: Kenwyn Schaffner introduced the Math and Responsive Classroom Committee Members. The Committee Members (the "Committee") gave a presentation on "Growth Mindset & Productive Struggle in Math."

- The Committee reported that the motivation behind Growth Mindset is that studies show that kids with a growth mindset get higher grades and better test scores. Their brains grow even if they get a question wrong. Instead of getting frustrated and giving up (a Fixed Mindset), students try new things and embrace challenges.
- The Committee reported on Productive Struggle. Tasks are within reach but are challenging. There is no obvious path or clear solution. The four strategies to support Productive Struggle are as follows:
 1. Question: Ask children questions that help them focus on their thinking and identify the source of their struggle. For example, "What have you tried?" or "What was hard or tricky for you?"
 2. Encourage: Encourage children to build on their previous thinking and look at other ways to solve the problem. For example, "How can you solve it in a different way?" or "So knowing that, what can you try next?"
 3. Give Time: Give time and support for children to manage their struggles through adversity and failure by not stepping in too soon or too much. For example, "How has your thinking or strategy changed?" or "What do you still need to do?"
 4. Acknowledge: Acknowledge that struggle is an important part of learning. For example, "Does that make sense?"
- The Committee reported that Growth Mindset is important for several reasons, including: kids develop the capacity to persevere in the face of challenge, it is considered essential to learning subjects with understanding and it helps kids to learn that they are capable.
- The Committee reported that math classes focus on math workshop. Mini lessons are short. There is ample time for feedback and assessment. Faced with a challenge, students are able to work through feelings of uncertainty.
- The Committee reported that language used is important. Teachers work with students to think about internal language and how students can change Fixed Mindset statements into Growth Mindset statements. For example,

- instead of students saying “I don’t get this” try “What other strategies can I try?” Or, instead of saying “I give up” try “Mistakes make my brain grow.”
- The Committee reported that adults can help by using language that promotes a Growth Mindset. For example, “You used a great strategy on that problem” or “You worked so hard to get better at that skill.”

Community Relations: Maureen Fanguy

- Maureen Fanguy reported that Acceptable Use Policy, Strategic Planning and School Naming Projects are all being discussed/developed by APS this Spring. Action will be taken on April 5th on APS’s Acceptable Use Policy for Student Learning Devices.
- Maureen Fanguy reported that Fleet Elementary School will open in 2019 and Reed Elementary School will open in 2021.
- Maureen Fanguy reported that to prepare for these school openings there are two proposals being developed to create new school attendance zones and balance enrollment across all schools. Maureen Fanguy reported that the two proposals are to either leave schools in their current locations or look at population density and walkability. Maureen Fanguy reported that all schools are up for review and that a key factor in determining whether a school should be kept a neighborhood school is walkability. Namely, the number of walkers to that school. Maureen Fanguy reported that in Fall 2018 APS will decide whether to move certain Elementary Schools.

Internal Relations: Tom Jensen reported for Shannon Haynes

- Tom Jensen asked Bethany Matz to give an update on Campus Planning.
- Bethany Matz reported that the swing is broken again. The pins keep slipping out. She is considering what action to take.
- Tom Jensen asked Jason Marino to give an update on the Black Top project.
- Jason Marino reported that the cost for the Black Top project is estimated to be \$8,600. This includes the addition of 2 basketball hoops, 4 benches and all installation and products. Jason Marino reported that a Boy Scout wants to do his Eagle Scout project and will paint games (for example, hop scotch) on the new black top.
- Tom Jensen reported on the Program Evaluation Working Group. Tom Jensen reported that the Program Evaluation Working Group Survey will be going out electronically to parents this week.
- Tom Jensen reported on the 5K Fun Run. Tom Jensen reported that a decision from the County will be made by Friday as to whether or not it can be held this Spring.

Communications: Sara Batla

- Sara Batla reported on Year Book orders. Sara Batla reported that she has had a great response so far and that orders close on April 6th.
- Sara Batla reported on the Poetry Journal. Sara Batla reported that poems are starting to come in. Sara Batla reported that artwork can be submitted by students and that teachers will judge them and decide which items will go into the journal.
- Sara Batla reported that nominations have gone in for our Jamestown crossing guard Kathy for Virginia's Most Outstanding Crossing Guard. Sara Batla reported that February 14th is Crossing Guard Appreciation Day.
- Sara Batla reported on the Safety Committee. Sara Batla reported that parents have been moving cones in order to park their cars at pick-up.
- Sara Batla reported on doing a Jamestown Giving Tree to sponsor students at Randolph Elementary for Summer School or books. Kenwyn Schaffner to follow up with Randolph.

Fundraising: Grace Shea

- Grace Shea reported on the school Auction. Grace Shea reported that ticket sales are going well. Grace Shea reported that donations are numerous. Grace Shea reported that the Jaguar Program will be introduced at the Auction.
- Grace Shea reported that the Spring Fair will be April 21st.

Treasurer: Jason Marino

- Jason Marino reported that the Jamestown PTA financial highlights were reviewed for January as follows:
 - The total bank balance at the end of the month was \$75,600.
 - Total bank balance at the beginning of the month was \$77,800.
- Jason Marino reported that the estimated income for the Jamestown Auction is \$75,000.

Motion to Adjourn, Seconded, Adjourned at 9:20 PM

Prepared by: Karen Duhamel, Recording Secretary