

April 2018 Jamestown ("JES") PTA Meeting Minutes – Approved

April 3, 2018 9:07 AM (22 people present)

- Everyone introduced themselves
- The agenda was approved
- The Minutes for March were approved

Guest: Kathleen Freeman, JES

- Kenwyn Schaffner introduced Kathleen Freeman, JES.
- Kathleen Freeman reported that she is able to take each JES student outside to learn about science.
- Kathleen Freeman reported that she is working in collaboration with the Northern Jaguar Project ("NJP").
- Kathleen Freeman reported that the third graders did some research on Jaguars (the JES mascot).
- Kathleen Freeman reported that Diana Hadley, President of the Northern Jaguar Project, came to JES on April 1st to share information with the 3rd graders about Northern Jaguars.

Guest: Diana Hadley, President of the Northern Jaguar Project ("NJP")

- Kathleen Freeman introduced Diana Hadley.
- Diana Hadley presented a slide show on the NJP.
- The NJP is a non-profit that manages a reserve in Northern Mexico that is 55,000 acres. The NJP collaborates with the ranchers surrounding the reserve. The ranchers sign a contract not to hunt the jaguars or their prey in that region. The NJP gives the ranchers monetary rewards and educates them.
- Diana Hadley reported that the reserve is in a very remote area. The town (Sahuaripa) has no running water or electricity. The roads are also difficult to travel.
- Diana Hadley reported that since 2003, 8 jaguar cubs have been born on the reserve. Jaguars are considered sacred animals in Mexico. The NJP is able to capture the movement of the jaguars through 150 outdoor cameras that are set up to capture the activity and movement of the jaguars.
- Diana Hadley's hope is to spread her model to other parts of the country.

Tom Jensen - PTA President

- Tom Jensen reported on the relationship between JES and the NJP.
- Tom Jensen reported that JES has a mascot that the students cannot relate to anything.

- Tom Jensen reported that the students would benefit greatly from a relationship with the NJP, including but not limited to, art, technology, biology, conservation, social studies, environmental studies, not to mention that the Northern jaguar is just a highly cool animal.
- Tom Jensen reported that the JES PTA can leverage resources and support the educational component of this project.
- Tom Jensen reported that JES is getting PTA funds to replace the sign and logo at the school entrance.
- Tom Jensen reported that the curriculum at JES is being expanded in 2nd grade with the migratory bird project, in 3rd grade with the NJP and perhaps some additional programs for the 4th and 5th grades.

Kenwyn Schaffner – Principal’s Report

- Kenwyn Schaffner reported that Kathleen Freeman would like to do a Clean-Up and Garden Day on Sunday, May 20th from 2:00 – 5:00. One of the purposes of this day would be to put a native garden back in. JES could have a few Virginia native animals and reptiles there. This would be a low key, fun day with music and refreshments.
- Kathleen Freeman reported that she is looking for a parent to head this up.

Guest: Cortney Weber, BeSmart

- Cortney Weber gave a presentation on BeSmart, a campaign to reduce child gun deaths.
- Cortney Weber reported that the U.S. has the highest rate of unintentional gun shootings of any country.
- Cortney Weber reported that the mission of BeSmart is to keep kids safe. She reported that 1,200 kids die of gun violence (ages 18 and under) each year.
- Cortney Weber reported on how we can talk to our kids about gun safety.

Cortney reported that there are 5 ways to be SMART:

1. Secure all guns in your home and your vehicle. This is the single most important thing we can do. Safe storage includes locking an unloaded gun away, separate from ammunition. In addition, get a lock box for your vehicle.
2. Model responsible behavior. If you are considering getting a gun, what precautions will you take to safeguard your children? Consider risk factors that may exist. If you own a gun, do not rely on the gun’s safety. Always keep your gun pointed in a safe direction. Cortney Weber stated that 1.7 million children live in a home with guns that are both loaded and unlocked.
3. Ask parents about unsecured guns that may be in their homes. Make it a part of your discussion with other parents if your child is having a play date at a friend’s house. Volunteer information about your own home.

4. Recognize the risks of teen suicide. Has their been a change in your child's mood or behavior? Is your child feeling hopeless, ashamed or desperate? Has your child shown an increase in aggression? Has your child talked about wanting to kill themselves? Children can be impulsive so lock up all guns.
5. Tell your peers to be SMART. Cortney reported that we need to have discussions and conversations about guns. Guns are here, they are in people's homes, they need to be unloaded and locked away.

Internal Relations - Shannon Haynes for Maurine Fanguy

- Shannon Haynes reported that there is a hearing scheduled for April 19th to discuss the proposed APS Budget. In addition, there will be a vote on the Budget on May 3rd.
- Shannon Haynes reported that there is a meeting scheduled for May 1st at Yorktown High School to discuss Elementary School Boundaries.
- Shannon Haynes reported that the Reed School is moving forward.
- Shannon Haynes reported that the Strategic Plan is moving forward.
- Shannon Haynes asked Jason Marino to talk about Campus Planning.
- Jason Marino reported that he received a check for \$11,000 from the shade vendor. This check is a refund from the vendor for the playground shades, which did not function properly.
- Jason Marino reported that he is about to go forward with a contract with Cunningham Recreation for the basketball court hoops.
- Shannon Haynes reported that she is looking for a parent to make a flier for the Spring Clean-Up on May 20th.
- Shannon Haynes reported that open officer and committee chair positions will be posted in the JES newsletter on Friday.
- Shannon Haynes reported that Teacher Appreciation Week is May 7th – 11th this year.
- Shannon Haynes reported that the JES 5K Fun Run received final approval from the County. Shannon reported that JES is encouraging people to sign up and that April 16th is the deadline to sign up.
- Shannon Haynes reported on the Program Evaluation Committee ("PEC").
- Shannon Haynes reported that the PEC received good feedback from the survey that was sent out; lots of suggestions and ideas as well as teacher input. She received around 125 responses, 80% of which were PTA members.

Communications - Sara Batla

- Sara Batla reported that the Poetry Journal first draft is complete.
- Sara Batla reported that Friday is the last day to pre-order year books. She was concerned that 25 5th grade parents had not ordered yearbooks for their students and intends on sending a reminder email to them.

Fundraising - Jason Marino reported for Grace Shea

- Jason Marino reported that the JES Auction netted approximately \$106,000. The targeted amount was \$79,500. Jason reported that there may be a few small expenses coming in related to the Auction, but this number should be fairly accurate.
- Jason Marino asked Allison Cassels to report on the Spring Fair, which is Saturday, April 21st.
- Allison Cassels reported that she is doing pretty well securing volunteers for the Spring Fair. Allison reported that there are still a few open volunteer spots to fill, but that shouldn't be a problem.
- Allison Cassels reported that she has 25 students volunteering from the National Honor Society at YHS.
- Allison Cassels reported that the theme is the Wild West.

Treasurer – Jason Marino

- Jason Marino reported that the JES PTA financial highlights were reviewed for March as follows:
 - Total bank balance at the beginning of March was \$82,700
 - Total bank balance at the end of March was \$165,300.
- Jason Marino reported that the increase in the balance was mostly due to the JES Auction.
- Jason Marino reported that the JES play should be on budget.

President's Report – Tom Jensen

- Tom Jensen reported that having a healthy bank account will help with some of the changes next year.

Motion to Adjourn, Seconded, Adjourned at 10:50 AM

Prepared by: Karen Duhamel, Recording Secretary