

## December 2018 Jamestown ("JES") PTA Meeting Minutes – Approved

December 4, 2018 7:03 PM (15 people present)

- The Agenda was approved
- The Minutes for November were approved

### Principal's Report: Michelle McCarthy

- Michelle McCarthy reported that the JES Holiday Toy Drive starts tomorrow and goes through December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Michelle McCarthy reported on the Randolph Elementary School Giving Tree.
- Michelle McCarthy reported that parents should hold off on bringing gifts in for the Giving Tree until the end of the week (Friday). In addition, Michelle McCarthy reported that she will check with Randolph School to see if JES can donate additional gifts or gift cards.
- Michelle McCarthy reported that there will be a holiday party for JES staff and that the food will be donated by JES parent Grace Shea from her restaurant Lebanese Taverna.
- Michelle McCarthy reported that JES has been recognized for having the best teachers. JES was ranked #1 by Niche.com which specializes in ranking various topics, including schools.

### Guest: Sarah Jensen, Outdoor Lab Board Member

- Michelle McCarthy introduced former JES parent Sarah Jensen, who spoke about the Outdoor Lab.
- Sarah Jensen reported that Chris Payek, a former JES teacher, recruited her to be a member of the Outdoor Lab's Board.
- Sarah Jensen reported that the Outdoor Lab is a 250 acre parcel of land in VA that provides science and outdoor education to APS students.
- Sarah Jensen reported that the Outdoor Lab is a truly magical place where kids can go and explore and be hands on with nature.
- Sarah Jensen reported that currently JES 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and 5<sup>th</sup> graders have field trips there, with the 5<sup>th</sup> graders doing an overnight trip.
- Sarah Jensen reported that the Outdoor Lab is in need of people's time. There are currently 2 open Board Member positions as well as the need for a Treasurer.
- Sarah Jensen reported that there will be an Open House on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the Outdoor Lab.
- Sarah Jensen reported that due to next year's large APS Operational Fund deficit, APS may have to cut back on the budget. Sarah Jensen reported that parents need to advocate for the Outdoor Lab to keep the Lab operating as it currently is and providing all of its great programming. The Outdoor Lab does not want to lose what they currently have if their budget gets cut.

Guests: Dawn Kyser (Facilitator) and Michele Chang (Facilitator and Director of Facilitation and Curriculum) of Challenging Racism

- Michelle McCarthy introduced Dawn Kyser and Michele Chang of Challenging Racism.
- Michele Chang reported on Challenging Racism: Learning How Through Stories and Conversations.
- Michele Chang reported that Challenging Racism is a discussion group for APS parents and community members. The program has 11 sessions-the first 5 will be held at Claremont Immersion School and the last 6 will take place at JES.
- Michele Chang reported that the discussion group uses self-reflection, relationships and skill building to talk about race through honest and real conversations.
- Michele Chang reported that during the meetings there is story sharing (starting with yourself), discussions about terminology, and discussions about the history of racism. In addition, there is some light reading to do.
- Michele Chang reported that by the end of the program participants will have a better understanding of how to have difficult conversations about race and that there is an urgency and need for these conversations.
- Michele Chang reported that the program begins January 9, 2019, is free to participants and is sponsored by APS. Applications are due by December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Internal Relations: Shannon Haynes

- Shannon Haynes reported on the Randolph Partnership.
- Shannon Haynes reported that in the past Randolph has identified students in need and JES has done a Sign-Up Genius to sponsor students for summer school scholarships.
- Shannon Haynes reported on the JES School Play.
- Shannon Haynes reported that the cast for the play was posted on the JES website last week.
- Shannon Haynes reported that there is a mandatory meeting next Tuesday night for all parents whose children will be participating in the JES play. The meeting will be held in the library at 6:30 PM.
- Shannon Haynes reported that Room Parents should let their classes know that class funds cannot be used for teacher holiday gifts.
- Shannon Haynes reported on Farm to Table.
- Shannon Haynes reported that the farmers will be at JES during lunch time on December 14<sup>th</sup>. A Sign-Up Genius will go out to parents in the next JES Newsletter looking for parent volunteers to help on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

## External Relations: Angela Cocker

- Angela Cocker reported on the Community Service Project.
- Angela Cocker reported that Kelly Kumar and her Community Service Committee will have the kindergarten students make Valentines cards for Veterans. The Committee will work with the kindergarten Room Parents to coordinate this.
- Angela Cocker reported that the Community Service Committee will also work with the 5K co-chairs to do an AFAC food drive during the 5K Fun Run in May.
- Angela Cocker reported that Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> is the Annual Cookie Event hosted by the JES Hospitality Committee. Parents can drop cookies off in the multipurpose room between 8:45 and 10:00 AM. The cookies will be distributed to JES teachers and staff.
- Angela Cocker reported on the Reflections Contest.
- Angela Cocker reported that there was a ceremony in November for the Reflections Contest winners.
- Angela Cocker reported that there will be a Mom's Pilates Night Social on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 from 7:00-8:30 PM. The class will take place in the multipurpose room.
- Angela Cocker reported that there is a Bingo Night and a Dance Party in the works for later this school year.
- Angela Cocker reported on the CCPTA on behalf of Janna Dressel.
- Angela Cocker reported that a new subcommittee is being created which will be county wide. A representative will be needed from each school, including JES. The focus will be on child safety and whole child.
- Angela Cocker introduced Keith Chanon, who reported on the ACI.
- Keith Chanon reported that special education consultant PCG Consulting is being used to collect information for the Special Education Advisory Committee. Comments can be sent related to any special education issue. The following email address can be used:  
APSSpecialEducationReview@PCGus.com

## Communications: Shelly Heinrich

- Shelly Heinrich reported that the JES Directories have arrived.
- Shelly Heinrich reported that each JES family will receive one Directory by the end of the week. Directories will be distributed via backpack mail.
- Shelly Heinrich reported that JES typically budgets \$250 for Directories but this year there is a \$350 deficit.
- Maurine Fanguy requested a Motion to increase the Directory budget by \$350. Motion Approved and Seconded.
- Shelly Heinrich reported that photos are needed for the JES Yearbook. Photos can be sent to [yearbook-editor@jamestownpta.org](mailto:yearbook-editor@jamestownpta.org) or uploaded to <http://spaces.hightail.com/uplink/sarabatla>.

- Shelly Heinrich reported that she would like to send a reminder out to limit multiple blast emails.

Fundraising: Maurine Fanguy for Stacey O'Neill

- Maurine Fanguy reported that the Book Fair was a big success.
- Maurine Fanguy reported that the PTA budgeted \$4,500 and the Book Fair made \$4,900.

Treasurer: Jason Marino

- Jason Marino reported that the JES PTA financial highlights were reviewed as follows:
  - Total bank balance as of October 31<sup>st</sup> was \$72,867
  - Total bank balance as of November 30<sup>th</sup> was \$60,086.

President's Report: Maurine Fanguy

- Maurine Fanguy reported on the PTA funding guidelines.
- Maurine Fanguy reported that she has done some research to determine appropriate spending and discussed her findings.
- Maurine Fanguy reported that the focus of PTA spending should be for the social and emotional wellbeing of our children.
- The 3/1 rule states that for every 1 fundraising activity, there should be 3 non-fundraising activities.

Motion to Adjourn, Seconded, Adjourned at 8:33 PM

Prepared by Karen Duhamel, Recording Secretary