

Minutes – 8/26/2019 – Jewel PTO Meeting

In attendance: Admin: (M. Smith, C. Dosch), Exec: (K. Evans, J. Dosch, L. Wand, B. LoCicero),
Membership: (A. Bartelmey, G. Trainor, B. Nelson, K. Stone, P. Bantz, E. Rogers, C. Brown, J. Redfern, J. Owens, S. Wagner)

- 1) Meeting called to order at 6:31pm
- 2) President's Report – Kathy Evans
 - a) Welcome to the new school year. Mr. Smith has requested an introduction of all in attendance and we did.
 - b) We have four incentive events throughout the year for the students. Teachers use these to keep kids on track and motivated.
 - i. Halloween Bash (biggest one),
 - ii. Winter Carnival (amplified FFN for the Jewel kids only),
 - iii. March Madness (we just donate concessions to),
 - iv. Spring Carnival (Amy Townes funds it, we just give money)
 - c) Those events are a big portion of what we do, but also do teacher appreciation/hospitality. One thing we want to focus on this year is school improvement. Have done bigger ticket items in the past but want to revisit this year.
 - d) Fundraisers (review): Last year we started doing concessions at West High. 2 events, looking to do more this year.
- 3) Vice-President's Report – Jennifer Dosch

VP takes care of membership, we have 35 families and 23 staff currently signed up. Flyers available on the website. As VP also manage the process of the West High concessions' fundraiser. We talked about this being a transition year. Looking for people to step in if they can to head or shadow committee heads.
- 4) Secretary's Report – Brian LoCicero

Nothing much to report other than ensuring the calendars are up to date, posting on Facebook and website along with Ken Stone and of course, taking minutes.
- 5) Treasurer's Report – Laura Wand

Didn't have a big payout at the end of the year last year so we have, at the moment, \$12,000+ in our accounts. We've had conversations with Mr. Smith about ideas for this year. There were questions about the budget and Spring Carnival with money spent or not spent due to the bad weather. We'll go through that in new business when talking about the budget
- 6) Committee Updates
 - a) Fundraisers

- i. Friday Fun Night – first one 9/20, we are permanently extending by the extra half hour as it’s historically paid off. Sign up genius for donations and volunteers, anyone interested in taking this over for next year, we’re looking for someone to shadow. Donations help defer stuff that we then must buy but that takes out of the profit and lessens our benefits.
- ii. Halloween Bash – First committee meeting 9/16 – need some creative folks. We rely on students from West to work the haunted house and the week before is a home football game (last one). Ton of work and ton of fun. Looking for anyone to do whatever we can the night before to set up. Set up is Nov 1st, from 3:38-6:38pm. There’s some advance work as well (building of the sets, etc.) and always need to clean up after the event.
- iii. Spirit Wear – one order in, one more order to come for the Fall – need to find a committee head. Looking at going digital next year so we can order online.
- iv. Concessions / West High Booster – discussion around needing volunteers – We need volunteers who can work the stands, we get 20% of take, minimum of \$50 and then percentage on top of that. 4-12 people usually needed. You can have your little ones with you as well. Help clean up and leave and then get a check. 2-3 this year. Bigger the event the more volunteers and money we make?
- v. Winter Carnival – It’s sort of like a Friday Fun Night for Middle Schoolers but with additional stuff. We need bakers for the cake decorating contest at this event. All depends on who can bake 9” round cakes. Or faux cakes with marshmallow fondant. Any thoughts are welcomed.

b) Funded Activities

- i. Hospitality – Parent-Teacher Conferences (10/8 & 10/11) – we like to treat our teachers well. One committee we need someone very much to help run. We’d like to step it up and do better for these events, so we’ll work with Mr. Smith in looking at what else we can do.
 - 1) Dinner for P-T, Veterans Assembly breakfast (11/12).
 - 2) Teacher appreciation week (open to new things). Normally we do 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, 1 snack day (sundae bar, or whatever).
 - 3) Mrs. Freed may do something for SCET talks ??
- ii. Spring Carnival – Far off. We fund this, but Mrs. Townes runs it/organizes it. This is a huge incentive.
- iii. School Improvement – Ideas we’ve been kicking around – Some bigger than others. In the past we’ve furnished the sun room and it’s getting old. We’ve done language lab. We want to work with Mr. Smith to come up with plans earlier in the year so in case we need to do some additional fundraising, we can get it in the plan. Electronic Message Board - New Athletic Entrance sign for visiting teams to know where to enter. (door # something)

iv. March Madness- just provide Gatorade for.

7) Principal's Report – Mr. Smith

a) We are in our 4th day – updates

- i. 662 students 206 in 6th, 234 in 7th, 222 in 8th. Free breakfast and lunch for all. More and more are taking advantage of this in the morning and at lunch. Feelings have been very positive with the new vendor.
- ii. Summer projects – roof leaks for many years and many issues. So far so good with the repairs done this summer. It rained today and no issues. Exterior and interior painting has gone on (lunch provider did it for the cafetorium). Outside, look across the top there's some white paint where it was rusty.
- iii. They fixed sidewalks and curbs this summer.
- iv. Parking lot lights have been updated to LEDs
- v. Staff members put some motivational stuff in boys' and girls' bathrooms.
- vi. Thanks to PTO for our schedule pick up days and orientations.
- vii. Good turn out on Orientation night, this was new. We are now a Title 1 school so we need to document open events for students and families. We ended up having 120 6th graders on that evening, plus a bunch more 7th graders. Any feedback is appreciated.
- viii. Big initiative at Jewel is about getting involved – sense of belonging. When kids feel a part of the school the more successful they are. Ramping up the pins. High 5 club. Whole list of them on the wall, so we're looking to expand that based on new kids from schools coming in. Thanks to the students who are ambassadors they know a TON and that was very impressive.
- ix. Fall sports have started, ~200 kids involved in Fall Sports. Schedule to be sent out (daily announcements).
- x. Technology, Chromebooks will be distributed on Wednesday the 28th. If not familiar with Schoology let us know we want to make sure that everyone knows how to look at what their kids are doing.
- xi. Trying to make presence on Twitter bigger, so please follow us. @JewelJaguars @AthleticsJewel also (but that's been dormant). Trying to keep up with Washington at this point.
- xii. Important Dates: Labor Day (2nd) off, School Picture day on 5th, Fall sports pictures at 7:15 on the 6th, Open house (you walk child's schedule. Curriculum night) on September 11th. Midterms end on 20th September.

8) SCAC Report – Penny Bantz

a) Nothing yet, no meetings scheduled yet.

9) Old Business/Open Discussion

- a) Website, social media – The District revamped everything, Brian/Laura/Ken meeting at District offices on Friday the 30th so we can get everything back in there.
- b) Emails to members will be coming from JewelJaguarsPTO account. Info will be in there about who to contact. We'll call out who to contact.
- c) We may not always be in this room, we may also be in the library.

10) New Business

- a) Motion to approve budget as laid out with no changes by: Mr. Owens
Seconded by: Mr. Dosch

Open Discussion

Income –

We've put membership to \$500, down, attendance is going down, lots of factors, low volunteerism.

Going to follow up with Funway about their school night fundraisers.

Expenses –

upped Hospitality from \$750-1000,

Teacher/Staff financial assistance (used to be Education Fair) – extra funds for teacher needs. Social studies, technology, etc. \$1000

Student Financial Assistance (sport, clubs, etc. and can't afford it), staying at \$250

WAPTSO Scholarship – all MS donate to kept at \$250

Spring Carnival -> Knocked down to \$7k.

Discretionary kept at \$250 - If there's an event and a reason to buy and don't have time to get it approved, to get the funds and then reconcile it afterwards.

Motion carries.

11) Adjourn Meeting at 7:47pm.

- a) Motion by Mr. Dosch to adjourn
Second by Mr. Owens
Motion carries.