

PAC MEETING SUMMARY

April 3, 2014

8:30 – 9:45 AM

Guests: Mr. Brian Ayers (Principal), Lori Van Vleet (Parent Liaison CJMS).

PAC Board present: Jannet Borrmann (Secretary and Facebook Administrator) and Dawn Tarabochia (President).

Members Present: Mary McMakin, Mandee Arnold, Mona Carroll, Heather Frisk, Sue Deyo, Tootie Dunning and Lydia Trom .

- Dawn Tarabochia opened the meeting and asked if any members had to leave early but wanted to participate in the voting for new Board members. If no, we would ask Mr. Ayers to do his update first as he has a 9AM meeting to attend. Everyone was okay for time so Dawn handed over to Mr. Ayers first.
- Mr. Ayers first asked to make sure we would give Lynn Sieger any new contacts for new Board Members for communication purposes. He then talked about upcoming Fun night in May, which is organized by Heather Fisher (6th Grade HE Teacher). There will be a large inflatable obstacle course. Years ago Mrs. Johaneson challenged Mr Ayers and for him it became kind of a 'representing' males against females and it almost killed him. This year he has trained and he hopes after having had a baby she won't be in shape quite as much ☺..... Heather will contact Dawn about how PAC can help Missy O'Mally will MC.
- Smarter Balance testing: Made it through the first week of testing. There will be NO scores this year, it's basically just testing the test and testing the scheduling so it's the least amount of disruption and if the infrastructure is sufficient. Basically, the results could not have been better. Interviewed some kids who all preferred the interactive online experience to a paper test. They will do a proper, complete survey with parent feedback. Mr. May was really great and Mr. Ayers thanked him plus thanked the PAC for having provided the snacks. 7th Grade will take the test next week and then 8th grade 2 weeks after that. Testing is on Mon, Tue and Wed. Same amount of CRT (7 hours). Since it requires bandwidth, not everyone can get tested at the same time, that's why it's spread out more. Since kids need to be online, it's limited to 1,5 hrs. at a time. Students can pause a test to go to the bathroom etc. They have headphones and can have questions read aloud to them. There's even a glossary for foreign language students if they need to clarify an English word they might not understand in their language. Since teaching these days incorporates more and more technology, it seems appropriate testing does too so Smarter Balance is basically 'forcing' teaching to catch up a bit. Plus it'll help clarify purchases of resources towards what will really be needed. More kids are starting to use personal devices in classrooms for learning purposes too as per individual instructors allowance. Testing took place in 3 computer labs and one classroom with Chrome Books where there was an issue that was solved by a student! They provided feedback to the Smarter Balance consortium about this and they had had this issue in other places too and were grateful for the solution provided by this student! Only negative thing so far is that labs are unavailable for instruction during this time but it can be worked around. Jannet Borrmann asked if typing speed had been an issue at all and

Brian said, so far they'd only tested 6th grade and they only need to do a 1 paragraph essay. 8th Grade has 5 paragraphs so it would be interesting to see if there's a difference. We'll have to find out but encourage children to use all the free online programs provided for improving typing skills. Maybe in 3-5 elementary school grades this may be more of an issue?

- Suggestion was made to maybe utilize PACE time for typing and Mr. Ayers explained that PACE would look differently next year. They find that activities that 'should' be chosen for practice are not chosen and that the call-backs are perceived as a punishment. PACE environment for next year will be based more on needs and will be in blocks, i.e. 6 weeks at a time where kids will 'test out of it' plus it'll enable teachers to create more of a bond with the kids if they have them for a specific amount of time.
- CJMS is having its first Middle School Speech and Debate with SMS next Friday between 1-5 PM. BHS Speech and Debate and their coaches have been working on this.
- A couple of weeks ago Mr. Van Dyk had addressed the new math program. 5th Grade teachers are currently assessing their kids for placement into 6th grade math. Kids will be placed into appropriate classes. Some incoming 5th graders are ready for 7th grade math. Some math contains a lot of word problems and the idea is to 'pull the math' out of the word problem so it doesn't become about reading abilities but about math skills. Mr. Ayers thanked Mr. Van Dyk for running this.
- The new School Calendar is being drafted and decision has been made to go an hour based calendar instead of required days of instruction. Will translate into school starting after Labor Day and elimination of Early Release days. Teachers get 3 days before school starts instead of 2. Overall there will be more 3 day weekends and minutes added per day. In Elementary probably around 10, in Middle School maybe only around 5 as tweaks can be made to current time taken out for announcements (can be shortened) and some time from PACE. It's not been decided yet exactly but most likely minutes will be added to the end of the day.
- Dawn took over and introduced potential new Board Members and asked them to introduce themselves. Mandy Arnold is running for President. She has a new 8th Grader and 6th Grader, they came from St Mary's in Livingston where she was involved in their PTO/PTA as President for 4 years. This was a private school with lots of requirements. Mandy welcomes any ideas and feedback and encourages input. She saw a lot of enthusiasm at the beginning of the year and met great parents while running Spirit Night. Heather Frisk is running for Vice-President and has a 6th Grader now plus an incoming one. She stepped up during Spirit Night and had a great experience with the team and is excited to continue. Mona Carroll is running for Secretary and has 6th Grader from Hyalite plus an 8th Grader going into High School and a senior graduating and a 3rd grader in Hyalite. Mona also worked on the Spirit Night committee and thought they make a great team and is excited about having gained more insight into the school and it's workings by having become more involved in the PAC. She loves Facebook and reads the minutes. Dawn moved to a motion to propose Mandy for President, Heather for Vice-President and Mona for Secretary (all upcoming open positions), all present voted in favor and Jannet seconded the motion. Motion accepted. The New Board Members will run the upcoming June PAC Meeting. We all thank Mandy, Mona and Heather for stepping up! We know you will do a great job and have a good time! It was discussed that Sign up Genius is a really great help plus

Jannet mentioned to make sure the PAC mans a table during Schedule Pick Up to sign people up at the beginning of the year when excitement is high, for committee's etc. During the last year, all PAC members ended up 'manning' other stations and the PAC station just had sign up sheets on it and it's crucial to be able to talk to people right there and then and sign them up then.

- Dawn took over and talked about Fun Night coming up in May, usually PAC provides food; Sign Up genius might be needed for this (May 2nd). Smarter Balance snacks are taking care off through 7th grade for now and 8th grade will be covered too. Costs may be a little higher as it's more stretched out now. Runs around \$250 per grade. Costco card new sign up for new board will be needed.
- 8th Grade Graduation / Continuation Ceremony and Dance needs a committee. Michelle (Treasurer) wants to be involved. PAC usually provides ice cream sundaes, but Mrs. Martin did it last year. Will request Chair on Facebook for June 6th. Suggestions were made to have the 8th Grade Dance after the Choir concert at 7.30. SMS does it at night and had graduation / dance together on the last school night. We need to email Brian and see if we can change the timing of the event, decorators the night before needed if timing remains in the morning. Last night was a bit of a panic as they ran out of helium.
- Mona Carroll mentioned that there are several sources online and at YMCA and maybe can talk to Lynn if people want to support the Hopkins / Ferguson family.

That was it for today, two more upcoming PAC Meeting this year in May & June. June will be run by new Board ☺

If anyone would like to VOLUNTEER or DONATE, please contact Dawn Tarabochia at 581-6311 - dawn@tarabochia.net and we will get you set up! Thank you for supporting CJMS and please like our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/cjmpace> or type in Chief Joseph Middle School in your Facebook browser.