

December 9, 2020

Present:

Gretchen Mueller- President
Claire Betler- Vice President
Maggie Cyphery- Treasurer
Sharon Desilets- Co-treasurer
Juan Larrañaga
Matthew Powell
Monica Olmstead
Becky Bixby

Start: 6:00

1. School update by Principal Olmstead.
 - a. Administration has developed a re-entry plan with several safety measures: posted reminders to wash hands, social distance, and wear masks; reorganized cafeteria with 6ft-spaced desks; reorganized classroom desks at 6 ft spacing; ensured windows can open for ventilation; verified hvac system working properly; planned procedure for safe entry/exit at start/end of day. As we get closer to re-entry the principal will host a Coffee with the principal' to review plans with families.
 - b. Hired a new school nurse, Ms. Jackson. She is preparing the nursing office for re-entry.
 - c. Planning for 5th grade registration. There was a meeting with the feeder schools and they discussed criteria for placement in school programs (e.g. math placement).
 - d. Katy Slota, family liaison, organized Thanksgiving meal support for families. JMS helped 108 families. Katy expects there will be 120 families to help over Christmas break.
 - e. JMS will have a book distribution this Friday 2-3 pm. The books, all in Spanish, will be distributed 2 per student.
 - f. Staff appreciation gift distribution will be next Monday.
2. Treasurer provided a report to members. Current funds are \$842.46. This includes the \$156.40 payment for staff appreciation cookies from ABC bakery as well as the payment for the recent Chipotle fundraiser (check pending delivery to PTO).
3. PTO president reports that the JMS PTO bylaws were discussed at a board meeting last month. Minor revisions were made to bring them up to date. A policy regarding the JMS PTO facebook page was added. All bylaws and minutes from PTO meetings will be available to parents and members on the JMS PTO website.

4. Update on the Instructional council Dec 8 meeting by Vice President.
 - a. Administration received feedback from the APS parent survey that, for some classes, assignments and grades were not being updated in synergy in a timely manner. There was discussion about setting a timeline but no decision was finalized. It will be discussed further at the next meeting.
 - b. It was clarified that in middle school there is no finals week, so no change in bell schedule.
 - c. The calendar for next semester was reviewed, including the online schedule for classes on the short weeks (A, B and C days). Student led conferences will be the two days before spring break.
 - d. School administrators are working hard to help students that are struggling in various ways. Proposals and topics for discussion included support with technology education for synergy, getting more student cameras turned on, how to talk with students about depression/anxiety, strategies for re-entry, Go Guardian, how to work less on the computer, and a possible half day of classes with the rest spent on teacher planning.
5. PTO member Juan L. asks for clarification on the bylaws revision and new facebook policy.
 - a. Member Juan L. suggested changes to the bylaws should be presented to the PTO body for 30 days before being voted on by the entire body based on procedures recommended in the common procedure system, Robert's Rules of Order.
 - b. Member Juan L. also expressed concern about the removal of one of his posts to the PTO facebook page and has requested that we consider why the post was deleted, and why he was removed as an administrator to the facebook page. Because this page has always been open to posts by all members of the closed facebook group, he feels he was personally targeted.
 - c. The principal of JMS supports the new rule that board members should have posting rights. Others can post, but the post will go through a clearinghouse before appearing on the webpage. She added that this change in policy is just one part of a larger plan to organize procedures at JMS.
 - d. The president said the move was also to clarify the page and is designed to solely promote school sanctioned activity.
 - e. A member asked if APS may have common rules about school website access and the JMS principal offered to ask the communications office at APS, though another member added that the PTO is not an APS entity.
 - f. The president will add this item to the next meeting agenda for further discussion.
6. Virtual fun run. The president updated from what was discussed at the board meeting. The timeframe was suggested as starting in January and continuing for a few weeks or

months. We would ask people for their support as a flat donation. The ZIAthon website that a member previously shared would be a probable model for JMS. The company of that website gets a portion of the proceeds or alternately asks users for a tip. This amount is in addition to credit card fees. Elvira and Sharon have offered to organize the effort. The president suggested we meet shortly after the Jan 5th return to school to hammer out the details. The JMS principal suggested the student leadership could help advertise.

End: 6:48