

JES PTO Meeting Minutes from September 20, 2023
JES Library 6:30 PM

6:30 Welcome and Introductions

Attending: Brenda Schnell , Ashley Mundy , Meghan Buchta , Kamasia Schnaus, Emily Woodard , Brooke Klem , Traci Catt , Alie White, Tayler Seger, Erin Goggins, Katie Spond, Sara Boehman, Tiffany Estabrook, Brock Moeller , Audra Jahn, Sabrina Peters, Kent Taylor, Austin Hopf, Kristin Braun

Committee Reports

Paragon - Kristin & Traci Catt - Sales are underway. Goal is for every student to sell 5 items. Keep encouraging the sales. Order forms are due on Tuesday, September 26th. Delivery of items is October 25th. We will need volunteers to help. Sign up genius will be coming soon.

Teacher Appreciation - Staff Appreciation committee met and discussed ideas and task list for the year. Upcoming: Parent Teacher conferences. Parents can sign up and bring in food to the conference room on Sept. 27th and Oct. 4th.

Treasurer - Introduce new treasurer, Amanda Loya

Marketing - Committee Meeting Update, Katie Spond - Committee met and discussed ideas. How can we increase our volunteer base? Use sign up genius as a portal to house all available volunteer opportunities and allow parents to sign up anytime? To help promote Raise Right, we'd like to dedicate 1 parent just to work on that. Maybe have a support booth at Leadership Night to help parents get started setting it up and using it. For the PTO newsletter do we use a dedicated service (mailchimp, etc.) vs. an email attachment? Make PTO thank you cards with our logo that have tax deductible information included that we can send to donors. Katie Spond made volunteer buttons so our volunteers can wear them while working at events. Promote Papa Johns (JASPER30) by sending home a flier for a family pizza night. Boost apparel sales by having JES news anchors wear shirts and gear, have QR code available so parents can easily order from their phone. Use school reach text messages sometimes in lieu of phone calls. Discussed the current PE program and the lack of a dedicated PE teacher and ideas on how to incorporate more movement in the classroom. Possibly utilize FitFuel to make videos for teachers to use with their class.

Welcome & Culture Committee - Mural, Nicole Lampert is working with Blondebrush on a wall mural. Teachers will get to vote on a design. Then it will need to be approved by school board. JES culture committee is also working with Blondebrush on a window mural for library. Use Giving Tuesday to help fund these projects. More at the November meeting.

Budget Amendments and Fund Requests

Upgrade Grant & Stipend Request - Mrs. Schnaus - Upgrade is an organization that grants money to provide health and wellness initiatives. It started at 5th street. They gave \$20,000 for the tot lot (preK and K playground), have provided recess & PE equipment and curriculum. Kamasia and Kevin Schipp are the coordinators. They put in extra time organizing & implementing initiatives (Wildcat Walk, recess & PE equipment, fresh fruit & veggie choices at lunch, healthy birthday menu, Minds in Motion, etc.) Upgrade will give them \$500 to split if the school matches it. Kamasia asked if PTO could pay the \$500. Voted on providing \$500 for the match. Vote passed unanimously.

Substitute Appreciation Bags - Need to discuss details with Mrs. Small and how much money would be needed for this. This would likely come out of the Staff Appreciation budget.

JES Programs and Upcoming Events - Teacher Presentations

JES Book Fair, Library & AR Points

Details and [Volunteer opportunities](#) (Mrs. Peters) - Book Fair starts on Sept. 25 and runs through Oct. 4th. Using a new company this year that is more focused on books rather than toys. Students can come in before school to purchase books, during classroom library time or after school until 4:00 PM. Tues, Thurs, Wed will be open until 6:00 PM. Younger grades will make wishlists during their library time. You can send money in with your student or purchase a gift card for them to bring in.

<https://efairs.literati.com/?school=jasper-elementary-school-jasper-in>

AR Program - Accelerated Reader is a school wide (grades 1-5) program where students read books, take a test and then earn points. This doesn't count towards their grade, just a tool to help foster literacy and assess comprehension. Goal is for students to challenge themselves and grow as readers. To learn more or request a title be added to the database go to <https://www.renaissance.com/products/accelerated-reader/>

GYTO - What is it? (Mrs. Jahn) - Get Your Teach On is an organization that comes to your school and helps bring passion back into the classroom by providing research based strategies, focusing on positivity & optimism. JES was 1 of 12 schools that were selected for the program. Goal is to work with teachers to make class more engaging and leave students and staff feeling empowered and motivated. All staff is included, not just classroom teachers. Volunteers may be needed to help cover classrooms while teachers are pulled for GYTO activities.

Leadership Night - Details and Activities (Mrs. Schnaus) - October 11th from 5:30-7 families are invited into our school to learn about the Leader in Me and the 7 habits. It

will be a fun & family-friendly night where parents will learn about Habits 1,2,3 and then head outside for food trucks & a festival. Kids are learning songs and will perform. More information will be coming home soon.

Volunteer Opportunities & Sign Ups - Kristin

7:15 [Book Fair](#)

[Foody Friday](#) - Volunteers needed from 9:00 - 9:45 to help deliver food to staff
JCAC Education Committee - parent representative needed

The committee meets one time a month (30-60 minute meeting) during the school year. Mary Burke and Jodi Crooks are both a part of the committee to represent JES, but they would like to have a parent rep for each school as well. We discuss art happenings at the TCCC and decide on the productions our students get to see each year at the Auditorium on VUJC's campus. Casey Uebelhor, through JCAC, heads up the committee if someone is interested, but has additional questions about the position.

Hallway Monitors - This Thursday morning for staff meeting 7:30- 8:15

Paragon Pick Up - Oct. 25th

Parent Teacher Conferences - bring food/potluck style [Sept. 27th](#) and [Oct. 4th](#)

7:20 [Principal's Report](#) - Mr. Taylor - Franklin Covey has awarded JES Lighthouse status for 2 more years. This is a big honor for our school and we are proud to utilize the Leader In Me curriculum. Don't forget to sign up for Parent Teacher Conferences via zoom. Focus on the science of reading - teaching vocabulary and phonics. We have listening and speaking vocabulary. Have conversations with your children and use big words that they don't know or understand. This will help increase fluency and comprehension. Ask questions and make communication an integral part of everyday life with your children.

7:30 Open Q&A

Our Mission: To enhance the educational experience for all students at JES, to develop a deeper connection between school and home by encouraging parental involvement, and to enrich the environment at Jasper Elementary School through volunteer and financial support