

PTO Meeting Minutes
September 10th, 2024 | 7pm

Welcome

Introductions were made, and thanks given to everyone who was able to attend. In attendance: Rachael Gibbon, Rachel Trout, Doris Briar, Ted Wells, Maria Kretz, Alisha Shank, Laura Shafer, Nicole Roy, Caleb McClure, Kim Smith, Jennie Harrison, and Allison Symmes

Approved the May 7, 2024 meeting minutes.

Treasurer Report (Maria Kretz)

Maria presented the final budget for the 2023-2024 school year. The PTO balance on May 7th, 2024 was \$12,415.74; Maria noted with deposits totaling \$1,178.37 and withdrawals totaling \$4,375, leaving the PTO with a starting balance of \$9,219.11. Those deposits and withdrawals came from Mayfair adjustments and Hersheypark tickets, and payments for teacher stipends and bussing for the end of year field trips.

Maria reported withdrawals of \$953.43 already for September – the 2nd grade field trip and a Mayfair deposit, made on May 29th, 2024, with a new total for September 2024 of \$8,265.68.

Maria then presented a proposed budget for 2024-2025 school year that was approved with some minor changes. The total operating budget for this coming year is \$150 less than last year's, at \$20,600.

Mr. Wells' Report

Mr. Wells reported that the renovations are finished; lighting, carpeting, paint, nurse's area and former mail room underwent a reconfiguration, the conference room was repurposed into a calm down/sensory room, HVAC was updated, and an ADA bathroom was added. Also reported were the additions of new staff this year, from teachers to support staff at JGE: Mrs. Flickinger (4th grade), Mr. Gruver (5th grade), Mrs. Posner (para), and Jackie (daytime custodian). Another change is that the LIU classroom is no longer at James Gettys, and in its place is an autistic support class through New Story.

Mr. Wells reminded the PTO that JGE is presenting at the next School Board meeting, which is exciting.

Overall, Mr. Wells indicated that we are off to a great, but blazing start to the school year, with 4th and 5th grade departmentalizing and students in different classrooms.

One other new thing Mr. Wells reported was that the format for the Newsletter would be different this year, in addition to a new website launched by the district. To conclude his report, Mr. Wells noted Skyward updates that were rolled out over the summer that have changed a few things, including removing old features (while adding new ones), and that while there were some glitches, he is hopeful that they will be resolved within the next couple of weeks.

New Business (Allison Symmes)

Allison introduced Laura Shafer to the PTO from Zoom, who reported on Family Engagement Nights, specifically the upcoming October 17th event, "Camp Read-A-Lot," starting at 6 pm, which is part of the Title One School – Parent Engagement program. There will be seven stations, sponsored through title one. Laura is currently looking for donations, and requesting that PTO run a station, or just be present.

Laura also reported that there will be another event later in the year where families will be invited to watch interventions and small group learning, and another event, in the Spring, possible to give away books.

Laura reemphasized that she is hoping to form a partnership with the PTO, and strongly encouraged our participation and support.

The PTO then had a discussion about having a t-shirt/apparel sale with designs ready to go by October 17th, to pre-sell at the event. However, Mr. Wells noted that the PBIS committee is planning on doing a shirt sale, and suggested that the PTO coordinate with them so as to not overlap.

As part of further new business, Allison Symmes reported on Parents Night Out at Empower Martial Arts, which is coming up on November 16th. The PTO still needs to go pick up the \$320 check (and photo) from last year.

Allison concluded the New Business with a brief discussion about a new (earlier) meeting time for the PTO that would be more suitable for everyone's schedules. It was felt that the current time is most appropriate, though there were some voices that would prefer 6:30pm. No changes were made at this time.

Committees

Fall Fundraiser (Jennie Harrison)

Jennie Harrison reported that the Fall Mum sale was happening right away this year, the date was set by Taylor's Greenhouse and outside of our control. Friday was the deadline, and a need for volunteers to help unload Mums for October 7th was brought up, with a couple members of the PTO volunteering (Caleb McClure).

Jennie opened a discussion for the PTO about Joe Corbi's vs R&K Subs – which one in which season (Fall or Spring) did we want to have. The points were raised that last year was the second time with R&K Subs and the first time with Joe Corbi's. Both are pretty decent. Joe Corbi's was done in the Fall, R&K Subs in the Spring (this year we were talking about swapping). For further discussion, a new idea from Rachael Gibbon about doing Popcorn was presented (Double Joy brand), along with an idea for a raffle, and Cards for a Cause. It was pointed out that the Fall of last year, Joe Corbi's was one of our larger money makers, and so no changes were made, though doing Cards for a Cause later in the year seems like a really good idea.

RIF (Jennie Harrison)

No update.

Restaurant Fundraiser

Maria is working on scheduling with Dairy Queen.

Box tops

No update yet, but there was a suggestion from Ted to send out a blurb or flyer, and he reminded us that we can put stuff in the Newsletter.

Spring Fundraiser

No update.

Holiday Craft

No update.

Hospitality

No update.

Math Madness

No update.

Science Fair

No update.

Announcements

There are Hershey Park tickets – 4 left!

Gift card winner announced – Kim Smith; who donated it back to the PTO

Popsicle party winner announced – Mrs. Strausbaugh