

PTO Meeting Minutes

January 14th, 2025 | 7pm

Welcome

Introductions were made, and thanks given to everyone who was able to attend. In attendance: Rachel Trout, Austin Binz, Lauren Binz, Allison Symmes, Caleb McClure, Kathleen Sease, Jennie Harrison, Todd Orner, Maria Kretz, Rachael Gibbon, and Ted Wells.

Approved the November meeting minutes.

Treasurer Report (Maria Kretz)

Maria presented the budget. We had a starting balance of \$9,848.18. A deposit for the Fall Fundraiser, Joe Corbis, totaled \$5,391. Withdrawals totaled \$6,450.15, which included RIF, holiday craft day, teacher stipends, carnations, 4th grade field trip admission, Joe Corbi's, and the May Fair balance. The current balance as of January 14, 2025 is \$8,789.03.

Mr. Wells Report

Mr. Wells reported that report cards will be available online on January 27th. Mr. Wells indicated that this is a switch for JGE to go to a standard based report card, and that they gathered input from a lot of sources (teachers, staff, parents) before making this switch and will be sending more information to the parents. Afterwards, JGE will be seeking feedback from parents to assess the new style of report cards.

Mr. Wells gave a committee report announcement regarding the Math Madness that's coming up: the first planning meeting is this coming Thursday. There is hope to return to Gettysburg College.

Mr. Wells also reported that any additional snow days will be FID days.

New Business (Allison Symmes)

Allison gave report: there is no new business.

Committees

Fall Fundraiser (Jennie Harrison)

Allison gave report: We made a profit for Joe Corbis of \$2,125.75, which is half of what we sold last year. There was also a bit of a snafu on delivery day – the cafeteria was being used at the time of delivery. When the truck arrived, they couldn't unload, and had to come back. The reduced sorting time caused things to be rushed so there was a lot of recounting/double checking.

RIF (Jennie Harrison)

Jennie reported and gave an update from November: the office printed pictures of all the students and picture frames were ordered that kids decorated with fall items; the kids got to pick out books. The event went very well!

The next one is hopefully Friday, February 21st, but the date needs to be confirmed first. Currently, there is no theme yet, though Jennie presented some ideas: Justin Berke, a meteorologist does events like this and would be great! However, he is out of our budget this year (in the \$600-800 range, plus mileage).

PTO moved into a discussion about past events for idea generation.

Restaurant Fundraiser

The Deliso's event will be on January 30th (Thursday). They will donate 20% for their entire day of sales, not just those who indicate they're there for JGE. Fliers will be made and sent home with students.

Box tops

The total box tops profit is approximately \$54.20. In first place is 4th grade with 220 box tops; second place is 5th grade with 174 box tops; third place is 2nd grade with 109; fourth place is K with 43 box tops; fifth place is 3rd grade with 21 box tops, and sixth place is 1st grade with 1 box top.

Spring Fundraiser

A report was made that the PTO is selling Carnations again. Maria reported: they will be the same price as last year, \$298 for 400 carnations. Order forms will be going out and delivery will possibly be on Feb 11th or 12th, with distribution on the 12th or 13th. The carnations will be sold at the same price as last year - \$3 for one, \$15 for six (get a free one); \$30 for a dozen (two for free).

Holiday Craft

The event was held on December 6th. The main craft was a wooden beaded snowman with cute decorations. 5th grade was the first group to come through and an immediate problem was encountered: the twine was fraying going through the beads, but not to worry, the day was saved with some quick thinking. Our parent volunteers helped with taping the ends of the twine to make it sturdier. Holiday print-outs were available to color, as well as red and green paper to make cards. The students could take their card home with them or donate them to Transitions (a local nursing home), which many chose to do. The cards were very sweet. A good event!

Hospitality

Allison led a discussion to talk about the Family Engagement Night. We had a brief overview of options from previous years (family bingo night, roller skating party, movie night (gym also option)); all of these ideas can pair with Kona ice, etc; we all gave thoughts and suggestions for Allison.

- Bingo night – donations for toppings, and donations for ice cream; would need to source prizes; and would need to source the cards.
- Skating - pricewise similar; have to pay for your own shoe rental and skate assister.
- Movie night with inflatable outside – again, pricewise similar; use popcorn machines and Utz will donate (according to Ted Wells) if we write a letter; outdoor games for an hour, then transition to the movie.

We ended this discussion here, a lot of good ideas!

Math Madness

A planning meeting is scheduled for this Thursday at 3:10 in Mrs. Strausbaugh's classroom. Allison gave report and Todd Orner from GAEF was also in attendance. We talked about what we're doing, much like last year. We then moved into talking about the fundraising piece – basketball style bracket, like last year, with donations being how classrooms win the bracket. A request to use Givebutter this year was made, with the idea to allocate to specific teachers, and it also be time gated. Todd thinks this is possible and that we can do all of this.

Science Fair

PTO had a general, but brief discussion; no one has spoken to Jeremy yet, so we do not have any updates.

Announcements

Gift Card Drawing winner was Lauren Binz