

January 15, 2019 Minutes of the JDMS Parent Teacher Group

Location of Meeting: JDMS Large Conference Room at 7:00pm

Present at the Meeting: All Board officers, Assistant Principals Kerri McKee and Mia Woolery, attendance sheet signed by attendees. The third meeting of the JDMS PTG was called to order at 7:00pm on Jan. 15, 2018 by Kerri McKee.

I. Special Presentation

Kerri opened the meeting introducing our special presentation. The Prevention Network made a presentation to Faculty about a month ago on the various drugs, e-cigarettes, and paraphernalia, and the faculty thought this information should be presented to parents in some fashion. They set up a mock bedroom with 65 “hidden” items to locate in the library. The items ranged from actual fake drugs, to logos that represent the items, to accessories used with the drugs. You were lucky if you found 20 of them, very hidden. He then presented to the group what all the 65 items were in a slide show and educated us on the various forms of e-cigarettes (JUUL is a popular brand right now that looks much like a flash drive and also charges like a flash drive), the definition of dabbing (removing the THC from marijuana to form it isn’t a higher concentrated oil that can be smoked), all of the accessories and symbols associated with these things. It was a very informative discussion. We talked about how although NYS hasn’t legalized recreational marijuana yet, but in the states where it has been, those show us what will come when it is legalized (not an “if question but a “when). Those states are when we see the dabbing which is highly dangerous, they have to take it to the next level versus just using the leaf. The Prevention Network provided us with pamphlets and resources to educate ourselves further and have references and are happy to come again should we ever feel the need.

II. Review of Previous Minutes

Angie Rigdon announced the minutes of the November meeting were posted to the PTG website within 2 weeks of the meeting. Jean Leiker and Jennifer Revercomb approved the minutes. For correspondence – Angie Rigdon and Jean Leiker are coordinating a bereavement card and donation for Mr. Eldridge for his father’s passing, as well as card/gift for Karen Cerimelli’s upcoming retirement.

III. Review of 2018-19 Budget: Income and Expenses (Report attached)

Karen Baris reviewed spreadsheets provided to those present. Gertrude Hawk was finalized since our last meeting and ended up making the PTG \$16,357.16 (\$1357.16 more than expected). Under Miscellaneous Income is listed the Logowear income, which was \$1070.00. Also the Directory line was finalized, and ended up profiting \$716.19 under where we expected but we have derived this was due to us lowering the prices of the Digital Directory this year to only \$1. We feel next year we should put that back to \$2 for hard copy or digital due to the amount of work involved, even if you are not getting a paper copy. Karen reviewed the box on the Agenda of Grant items that have been purchased to date – there is an update to the amount spent on the fans as we received a partial refund back from the district from what we originally paid.

Budget = \$15,000

Grant	Grade Level	Cost	Theme/Notes
Classroom Wall Mount Fans	All	\$2,171.70	Infrastructure; 90 fans
Veteran's Day Ceremony	5th	\$86.22	Recognition ceremony with flowers and refreshments
Red Ram Café	Special Education	\$80.31	Funds for start up costs for the school year
Student-led Conferences	7th	\$200.00	Funds for refreshments to be served during the conferences
JD T-shirts for Students in Need	Special Education	\$145.58	Funds may be replenished by teacher fundraiser
Potsdam Performance	All	\$600.00	Holiday Music Performance

Motion to approve the budget: Jean Leiker and Melissa Gorzynski approved.

IV. PTG Activity Updates

After School Programs – The teachers running the program, Amy Spitzer and Amy Bissetta, approached the PTG proposing to run a 3rd session of ASP if there was enough interest. We gave the go ahead with some recommendations. Those flyers went out to students last week and were due today. It runs 1/22/19-3/11/19. Carrie Wilson asked a question regarding why a certain class costs \$35 when she supplies her child with the supply for the class. It was explained that the teachers get paid a flat rate for running the class, so the fees are based off of covering that.

Donations – Jennifer announced that the PTG is making their 2 normally scheduled donations for Operation Graduation and the HS Musical Program advertisement. These are budgeted items that we donate to every year.

5/6 Activity Afternoon & 7/8 Dance – these are approaching 2/8/19. Jennifer plans to be in contact with Gretchen Bliss to ensure she is ready. Mia explained that herself, Kerri and Mr. Eldridge are the only approved chaperones for that night due to constraints on being able to reimburse teachers to stay for that. They asked if it was possible to get ~5 volunteers to help man areas: 2-3 for the art room and 2 for the halls. Melissa will coordinate with Gretchen for this. Previous concern over attendance for the dance portion wasn't continued – Mia said this last one in the fall was well attended compared to previous years so fingers crossed it continues.

PTG Role Play Book – behind the scenes the Board is working throughout the year to outline a playbook for any chairperson so that PTG duties are clearly outlined.

V. BLT Meeting Summaries: December meeting occurred, January one postponed a week

Rachel Wagner Gilchrist is our BLT rep. She reported that the December meeting gravitated toward choosing to be part of the "Schools to Watch", and out of partaking in the "Schools to Watch" program, that would then help the school identify other areas JDMS needs to focus on improving. You can google ti for more in depth explanation, but Schools to Watch is a National Accreditation Approach to education, and no other middle school in NYS has done it. There is a set rubric set by outside accreditors. The staff performs self-evaluations. The outside accreditors then come in and evaluate. Then these get compared, how we think we are doing to how they think we are doing. Basically we will get evaluated to the N-th degree. There is an application process to start, and Andy is working on bringing someone in to present this whole process to the staff. We ARE moving forward with this. If we get the accreditation, it will be amazing/great feather for JDMS to claim.

VI. School Business – Mia Woolery, Assistant Principal

Mia announced they are talking to 8th graders tomorrow regarding the 8th grade Darien Lake trip to include medical form requirements, money forms, tshirts that get ordered for all to wear at the park. The biggest piece to discuss is the school's behavioral expectations with the kids leading up to the trip for the remainder of the year. The Positivity Project kids from the high school are also coming to talk with the 8th graders tomorrow. A Grant Proposal will be submitted to the PTG for review of funds needed for this character education project to get underway. More next meeting. 4 JDMS students went to compete regionally for the National Spelling Bee: 2 made it to the top 35 regionally for the County: Sahej Bajwa and Mike Meskos. Good luck to them! 5-6th grade Musical participants are practicing every day, and will take place here at the middle school. The 7-8th grade Musical will be at JDMS also. Looking ahead, Spring concerts will also be here most likely. Leaning toward future years having December concerts here and Spring concerts at the High School auditorium. Music teachers feel it is important the students have an experience on the stage, so want to do one there in the Spring. Having the shows here this year was easier for transport of instruments/etc. Bleacher seating allowed better viewing of students for the parents, but some instructors don't love the acoustics of the gym. Pros and cons to both.

VII. Grant Updates:

Jennifer announced that after a slower start to the year for Grant requests, she emailed all grade level and special area teachers to remind them of the Grant funds. She received several emails back to express future grants that will come in. We have a proposal still in the works from the Library to consider updating the furniture so that it matches, is welcoming, and is durable/easily cleanable – we are in agreement for this but Jean Leiker will be reaching out to Cindy Heaslip to iron out the details in the upcoming weeks. We will report on that outcome at the next meeting.

Potential Future Grants

Read Aloud Initiative	All - McKee	\$250.00	Pay it Forward - 100 copies
Vanessa Johnson	6th - Reed	\$600.00	
Field Trip	7th - Stillitano	TBD	
Art	Ebner/Pudney	TBD	
Reading Challenge Awards	6th - Murray	\$100.00	
Marion Blumenthal	8th	\$1,100.00	
Musical Costume Assistant Stipend	5/6/7/8 Musical	\$200.00	
Headphones for spanish listening	Spanish	TBD	Ms. Slade
TBD	Chorus?	TBD	Mrs. Carruthers

VIII. Next Meeting

Next PTG Meeting will be 3/19/18 at 9am @ JDMS. Please join us for networking at Drumlins following this meeting.