

September 6, 2018 Minutes of the JDMS Parent Teacher Group

Location of Meeting: JDMS Cafeteria

Present at the Meeting: All Board officers, Principal Andy Eldridge, attendance sheet signed by attendees
The first meeting of the JDMS PTG was called to order at 5:00pm on Sept. 6, 2018 by Jennifer Revercomb.

I. Introductions:

The agenda for the meeting was distributed to all in attendance, as well as the 2017-18 Final Budget and the 2018-19 Budget Proposal for this school calendar year.

Jennifer Revercomb opened the meeting with comments of welcome and introduction of this year's PTG Board members and info about themselves:

Presidents: Jean Leiker (2nd yr) and Jennifer Revercomb (1st yr here, Secr. last year)

Vice-Presidents: Melissa Gorczynski and Kelly Wichmann

Treasurer: Karen Baris (2nd yr)

Secretary: Angie Rigdon

Jennifer reviewed the role of the JDMS PTG with its 2 main goals or objectives as:

1. Get info re: school functions/activities out to Parents: Blast, JD website and PTG website
2. Raise funds to allow programming above what the district can fund
 - a. Fund "Grant" applications from teachers for where to spend funds (started last year), ie. Speakers, field trips, etc. Future goal this year for more fans!
 - b. The majority of our funds are raised by our one major fundraiser – Gertrude Hawk sales.

II. Review of Previous Minutes and 2017-18 Budget

The minutes of the previous meeting were available to be viewed online prior to this meeting. They were reviewed within weeks of their completion. Jean Leiker and Melissa Gorczynski approved.

Purple sheet is last year's budget. Made a lot in the fundraiser, and used for staff grants. This was also reviewed by Board members over the summer for detailed review. Approved by: Angie Rigdon, Jean Leiker.

III. Consideration of 2018-19 Budget

This year's budget includes ways to try to spend down our savings, which resulted from carryover funds from last year and many previous years. There are lines in the budget where just turns over money, i.e. It comes in and goes right back out without a profit or loss. We have Gertrude Hawk sales, Donations, Yearbooks, Book Fair, Directory, Box Tops, Miscellaneous. Expecting Revenue of \$21,530.00.

Spending: 5th/6th Grade Syracuse Stage, Afterschool Programs, 5th Grade Picnic, Staff Grants (\$17,000), Staff Appreciation, Donations to High School/Scholarships, Awards Night at JDMS, Activity Afternoons, Outside Scholarships, Volunteer Appreciation, Admin costs. Expecting expenses of \$30,530.00. Plan to spend down \$9,000.00 out of savings. Motion to approve this year's budget, approved by Jean Leiker, Kelly Wichmann.

IV. Agenda Items

2 forms came home with your child the first day of school: Directory Order Form and Volunteer Calendar of Activities.

Directory: Kelly Wichmann discussed the transitioning to online enrollment/completion of forms. Can sign up on mobile devices, can access the jotform site through the JDMS website and the PTG website. It is an opt-in, separate sign up each student, so if you do not do the jotform you are opting out. Option to have 2 copies, digital copy, hard copy, or both. Plan to have laptops out both curriculum nights to complete the enrollment as well.

5th Grade Picnic follows this meeting. Raphael is setting up currently in the back of the picnic. Thank you to those who have volunteered to set-up, serve, and clean-up for the picnic. This is fully funded by the PTG.

Gertrude Hawk sales kick off at the end of this month. Looks like orders will be in before the December holidays.

Intramurals – Mr. Eldridge discussed this program. Intramurals start September 24th. Fall season runs thru October. M-tennis, W- kickball, Th- Flag football. Flips it around sometimes. Sign-ups start soon – website sign up and schedule. Need to complete online permission slip form in order to do Intramurals. Nov 5- Basketball Tourney starts as first Winter session. 2nd winter session– scooter floor hockey, sink the ship and ultimate Frisbee. Spring Feb-Apr whiffle ball, pillow polo and capture the flag. Finish with April - June Indoor Soccer tourney that gets competitive.

Video announcements start next week daily, by students.

5th and 6th Grade Activity Afternoons – after school fun until about 4pm (special set of late-late buses can take students home). We have a DJ for the “dance” area. We also sponsor arts and crafts in another room. \$4 admission at the door, and also snacks to purchase so send \$ with your child. First one is October 26th.

Dances: Mr. Eldridge says it seems like 7th and 8th graders do not want to do them, just not as interested in dancing. More interested in playing games in the gym. Crowds in 7th and 8th grade is just smaller. Maybe change to Activity Night, not a Dance. During 8th grade moving up Ceremony they DO turn out dancing though! So go figure. Thinking of getting Student Body Government involved in that decision to change it or not.

Parent question: What are other clubs that are not sport based. Mr. Eldridge introduced After School Programs, listed some of them (chess, sewing, tech based things, etc). These are low cost (~\$35/each). Registration comes out September 17-18 and the programming is run by two 7th grade teachers, Ms. Bissetta and Mrs. Spitzer.

School update thus far from Mr. Eldridge:

Heat has made it intense, hot lunchtimes, and hot assemblies. Classes in general starting off well, locker learning, getting to class on time. Last year’s 8th grade was 280 and this year’s down to 200. Big shift in the school. A lot of change going on district-wide – trying to do with integrity and keep safety in mind. Meetings have to be at the front of the building. This is a community building in some respects but with the climate in the world right now it is causing some change to have to occur. Talking with the kids about leading with kindness. New conversations about Mental Health Awareness in this age group. Having McMahon Ryan come give talks. Also planning Half-day seminar about Trauma and educating teachers about those that have experienced things outside of school and how it will affect their education, signs to be aware of in the classroom, to pick up on behaviors that could cause them to shift their reactions to things and have multiple perspectives. Trying to increase Staff learning in these areas to broaden our horizons. Info is power. Course is on Recognizing Signs in the classroom of how Trauma can affect a child in the classroom. Course is a 4hour introduction to this process, not everything. Taking people where they are at, and not escalating things, individualistic views. Not necessarily that a child will share a trauma, but considering each child individually.

A parent raised concern for how the “family” is being shifted out of the building, although she is new to JDMS and hasn’t experienced what could be different here yet, just voiced great concern for the communications coming from the district and elementary principals, wondering if something will be coming from the Middle School. Mr. Eldridge address this: what are the changes at JDMS? Our changes occurred last year. Still running activities as last year. Meetings with families will occur in the main office versus back in different rooms. Evening activity changes are going to be the biggest change. District employees voiced against an SRO in the building and advocated for an additional counselor to get involved with the kids on a regular basis. Mrs. Meyer is now 5-8 counselor adjunct instead of just 5th grade. We bought a new Social Studies curriculum this year.... new connections for kids.

Picture Day is tomorrow!

Another parent question – any Bias training planned? Possible officer doing training for this. Still in the works.

Staffing changes: Mr. Martin (was in 12-1-1) got an Admin job at OCM-BOCES and running a school in Cortland. Lost him, replaced with Karista Lewis. Sarah Tiffany hired (replacing Giachetta's retirement). Mrs. Moss new 5th grade guidance counselor (was in 6th grade last year). Mrs. Hefty (from Waterloo) teaches English in 7th grade. Mrs. Mosha (?sp) retired.

Letter coming out tomorrow outlining Curriculum Nights which are next week: Wed for 6th and 8th, Thurs for 5th and 7th. 2 more fire drills tomorrow. Like to get all necessary 1st half of the next mandatory drills done in the beginning of school before interrupting tests and such. Students will be told ahead of time, and Mr. Eldridge is announcing to parents that Monday Sept 24th will be the "Safety Drill" with the involvement of the Dewitt Fire Department— it is a drill.

V. Next Meeting

Next PTG Meeting will be 11/13/18 at 9am @ JDMS. We plan to alternate morning and evening meeting times. Next one after that will be in the evening. Due to the conflict with not having evening meetings at the school, it will be at JD Community Library.