

Jerome Harrison School

PTO Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2016

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm.
- The town is hosting a Substance Abuse Forum tomorrow night at 7:00 in the NBIS auditorium. There will be a forum that represents parents, police officers and many others.
- Holiday sale generated about \$8,200 in sales. Save and Discount donates 10% back to JHS. Save and Discount is closing, but he will continue to work with the schools.
- There is a PAC meeting at the BOE meeting on 12/16 at 10:00am. Anyone interested, please let Liz know.
- We are trying to coordinate committee sign ups via Sign Up Genius. There is a significant decrease in the amount of volunteers online.
- There is no January PTO meeting. The next meeting is in February.
- Looking at the revised budget, some expenses have been decreased including Cultural Arts and Playground Committee. The student allotment account has been increased to reflect \$16 per student going back to the teachers to decide how to use the money (field trip costs).
- The new budget was approved.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Budget reflects deposits and checks from the book sale, HAN and fall fundraisers.
- Budget Approval and Treasurer's Report
 - Andrea Fusco
 - Niki Watterworth

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Minutes were approved from the November meeting.
 1. Sarah Siegel

2. Andrea Fusco

- There were about 13 parents in attendance as well as Ms. Lake, Mrs. Remetta, Ms. Parker and Mrs. Huebner.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Please come to the substance abuse event tomorrow night.
- Teachers will be involved in formal training with Google. They are also moving towards Teachers are also gaining training and resources with Mindfulness.
- JHS chorus is performing at Breakfast with Santa on Saturday at 9:30.
- Thank you to the faculty and staff for the successful parent and teacher conferences.
- Paula Huebner, speech language pathologist, spoke about the district speech program that services students ages 3 to 21. In the public schools, speech language therapy has different eligibility requirements compared to outside service providers. Governed by the Individuals with Disabilities Act (1975) students that qualify for services, including communication disorders, receive services if their academic performance is impacted. Good communication skills help with social skills, reading and writing. In a school setting, social skills, articulation and voice disorders are some of the areas that receive services. Speech language pathologists conduct evaluations, meet with teachers and service students. PPT's are held based on teacher input and informal evaluations and a decision is then made to go to formal testing. Students' time with speech language services varies greatly depending on the need. Some suggestions for parents are to decrease screen time and encourage young students to play and eat meals together. You can also try to keep the volume low on any head sets and also make sure there is an internet filter on any of your child's devices. Birth23.org and ASHA.org is a website with great resources for parents with any concerns or questions. In February there are preschool screening assessments done on any students that would like to be part of the preschool program as a peer role model.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Night to Care is Thursday night at JHS. There is a Night to Care meeting immediately after the PTO meeting tonight.
- Health and Wellness Committee is headed by Shelia Duggan. There is the Quinnipiac University basketball fundraiser for \$10 per ticket. There are tickets

reserved for our school and you can purchase until January 9th. There will be a fruit, veggie and activity challenge coming up to be implemented in January.

- The Father and Daughter dance is Friday, February 10th. They are reaching out to the high school to see about getting some resources for the night.
- The Fun Day committee will hold its first meeting immediately after the February PTO meeting. If anyone has any ideas for entertainment, please contact Liz. Fun Day is on June 1st.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.
1. Ashley Fernandez
 2. Niki Watterworth