

Jerome Harrison School

PTO Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2016

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm.
- Introductions from the PTO board.
- Next year the PTO President and Vice President will be moving on. Anyone interested in shadowing them this year, please let us know.
- Shelia Duggan led an activity for the parents to get to know each other. She encouraged parents to think of a personal strength and a way to share that with the school community.
- Movie Night is Friday and the entire family is welcome to come at 6:30 and the movie will begin at dusk. Popcorn and water will be sold. Bring chairs, blankets and dinner.
- Room parents have a large response. Liz will be selecting room parents this weekend and they will be notified by email next week. There are about four room parents for each room and she switches volunteers up each year. September 28th after school is a room parent tea with teachers.
- Fundraisers:
 - Coupon Book – Check backpacks tomorrow. The book cost \$25 and \$12.50 goes to the PTO. Each child goes home with a book. You can send money to pay for the book or return the book if you do not want to purchase it. You can also purchase additional books.
 - Square One Art – Mrs. Rametta will be working with students to create artwork over the next few weeks. Artwork can be purchased on various items and will be delivered by the winter holidays. Forty percent of proceeds go to the PTO.
 - Mixed Bag – It will be the spring fundraiser.
- We are looking to beginning a school PTO newspaper. If anyone is interested, please contact Liz.
- Corporate projects are meant to improve the school environment. PTO is donating money towards signs for outside. Liz also shared an idea for a corporate sponsorship proposal to transform the gymnasium into a multi-purpose learning facility by sound proofing the room. If you have any ideas or connections, please contact Liz.
- PAC meetings – Parent Advisory Council is set up by the superintendent to meet about twice a year. The superintendent discusses what is going on in the schools.

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Karen explained that by joining the PTO you donate funding to school events and it does not mean that you have to be at every event. It is the PTO's first fundraiser of the year and students are excited to see their names appear on the membership board.
- Box Tops collected earn the school \$0.10 for every Box top that is turned in. Please nicely trim the Box top and send them in groups of 50. Proceeds go directly back to your classroom teacher to be spent this academic year. It is a room parent responsibility to cut and organize the Box tops for your child's class.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- The budget for 2016-2017 was shared. The starting budget is \$17,812.84. The projected budget is \$28,572 with a deficit of \$10,759.16. The money raised from the first half of the school year goes towards that academic year and money for the second half stays in the bank for the following year.
- Budget Approval
 - Danielle Pannone
 - Kathy Moorehead

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Minutes approved from the May meeting.
 1. Sarah Siegel
 2. Danielle Pannone
- There were about 45 parents in attendance as well as Dr. Welch, Ms. Parker, Mrs. Bannon and Mrs. Barry.
- A thank you letter from the North Branford Scholarship Association to recognize the PTO donation from June that went towards awards recognizing 78 seniors.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

- Mr. Welch presented some highlights for the academic year.
 - District focus is on the cleanliness of the schools to improve health and appearance. The district also wants to focus on communication to families and the community as a whole.
 - Student of the month and KIND assembly will continue this year. Students of the month will be part of a breakfast along with their families.
 - Student leadership program is new and will be run by the JHS speech

language pathologist.

- Class community service projects are encouraged this year and each class will take part in a project.
- Dream team is made up of high school students that volunteer in the classroom and make positive relationships with students at JHS.
- Positive discipline, SEL, and self-regulation are addressed by the JHS faculty to increase student learning by helping students identify ways to monitor their social/ emotional well-being.
- PreK network is being established to reach out to PreK programs to discuss expectations for Kindergarten.
- Specials enrichment/reward block are new this year and more information is forthcoming.
- Project based learning and discovery based in the areas of science and math.
- Each PTO meeting will have a presentation by a school staff member on an identified area. Areas of presentation include RTI, literacy, social/emotional, and budget. Dr. Welch is hoping to have students present at the final meetings about community service and student leadership.
- A Community Forum series will be held at dates throughout the year on positive parenting, academic support, community building, and student leadership.
- JHS is communicating through Twitter, website, newsletters, Schoolmessenger, and possibly a list of local contacts for career presentations.
- Dr. Welch would like to continue to have the PTO involved in the school community, partner in your child's education, and support the BOE and budget/ district needs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- There is an online sign up for committees through Sign Up Genius or you can contact a PTO member.
- Playground equipment committee checks the supplies for recess and orders new supplies as needed. It is a bimonthly commitment to check the outdoor and indoor recess carts.
- Beautification committee is responsible for the two garden pots outside the door and the courtyard.
- Bulletin board committee updates the two PTO boards in the hallway each month.
- Cultural arts committee is responsible for bringing assemblies into JHS. In October a singing duo that has been popular in the past will be returning. If you know of any programs that have been successful, please let the PTO know.
- Health and wellness committee will promote local opportunities in the area

- and provide education about personal well-being.
- Hospitality committee works on teacher appreciation week as well as providing refreshments for school events.
 - Clothing line is now an online system through Achieve Athletics in Branford. Committee members would need to meet with the vendor and discuss other options for expansion.
 - Book fair dates are set. October 26th and 27th will be the fall book fair that is held in the gym. Committee members need to organize volunteers, help children make purchases, and setting up the event.
 - Halloween activity night is Friday, October 28th for crafts, games, food, and spooky room. Many volunteers are needed and sub-committees are formed to specialize in the areas that are utilized that night.
 - Coat Drive: The coat drive will be held the night of Halloween Activity Night. Coats will be collected and a small monetary donation from PTO will be sent to One Warm Coat.
 - Holiday sale is held at JHS in December to shop for family members during the holidays. Many volunteers are needed to help the students shop and also with set up and clean up.
 - Night to Care is held in early December to gather toys and food for families in town that are in need. Each family will receive gifts and a box of food for the holiday season. The Night to Care event is held at JHS to turn all gifts in. The chorus performs that night and crafts are set up for families. Many volunteers are needed for meetings, food drives, organization and the actual event. Paper snowmen (child's age and family number) will be on display beginning in October.
 - Father/ daughter dance is held around Valentine's Day. Volunteers are needed to help with ideas, set up, clean up and chaperones will be needed on the night of the event.
 - Mother/ son event is held in March. The PTO is looking for new ideas to host the event offsite.
 - Screen free week and Bingo night are held the end of April.
 - A plant sale is held around Mother's Day. You can place orders through the school and then pick them up on the day of the event.
 - Fun Day is held on June 1st. It requires a large committee to make the day a success with carnival games, field activities, and a special luncheon.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.
1. Maria Forgione
 2. Danielle Pannone