

**James Madison High School PTSA General Membership Meeting
January 10, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 7:32. Edythe asked for everyone to introduce themselves, stating their name and the name and grade of their child at Madison.

Motion to approve the minutes with a list of correction of the date for the Sophomore class dinner was unanimously approved.

Student Govt. Report – David Choi announced that the coat drive is still on-going. The Junior class is working on the Sadie Hawkins dance and IFlirt. There is a new idea for a dance called a ‘Crave’ – informal dance no dates – dress is white t-shirt and jeans or shorts. David reminded the PTSA that all posters that will be hung in the halls need to be approved by the SGA. The 2008 graduation speaker will be Mr. Burns, Undersecretary of State.

Principal’s Report – Mr. Merrell noted that the Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools is presenting the budget as the PTSA meeting is going on.

Mr. Merrell wishes all the parents could have seen the school on Dec. 21. There were three performances that day; Madrigals, choral concert, and orchestra. The performers were outstanding, and student audience was very well behaved.

The boys and girls basketball teams returned from tournaments in Florida as champions. Bob Gambarelli mentioned that the Rotary club has donated \$3000 for Ethics day 2008. Also, that a speaker, Author of Queen Bee Moms and King Pin Dads will be offered to all the Madison pyramid schools – tickets will cost \$5.00 per person to cover the cost of the speaker. March 3 at 7:00 pm. Volunteers are needed to sell tickets on March 3.

A question was asked about how sports could be different next year if budget is different Mr. Merrell responded that likely any activity, including one-act plays, sports, and writing seminars would require an activity fee. This would help cover the cost of transportation.

There was a question about students going to 7-11 in the morning before school. Mr. Merrell stated although there are three security officers at the school, it is not possible to insure every student stays on campus at that time.

There was a comment that college night for the Juniors was very well done. This was held the same night as the Junior class dinner.

President’s report – Edythe Kelleher stated that Russell Monllos of S.A.F.E-D (Students, Adults, Faculty, Educating Drivers), who spoke at the October 11, 2007 JMHS PTSA meeting wanted to come to speak to the students about safe teen driving. This would be a free presentation in coordination with the Vienna Madison Community Coalition. There was some discussion about the driver’s education program giving extra credit for students attending the presentation. The student body suggested that this presentation be marketed to the parents, since it will be held in the evening. This may be an issue for Senior class parents. Free food may bring people in. There was agreement that this should be pursued. Edythe will attempt to set up dates.

Edythe also asked everyone to please make sure they had the correct version of the JMHS PTSA Bylaws. The bylaws need to be dated 11/ 2005.

Treasurer's report - Sherry Bouchard reported that there was not much activity recently. Most of the expenses for the PTSA occur in the spring. We are on target for meeting our goals for this school year.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Committee reports:

Vienna Madison Community Coalition – Ethics Day for four JMHS pyramid elementary schools- Flint Hill Elementary, Vienna Elementary, Marshall Road Elementary, and Louise Archer Elementary – there is a fee for the speaker/mentor; about \$2000, which is the biggest expense. The mentor trains the high school student leaders. There was a request for \$800 to help pay for this speaker/trainer. The motion to approve a request \$800 from the PTSA was approved unanimously. The money will come from the Ethics day surplus.

All Night Graduation Committee – Denise stated that The Capital Steps will be coming March 9 to Madison. That is the major fundraiser. The phantom ball fundraiser is going on. On March 29 ANG will hold a 5K – half of money will go to track team, and half to ANG. There is a prize drawing next week for everyone who has registered for ANG. Also, the All Night Grad party ticket price will increase at the end of the quarter.

Junior class dinner was held last night. This was coupled with the college night – Baja Fresh was the caterer – four Virginia colleges came to speak after the dinner.

FCPS Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council - Angelique Crooke talked about the proposed boundary changes, which will affect a small portion of JMHS population. There are three public hearings scheduled at the end of January and beginning of February.

There is lots and lots of information available on the FCPS website.

Mad Memos deadline this month is Monday Jan 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Announcements – January 30 – Summer Enrichment fair

- January 31 – is curriculum night
- Science Fair is February 13 – There is a big need for judges. At least 50 more people are needed.
- Keep in Touch – if you are not receiving MAD Memos, please update your profile
- Elections for students to be on school board, elections are to be held in February.
- Hospitality – none of the budgeted money has been spent. Suggestion that is should be used for a teacher breakfast during the January teacher work days.

Sophomore dinner rescheduled for Feb 4

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28.