

James Madison High School PTSA General Membership Meeting
February 14, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:34. Edythe skipped the introductions, and began with the President's report.

President's report: A nominating committee is needed to elect PTSA officers for next year. Nominating committee will consist of Sherry Bouchard, Michele Khol, Dafeny Galiano. Motion to approve the nominating committee was approved unanimously. Correspondence – 3 Thank you letters were read: for clickers from a teacher; for breakfast on the January teacher workday; and from the robotics team. Vienna Community Colalition – Youth Against Dangerous Actions and Peer Pressure informational brochure was given to Mr. Merrell.

Minutes: 3 amendments – motion to accept the minutes as amended was approved unanimously.

Student Government: Last Saturday was Sadie Hawkins – very successful, with the exception of the smoke alarm going off due perhaps to fog machine. Over 400 students attended. The 'Crave' dance will be blackout themed, and may be held in the cafeteria. The Junior Class SGA members are working very hard on Prom. Today, Valentines Day, SGA passed out candy at lunch. Ethics day folks will be trained soon. Also SGA is debating the "no backpacks in classes" rule. The school is going to try it for two weeks. Mr. Merrell stated that student population has increased significantly in the past 5 years from about 1400 to 1900 and class size will increase with the budget cuts, and this is an idea to alleviate pressure proactively.

Principal's report: Mr. Merrell reviewed what happened yesterday with the power outage. There was discussion between Mr. Merrell and the FCPS folks. Mr. Merrell noted that the student body handled the situation very well. There are 16 classrooms without windows, and those classes had to be relocated. There was no heat. School board is adopting a budget tonight. The school board will ask the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for \$80 million more than FCPS originally budgeted. Mr. Merrell has been invited to the Governor's mansion to accept an award on behalf of the Madison staff. Question about if 'Jamnesty' was held this week due to bad weather. It was held.

Treasurer's Report: Sherry reported that the PTSA gained 7 new members in the last month. All Night Graduation has collected \$9900 to date, which includes the PTSA donation to the ANG. The PTSA is on target to reduce the carry-over to about \$11,000. There was some confusion with the printed treasurer's report – new copies were made and handed out. There was some discussion about the hospitality account – the hospitality team was not able to hold a breakfast at the beginning of the year, so someone will find out if they can hold some this Spring to spend the budgeted money. There is some money leftover in the PTSA account to purchase computers for low-income families. The donating organization was contacted to see if it was OK to spend

the money, and they agreed, so some families were identified by the JMHS administration, and different computers were researched. The cost will be about \$800 per computer. Question about how families were determined. Mr. Merrell stated that the school uses socio-economics data. There was some discussion about whether laptop or desktop computers would be better, and if the target donation was for a student or a family. Motion to approve overage of up to \$500 to buy one more computer to completely clean out the account was passed unanimously. Motion to approve the treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Review standing rules: The JMHS PTSA standing rules are new, and the purpose is to have a document that more clearly defines some operating procedures not spelled out in the JMHS PTSA bylaws. There was some concerns about the document. Motion to table adoption of the Standing rules document until a meeting can be held between All Night Grad, any other PTSA committees, and PTSA representatives to work through details of this document passed unanimously.

Committee reports:

ANG – 258 students signed up, which is more than 50% of senior class. Two upcoming fundraisers: The Capital Steps, and the 5K. Barb Werner mentioned that videoing will take place in the government classes in addition to other school functions so that all seniors will be depicted in the video. Another ANG fundraiser being planned is an Art Auction including student art held at Marco Polo. Money from student art will go to the artist, not to the ANG. This is scheduled for April 13. Phantom Ball did very well. Letters went out to seniors, and are now going out to families of junior students. There will be a fire marshall meeting next Wednesday for all local area ANG committees.

Reflections – School based contest was held in October, all first place entries made it to the district level, one received a first place, and will go on to the state level.

Vienna Madison Community Coalition. Program previously mentioned, author of Queen Bee Moms and Kingpin Dads will speak at Madison. This is sponsored by the Madison pyramid. The tickets are being sold at every local elementary school. Mr. Merrell has read the book, and mentioned that it was about adult relationships. Volunteers are needed to sell tickets and books at the door.

Mad Memos deadline is next Monday, it usually goes out by Friday.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm.