

JMHS PTSA General Membership Meeting
October 19, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Everyone in attendance introduced themselves. In attendance: Bets Thomas, Mark Merrell, Bob Gambarelli, Michael Land, Susan Wisseman, Lisa Bell, Elizabeth Gauf, Katherine Hahne, Erin Blakley, Len Blakeley, Eileen Fox, Tony Rivera-Silva, Leslie Moore, Alouf Jirari Scavotto, Bethany Hartt, Kathryn Hahne, Uzair Minhas, Vinod Kumar, Dayna Kasserman, Sara Hahne, Sue Schrader, JJ Head, Susan Fay, Leslie Brown, Nicole DuBar, Heidi Fox, Barbara Laster, Pat Terrell, Simin Sohani, Patrice Robitaille, Lynn Otto, Cindy Gauf, Lisa Greenfield, Janet Hughes, Brian Land, Jann Cassidy

The minutes were accepted as posted on the web.

SGA – Katherine Hahne reported that Homecoming was very successful. Jungle day was new, and a lot of fun. Another addition to the spirit activities was hall decorations for Friday, and 50th anniversary signs posted around the school. The powder puff football game was held Wednesday night, and the bonfire was well attended. Cakes were served afterwards, which was nice. The homecoming parade was by far the largest ever. There were 19 previous Homecoming queens in attendance, as well as many JMHS sports. The homecoming dance was “Space Jam” there were 1100 students in attendance, perhaps the largest ever. As part of the 50th anniversary, the SGA gave tours of the school Friday afternoon and night. On Saturday, “Taste of the Town” happened on the baseball field. The game had huge attendance-- the stands were packed.

Other upcoming community service drives: Collections of items for soldiers undergoing treatment at Walter Reed hospital happening in November. Check out the student government website (reached from the Madison website) to see the list of items to be delivered on Veterans Day. The annual SGA canned food drive will be Nov 4 – 19. Any non-perishable items can be brought in during 3rd period. The food goes to the national capital area food bank.

Principal's report –

Mr. Merrell added to the student government report by adding that there was a gala hosted at the Tysons Marriott where over 500 alumnae attended. Mr. Merrell commented that the homecoming dance was not only well attended, but everyone was very well behaved. He congratulated the SGA's leadership for the success of the dance.

Last Wednesday the seniors went to the capital, which is always a good trip. Mr. Merrell will host a parent coffee Oct. 29th from 7:45 – 9:15 a.m. where the budget will be discussed, as well as the new grading scale.

On the budget, Mr. Merrell will be receiving some details tomorrow. He emphasized that the cuts will essentially dismantle the existing system. The current cuts are projected at 176 million. Freezing teacher salaries, and raising class sizes are a given. It's very possible that all freshman and JV sports will be eliminated. Major, major cuts to core programs will occur. It is likely that all instrumental music at the elementary school level will be eliminated. Mr. Merrell has not experienced any cuts like this in his tenure in FCPS. There was a suggestion about possibility of obtaining donors to underwrite the Madison strings program, working within the pyramid.

President's Report –

New directories will be available very soon. There will be an exchange program – turn in your old for your new. The PTSA membership is down this year, as well as donations to Academic Boosters, and the Safeway and Giant receipts. Susan noted that the PTSA website problems have been fixed, so please sign up if you have not.

Treasurer's report - Dayna reported that membership is down, possibly due to the on-line method of joining. The 2009-2010 PTSA budget has been posted on the website. The audit has been done. There were no exceptions. Dayna gave an oral presentation of the budget. There was a motion to accept the audit. The motion passed with one nay. A motion was made to accept the

budget. The motion passed with one abstaining.

Committee Reports –

Bets Thomas explained Ethics Day which will be held Tuesday, November 10th at JMHS. It is an ethical education program for the seniors. They spend the day listening to various ethical presentations (Legal ethics, medical ethics and different character ethics), and then discuss and make decisions based on their values, and input from fellow students. Please contact Bets at chrisandbets@verizon.net to assist with this important event.

All Night Graduation: ANG reported that 52 students have already signed up. A drawing has already been held. Fundraising is an issue. November 20th will be Madison Night at Barnes and Noble at Tysons, 10% of all sales from that night will go to ANG.

Deadline for Mad Memos will be October 20.

Erin Blakley presented a scholarship program available to sophomore and junior students that she participated in last summer at Princeton University. There is no GPA requirement, just teacher recommendation.

Presentation by Lynn Otto on the career center. There is college information, volunteer opportunities, military information, summer job opportunities, etc. Each grade level receives an annual presentation by the career center. Scholarship application assistance is always available. Students are in the center every day putting their college applications together. Everything is geared to where students are going after JMHS. Financial aid presentation will be held Dec. 2 at Oakton HS. Military presentations will be in Feb at Madison. Parents are welcome to come in. There was a request for two more computers, since two of them are 10 years old. Susan asked that we table the request until the next meeting.

JMHS Science teachers Dr. Janet Hughes and Jann Cassady gave a presentation on a 4-day conference they attended at Radford university last summer with financial aid from the PTSA. They demoed some of the things they learned – hands on science. Chem-Ed conference at Radford University held every two years. It was internationally attended, and because university professors were in attendance, it was possible to connect with them where the students will be going. Dr. Hughes requested some software called Odysey. The teachers' enthusiasm was evident.

There is a meeting for special education students and their parents Thursday, October 22 in the library.

There was no unfinished business.

There was a motion to adjourn at 9:10 p.m .