

MINUTES FOR JAMES BLAIR PTSA MEETING 2/26/19

I. CALL TO ORDER

Jodie called the James Blair Middle School PTSA General Membership Meeting and new principal Meet & Greet to order at approx. 5:35 p.m. Present were: Jodie Davis, Gary Davis, Maureen McFarland, Brandy Centolanza, Heather Hansen, Beth Robles, Clare Callahan, Kim Sybert, Shannon Hassan, Carter Lowery, Kim Ketterman, Sean CW Korsgaard, Heather Moore, Melissa King, Jodi Rabinowitz, Keisha Atwood, Angelique Crawford, Astrid Howell, Michelle Alexander, Karen Quinlan, Trish Freshwater, and Dr. Corey Murphy.

II. OFFICERS' REPORTS

President's Report:

- JBMS PTSA bylaws approved. JBMS PTSA received its official charter at the annual state PTA conference in January
- Spider Dance has been approved for March 8, 2019; looking for volunteers for the event
- Jodie is looking into applying for new unit membership awards based on qualifications of 25% male membership (JBMS PTSA currently has 30%) and membership of at least 25 members (JBMS PTSA currently has 183 members)

Principal's Report:

- Dr. Corey Murphy introduced himself and his goals for the direction of the school.
- Regarding student safety, non-negotiables include respect, positive control, accountability, and parental contact.
- Dr. Murphy is working with teachers and staff to determine what they like that is currently in place and what they would like to see changed.
- In an effort to increase instructional time, sixth graders are now reporting directly to their first period and not to homeroom.
- A new School Safety Officer has been hired as an extra presence in hallways to deter misbehavior
- Updated behavioral expectations have been added to an updated student handbook on the school's website; dress code will also be reinforced.
- Dr. Murphy discussed his definition of bullying; after-school detention has been added as a way to deter misbehavior.
- Dr. Murphy discussed MAPS testing data and upcoming SOL exam dates. An SOL boot camp will take place to help students prep for exams.
- Teachers and administrators will be on hand to help with the March 8 Spider Dance

Vice President's Report:

- Still looking for a 2nd vice president in charge of fundraising
- Keisha is looking for ideas for programs to establish at the school
- Keisha is also looking for suggestions to help teachers such as supply donations

Secretaries' Reports:

- Minutes from the November and January PTSA meetings were approved.
- Still working on a link for PTSA on the James Blair school webpage.

Treasurer's Report:

- An audit report from 8/18 through 1/19 was approved
- Current balance in treasury is \$1,899.09

III. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Social Media

- Trish Freshwater encouraged folks to continue submitting information for inclusion on the PTSA Facebook page; She is looking into creating a Twitter account as well.

Box Tops

- Box tops can be dropped off at the front office anytime
- PTSA received a check for \$27.90 in box tops
- Received so far a total of \$52.90; another \$67.50 in box tops was collected last week.

Hospitality:

- Committee is planning a Grab & Go of snacks and treats for teachers on March 19 and is looking for donations
- Events are being planned for Teacher Appreciation Week the week of May 6 including a Chipotle catered lunch; coffee and desserts; a supply drive; and a mailbox treat.

PTAC

- National PTA dues are being raised next school year, resulting in a likely increase in dues for JBMS PTSA
- 13 Reflections student submissions went on to state and one went on to the national competition. Reflections is looking for more student participation next school year. Next year's theme is "What's Your Story?" Submissions are due in October

- Toano Middle School shared ideas for a sock fundraiser, which Jodie may be interested in doing sometime for James Blair.
- There was discussion on ways to better communicate between the PTAs/PTSAs within the school division

Merchandise: No report

Mini Grants: No report

8th Grade Dance: Still need a date for the dance

Spider Dance: Looking for volunteers for the dance; ticket sales will take place March 6-8 during lunch hours

Spirit Nights:

- Chair still needed
- \$225 was raised during Spirit Night at NY Deli; another Spirit Night is being planned, possibly in April at Panera.

Reflections

- Chair still needed

Store Rebate

- Chair still needed
- Still waiting on code for Publix; also working on details for Amazon Smile
- Tyson, Campbell's programs have ended as has Farm Fresh

Nominating Committee

- Angelique volunteered to serve on committee; still in need of at least two others to serve on committee
- A vote to approve the nominating committee will be held in March; the slate of officers for next year's PTSA will be presented in April; and the vote on next year's officers will be held in May

Meeting adjourned at approx. 7:05 p.m. Next meeting is set for Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 5:30 p.m.