JMST PTO General Membership Meeting

October 2, 2019

Call to order and Welcome.

Secretary’s Report: September minutes were reviewed. Nancy Wilkes made a motion to approve the minutes. Gina Braznell seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Principal’s Report: Ms. Hastey welcomed everyone. She just came from sending students to an FAU college tour. The students were led by Ms. Lowe, assistant principal, and Mr. Hawkins, head of AVID at Jupiter Middle School. Students attending are 8th graders from the AVID program. JMS was also named a Florida School of Excellence for maintaining its A grade and for performing in the top 20% of middle schools in Florida. Last week, 3 grants were issued to JMS teachers by the Education Foundation of Palm Beach County. Mrs. Pike & Mrs. Schaub received money for their Electromagnetic Exploratorium program, Ms. Deal and Mrs. Joyce for their Green and Clean-Living program, and Mrs. Joyce & Ms. Hughey for their Coding for Innovation and Invention program. Journalism students have produced the “Mariner Messenger”, an online publication of writing. Check it out to find out more about what is happening at JMS. Also, JMS hosted a parent night for parents of ESOL students to introduce the school to them.

Ms. Hastey also reported on some safety issues at JMS. First, please only drop off or pick up students at the designated drop off area in front of the school office. Parents have been dropping students on Dakota and Military Trail, which is quite dangerous. Please stop! Remember cell phone use in the school zone is a ticket as well. Several parents raised concerns about the Military Trail and Dakota intersection. Another parent asked that the cones be removed from the car loop following dismissal to allow for smoother traffic flow for pick-up from after school activities. JMS hosted a safety parent night on vaping last week thanks to the school counselors. Only about a dozen parents showed up, so Ms. Hastey wanted to reinforce what a health crisis vaping is in our community. The next parent education night is October 10 at 6:00 and the topic will be the use of social media, providing insights into popular social apps and the dangers associated with them. A parent requested that these presentations be recorded and available on the school website for those who can’t attend. There was discussion of combining efforts with other schools and the town of Jupiter to work on more anti-vaping programs.

October is Bulling prevention month. The school has several themes in the weeks ahead. Oct. 7 is Wear blue for World Day of Bullying Prevention. Oct 7-11 is Make Friends with Someone You Don’t Know week. Oct. 14-18 is Stand Up for Others week. October 23 is Wear Orange for Unity Day and October 21-25 is Don’t let Anyone Eat Alone Week. Also, Mr. Launel and Mrs. Joyce have applied for a grant from Healthier Jupiter that would give them $2500 toward a hydroponic garden. The grant money will be awarded based on community votes at a Barbeque at the Jupiter Community Center on October 12. Voting takes place from1-3:30, so please come vote for JMS. Band also has the Beginning Band Debut Concert on October 17. The Choice Showcase will be October 22 at the South Florida Fairgrounds and the JMS Choice Open House for incoming 6th graders will be Nov. 12. Finally, there have been some personnel changes. Mrs. Silverman is on leave so Ms. Barrows will be taking over in the Unique Skills classes for exceptional student education. Also, a new bookkeeper has been requested.

President’s Report: Pam shared that on October 13 from 5-7:00 pm, the Habit Burger on Donald Ross is providing 100% of their profits to JMS. Please attend. The Band also performed with the Jupiter High School band at Friday’s football game and the students really enjoyed it.

If you have any fundraising ideas, please send them to Pam. Our previous fundraiser has not been continued this year and we are looking to replace it. We do collect box tops for the science program. Box tops are now digital, so you simply scan your receipts. A parent also asked if we could video conference our PTO meetings, so we are working on that.

Vice President’s Report: None.

Treasurer’s Report: PTO has around $68,000 and will need to pay Ms. Hastey and the staff for the school programs that are budgeted money.

Committee Reports:

Volunteer Coordinator/ Communications Secretary: Nancy Wilkes shared that if you haven’t received any Sign-Up Genius to see her after the meeting. Also, please sign up for committees in which you are interested.

6th Grade Dance: The Haunted Mariner Party will take place on Friday, October 25 from 4:30 -6:30. There is a DJ, dance, and carnival-like games. The planning committee will meet today after the PTO meeting.

7th Grade Dance: Suzanne Rothman is planning for February.

8th Grade Dance: The dance will be on May 15, 2020 at the Marriot on PGA.

Dad’s Club: A chair is needed.

Staff Appreciation: Cindy will be the chair and our PTO hosts a November Thanksgiving lunch, which is tentatively planned for Nov. 20.

Business Partners: Jeanne Takeda is our Business Partner Liaison. Anyone interested in becoming a business partner can fill out an application. Drafts of all paperwork are being approved. Businesses have several levels of sponsorship available to them.

Spirit Nights: Our PTO organizes one spirit night per month where restaurants give a portion of sales back to our school. Melinda and Melissa Walker will be organizing Spirit Nights together.

Oct. 13 Habit Burger (soft opening that will give us 100% of sales form 5-7)

Mariner Market:  The market is fully stocked and is looking for chairs for the 3 areas: the online market, the market, and the t-shirt packages. The store is open one day a week during lunches from 11-1:30, but we would like to add a second day. Volunteers are welcome.

Honor Roll Breakfasts: Breakfasts for the first nine weeks honor roll students are Nov. 6 for 6th graders, Nov. 7 for 8th graders, and Nov. 8 for 7th graders. Anyone who wants to volunteer from 7-9 am on those mornings, watch for a Sign-Up Genius. The Mariner Market will be open on Wed. Nov. 6. for the 6th grade breakfast.

New Business: A parent suggested having a pep rally or School Spirit Night at JMS. JMS had a pep rally in the past that needed improvement and was limited by the size of the gym. It developed into the Mariner Midway, a field day-type event in March. Perhaps the 8th graders could have a pep rally? Hoops for Hearts is a charity fundraiser in December that also has a pep rally atmosphere where students play the faculty in basketball. It is open to all grades and students receive a ticket when they donate to charity. Another suggestion was to fundraise through a “faculty for the day” program. Students donate for tickets and one is drawn for Principal for the day, etc. Mrs. Herring-Nance does a Spirit Week for the Student Council and they have a meeting on Friday from 2-4:00 about ideas for the year if any parent wants to attend.

Next meeting is November 6, 2019.

Meeting adjourned.

Members Present:

Lisa Hastey Tamara Goble Alison Kaphon

Pam Dei Jeanne Takeda Gina Braznell

Nancy Wilkes Karen Zudans Juanita Deal

Suzanne Rothman Dorothy Splendario Karin Slazinski

Melissa Walker Kimberly Joy Morgan Keila Ortiz Rolon

Shernelle McCombre Lisa Flynn Emily Jones

America Cancino Elizabeth Small