

MINUTES

Amy Stalzer, PTA president opened the meeting at 7:03pm and reviewed the agenda before moving into the first item.

I. TJMS PTA: ORGANIZATION AND ROLES

Amy S. introduced the PTA Executive Board and noted the shift in moving from last year (fully virtual) to this year; the PTA's goal is to encourage engagement among the school community, get people reconnected and to relaunch a lot of the programs/events from pre-COVID and to look for new opportunities and ideas. Executive Board for SY 2021-2022:

President: **Amy Stalzer**

Vice President: **Allison Stewart**

Secretary: **Jasmine Hayes**

Treasurer: **Natanya Blackwell**

Communications Chair: **Arlene Goyette**

Fundraising Chair: **Patricia Garcia**

Membership/Engagement Chair: **Vacant** (*Student/Family Programs/Engagement Committee being formed in September*)

The PTA website has been updated and has a lot of information, encourage families to visit (and to join the PTA).

II. PTA PROJECTS UNDERWAY

- **Monthly Restaurant Nights**: Patricia G., Fundraising Chair, has lined up a series of monthly restaurant nights over the course of the school year with our first one scheduled for next week: September 29th @ Papatella on Wilson Blvd. We also have a year-long partnership with the Los Chamacos Mexican Restaurant on S. Walter Reed Dr.
- **Reflections Art Contest**: This is a national contest that gets students involved in showing their creativity and appreciation for the arts. This year's theme ("I will change the world by..."), entries are due by October 15th. There are currently 10 students that have expressed interest and we anticipate other students as well. There will be additional announcements via Canvas to encourage student participation. Cyndi Gadhia, this year's Chair, is seeking in-kind donations to provide awards for each of the 6 categories.
- **Harvest Festival**: This is an annual event for TJMS, Cynthia Curry-Daniel is Chairing the event. We do have a group of people who are involved in soliciting donations and planning. This event will be held outside and is a cherished tradition for the school. We need many volunteers for this event. Please sign up to help plan a fun and safe outdoor event for students and families.
- **Bingo Night Fundraiser**: This is something new we want to roll out in December, more info to come.

III. UPCOMING PTA PROJECTS

There are several initiatives to support student and parent engagement:

- [Advisory Council of Teaching and Learning](#) (ACTL): we have 2 openings for co-representatives. If you are interested in curriculum development APS-wide, this is a great opportunity to be involved.
- [Arlington County Council of PTAs](#) (CCPTA): Laura Cooke is the TJMS co-representative, and we have 1 opening for a second co-representative. Having county-level representation on behalf of TJMS PTA helps us to be informed about county-wide and emerging issues (e.g., health and safety questions and issues) that we can then share with the TJMS community.
- [Jefferson Garden](#): Reidy Brown is the current Garden Manager; we are recruiting for the upcoming (and future) school year as Reidy will be transitioning. The PTA has supported the growth of the garden over the years, we are looking for other families and parents to get involved and continue support; we do have several volunteers that support the garden and are looking for a lead (volunteer manager).
- There are many ways to support TJMS, please fill out the [Volunteer Interest Form](#) (we've had some parents already reach out to express interest, the PTA will be looking for opportunities and new ideas we can try along with some of the established events).

IV. PTA FUNDRAISING

In addition to joining the PTA and participating in events like Restaurant Nights, we have several other ways throughout the year to raise funds for PTA events and programs (e.g., student recognition events, teacher appreciation events, teacher mini grants for educational initiatives, community support initiatives and school garden maintenance):

- **Donate:** General donations accepted year-round to [PTA Square Site](#)
- **Amazon Smile:** Start all purchases using the "Thomas Jefferson Middle PTA" [Amazon Smile Link](#)
- **BoxTops for Education:** Submit receipts to [BoxTops app](#) and select "Jefferson Middle School" (ID 578425) as your designated school
- **Harris Teeter Together in Education:** See customer service or go to your [online account](#) to link your VIC card to "TJMS PTA (Code 3905)"

These are all a great opportunity to have a portion of earnings come back to TJMS.

V. TJMS PTA SURVEY RESULTS

- The survey was disseminated in early August. The PTA wanted to start with asking people what they needed this year from the PTA to inform our budget and planning process.
- The survey was open for approximately 1.5 months (62 respondents), we've tried to incorporate feedback into current agenda and will continue to do so.

VI. TJMS PTA SY 2021-2022 BUDGET

- Context for budget discussion: PTA shifted from a more "simplified" budget last year due to COVID, PTA is now trying to identify areas to focus on this year; Executive Board would like to be conservative and not overestimate what we can do. For example, under fundraising have added "Yellow Jacket Fund" as a year-round fund to support mini grants, teacher support, etc.
- Amy S. provided overview of the proposed budget

- Noted our need to be flexible – we are assuming in-person events with acknowledgement that we may need to shift to virtual depending on what is happening with the pandemic. In terms of building up the current budget, it was based on historical budgeting.
- Allison noted that a vote is needed but members have the option to make a motion to defer the vote if more time is needed to review.
- Any question about the budget?

Q. Question about line item for translation services, does APS do this?

A. Not aware how this was used previously. Would need to verify with treasurer. During SY20/21 school year, believe the President may have done the translation on her own.

- **Volunteer: Irma Deleon – can help with translation**
- **Motion: To approve SY 2021/2022 PTA budget**
 - Vote to approve budget is for people who have paid dues and are official members of the PTA. Members were asked to raise their hand if they approved the budget (10 required for quorum, counted 19). **Motion carried. TJMS PTA SY 2021/2022 Budget Approved.**

VII. GUEST SPEAKER: MR. MALINOSKY, IB MIDDLE YEARS PROGRAM COORDINATOR INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE STANDARDS-BASED GRADING EXPLAINED

<https://jefferson.apsva.us/ib-programme/>

- TJMS has been an IB school since 2007 and we are trying to move forward with IB standards-based grading.
- Why are we doing this (standards-based grading)? Because this is part of the requirements for IB schools and we want to be transparent, consistent, fair, and inclusive across the board when it comes to grading.
- All descriptions (standards-based grading) posted on the school website; IB across all schools (international) has 4 subject specific standards that we are aiming toward, and we must come up with assessments against these standards and that are also aligned with Virginia standards.
- Breakdown of how grades will be calculated in every subject area:
- Right now, if you go to Parent Vue and look at the grades (if teacher has given a summative assessment on standard view), you might see a number (e.g., 4 or 6, etc.) – these numbers are reflected by rubrics given in the class.
- Our ask for students: strive to complete all the work, be risk takers
- Our ask for families: regularly check in with your student and teacher, and reach out with questions
- Hope is to reduce stress and motivate kids

Q. Re: slide 14: What is “individuals and society”?

- For civics, US history and world geography; For “interdisciplinary”: there is one formal interdisciplinary project per year, and we do see classes/teachers teaming up.

Q. In schools that have gone from traditional to IB grading, what do we see in terms of performance?

- Typically, the most consistent finding in US schools: reduced failure rate, tended to reduce number of students that get an A because it's not just about participation or turning things in; but for students who get a B on the summative assessment, they still have an opportunity to retake to get an A; this is not elimination of the letter grade, it comes with scores based on 4 standards (so a more comprehensive understanding of what goes into the grade)

Assessment Policy: <https://jefferson.apsva.us/ib/policies-program-access/assessment-policy/Questions?kip.malinosky@apsva.us>

VIII. WRAP-UP: REMINDERS AND KEY DATES

- **Minutes from today's meeting** will be shared in English and Spanish via the PTA announcement list and on the PTA Meetings page (<https://jefferson.apsva.us/pta/meetings/>)
- **Volunteer for the 2021-2022 PTA.** We encourage participation, the PTA is looking to strengthen connections across the school; we invite families to fill out the [Volunteer Interest Form](#).
- **Join our first TJMS PTA Restaurant Night** at Pupatella Pizzeria (Wilson Blvd) on September 29th from 3pm-9pm (<https://jefferson.apsva.us/pta/restaurant-nights/>)
- **October 15th** – PTA Reflections Art Contest student entry deadline, there are 6 different categories, learn more: <https://jefferson.apsva.us/pta/reflections-arts-contest/>
- **October 29th** – TJMS Harvest Festival
- **Join the PTA:** invite families to become a member if not already – becoming a member signals wanting to get involved and connected. Membership application: <https://thomas-jefferson-middle-school-pta.square.site/>
- **Next PTA Meeting and Town Hall: Tuesday, October 19th at 7pm**

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:37PM AND TRANSITIONED TO MS. BOGGAN TO FACILITATE TOWN HALL.