

**PTA General Meeting**  
**Friday, January 12, 2018 – 8:45 AM**  
**JBE Cafeteria**

**Call to Order:** A General Meeting of the Jacksonville Beach PTA was held at the Jacksonville Beach Elementary School Cafeteria in Jacksonville Beach, FL on Friday, January 12, 2018. PTA President, Valerie Gregg, called the meeting to order at 8:45 AM. Quorum was established.

**Roll Call:** Valerie Gregg (PTA President), Kate Ansart (VP Programs), Mary Lauren Eubank (VP Membership), Katie Hathaway (VP Business Partners), Christina Cummings (VP Fundraising), Carey Johnson (Recording Secretary), Kathy Waller (VP Correspondence Secretary), Pam Peters (Teacher Representative), Christelle Rouse, Karen Bagaria, Hongying Song, Katherine Lazarus, Jaime Shachter, Morgan Siders, Amanda Ferrelle, Nicole Schkrutz, Martha Lonsdale, Mark DiGaetani, Morgan Siders, Deborah Anthony, Vanessa Galan, Cameron Mattingly

**Read & Approve Prior Minutes:** Kate Ansart motioned to approve. The minutes were seconded and approved.

**Financial Report:** Book balance for December is \$35,575.19 checking and \$5,227.59 savings.

**Correspondence:** Kathy Waller - nothing new to report

**Membership:** Mary Lauren Eubank - nothing new to report

**Report of the Executive Board:**

A. Presidents Report - Valerie Gregg reports:

- a. Don Morgan, with the Beaches Resource Center, will be hosting a 3-session event called The Art of Family on January 17, 24, and 31 from 4 to 6 PM at JBE. Workshops are designed to strengthen family communication and interactions, while working on various art projects. Limited number of people that can volunteer so it is a first come, first serve basis. They are looking for about 4 volunteers per session. Please sign up if you are interested.
- b. There has been no acknowledgement made pertaining to the letter of grievance that was sent by some PTA members. State PTA is trying to schedule a mediation meeting but no date has been set.

B. Principals Report – Ms. Mattingly reports:

- a. No school Monday in recognition of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- b. Magnet Tours are coming up:
  - i. Start after the School Choice Expo (01/20).
  - ii. No tours are personally scheduled, you must come to a tour session.
  - iii. We need volunteers. In order to be a tour guide, you must come to a training session. The last one will be next Tuesday. Everyone needs to be on the same page so that correct information is given. There have been changes in the Magnet application process and we need to make sure we are giving correct info so we decrease the phone calls coming in.
  - iv. When a tour is in session, we will have a lot of visitors in the building. Please be friendly and courteous to them. Teachers please continue teaching. The tour guides should not

let the visitors ask the teachers questions as to not take away from instruction. But if there is a general question among the group, the tour guide may ask the teacher.

- c. Diagnostic window ends this week. Parents should get feedback from teachers soon as far as growth.
- d. Next year, JBE will be implementing a KG acceleration program. Teachers and SAC both agree that this is a great idea. Note that this is not a gifted classroom nor is a pipeline to a gifted classroom. Assessments will be voluntary and done over the summer. This is being implemented so that all students can be placed with others at their level and their needs can be met more efficiently. In Kindergarten, there is a huge spectrum, and that is okay, BUT we need to make sure we are providing the appropriate services for further learning. She will be releasing dates for assessment later in the year.

C. Teachers Report – Ms. Peters:

a. Literacy Week – January 22-26

i. The theme is “Find Yourself in a Book.”

ii. Something fun each day:

- 1. Monday – Best Book Ever – Teachers will be doing a project about the student’s favorite book in the classroom and/or homework. Kids will be able to get ideas of good books from their peers. “I Scream for a good book” with ice cream themed bookmarks will be given. Ms. Peter’s is looking for PTA volunteers that could help look for a good deal on the ice cream (Kathy Waller and Kate Ansart volunteered to help.)
- 2. Tuesday – Buddy Reading – upper levels have been buddied up with lower level. Classrooms have been paired so that it is easier to organize a reading schedule.
- 3. Wednesday – book swap
- 4. Thursday – “Drop Everything and Read” will be from 2:15-2:45pm. Everyone will stop everything and read, no matter where they are!
- 5. Friday – Character Parade - Will start at 8:45am on Friday morning on the main track, or in the school if weather doesn’t permit. Students will be asked to dress up as their favorite book character.
  - a. Mr. Willis is reaching out to Sweet Frog to possibly use their mascot.
  - b. They are also reaching out to Scholastic to use Clifford

iii. Moving forward, Ms. Peters requested we find a cultural visit during the school for Literacy Week. She likes the idea of doing an author that could come in and speak. She recommended using Pat Lawrence as a contact, as she sets these up for schools around the county. In the past, authors have done a pre-sale and would sign the book. Usually done in two sessions.

- 1. Martha Lonsdale mentioned she had contact at UNF, that’s an author.
- 2. Valerie Gregg liked this idea but did mention that PTA can only do what they can. All cultural visits will have to be cleared through Mattingly. Definitely will look into it if it works in with Literacy Week for next year.

iv. Kate Ansart mentioned that teachers should be aware of the new book swap layout.

- 1. In the past, it’s been in the PTA room, which is small and classes come in one at a time.
- 2. This year, will be in the cafeteria and will go at grade level. This will be held on Wednesday. Once children bring the books in, PTA will give them passes. Books can be dropped in the PTA room starting next Thursday through the following Tuesday. Flyers will be attached to the newsletter this week (Mattingly)

- v. Ms. Peters reported that flyers for Literacy Week will also be sent out soon.

## Unfinished Business:

### A. School Improvements:

#### a. Classroom Improvements - Valerie Greg Reported:

##### i. Funds raised by Fund Run will all go towards classroom technology

1. Ms. Peters stated that their Smart Boards are dying daily. Interactive TVs run at 3,000 dollars, so this Fund Run will hopefully be able to purchase several, but it likely won't be able to purchase all new.
2. Karen Bagaria asked if classroom technology be the headline for next year's funds.
  - a. Valery Gregg stated that it is basically up to the next PTA board and Ms. Mattingly.
  - b. Karen Bagaria mentioned that maybe FOJBE and PTA can get together and decide soon so they don't choose same thing to spend funds on. Valerie stated that if both did pull money to go toward classroom technology, it would be okay as there are a significant number of Interactive TVs dying that the school needs.
  - c. Ms. Peters stated that another thing the classrooms need are more laptops. It was needed for this year's mid-year diagnostics.
    - i. Amanda Ferrell asked if there is a way for parents to donate old laptops?
    - ii. Ms. Peters and Valerie Gregg confirmed there is no way, it has to go through county.
3. Valerie Gregg stated that technology is number one priority for this year and that the priority for the year changes based on the summer meeting with the administration. Next year's priority may be different based on what the new board, the admin, and the teachers decide.
4. Ms. Peters brought up that with JBE not being a Title 1 school, we don't get the funds we need to run efficiently.
  - a. Kate Ansart brought up that Ms. Pavlinek had mentioned getting a group of us to go down and talk to county about this. Is there anyone specific we could go talk to about this? The answer was unknown by the group.
5. Christina Cummings mentioned that in the beginning of the year we talked about getting a team of grant writers and asked if that ever materialized.
  - a. Valerie Gregg responded saying that our school looks pretty on paper and it appears that we aren't "needy."
  - b. Karen Bagaria mentioned that FOJBE also looked into it and we're just not "needy" enough.
    - i. Christina Cummings stated that there has to be something out there. Kate Ansart responded stating that they did have a person that looked under "every rock and stone" and there is one possibly (Sony) but that's not even a guarantee. She asked if anyone knows of any or has any ideas, to please let her know. They are eager and are actually hoping to do something this week.
6. Ms. Peters mentioned that the county sent out a letter selling old laptops earlier in the year. She asked why were these not donated to the schools.

- a. Christina mentioned that every monthly County PTA meeting, the superintendent is there and she takes questions from the floor.
        - i. Valerie Gregg suggested we could also email the superintendent to voice concerns.
        - ii. Ms. Peters commented that with the interim superintendent, downtown is in disarray and they're spending all their resources on that.
    - b. Sound Improvements - Valerie Gregg reported:
      - i. As a school and as a PTA, we use the sound gear often with the various programs.
      - ii. Our first fundraiser we reached out 12K goal and are hoping to start purchasing at least a little bit of the sound equipment soon. One item is a new digital soundboard to replace current. The estimated price from Corrine Heller was \$1850. Amazon lists the same at \$2000. And a company, Sound Production, quoted \$1734.
        - 1. Katie Hathaway motioned for a vote that the sound board be purchased.
        - 2. This motion was seconded.
        - 3. A vote was taken and no one was opposed.
- B. Fund Run - Katie Hathaway reported:
  - a. Going to Teacher Meeting to present layout and ideas in a few weeks.
  - b. The event will kick off on 02/23, and the actual run will be on 03/09.
  - c. There will be a sign-up genius sent out for volunteers. Volunteers will be needed for both the two weeks leading up to race day, and race day itself.
  - d. A packet is being put together – brochure, collection envelope, flyers. Volunteers may be needed to help put these together.
  - e. Committee is meeting today and are excited.
- C. Community Outreach: Christina Cummings reported-
  - a. Looking into the Lymphoma and Leukemia society and doing a penny fundraiser. We are not allowed as a 501 to donate to another 501. She just found this out so she is looking for other ideas. Giving Closet was done last quarter and went great. If anyone has an organization or an idea, let her know. She stated that Giving Closet is always in need so we could do a repeat. Can be almost any kind of outreach.
    - i. Hongying Song suggested giving time instead of clothes and items. She stated that she works at the library and some schools come there to do a performance. Since our school has performances, she suggested bringing the program to the library and open it to the public. Every third Thursday starting from 4-6, if parents are capable you bring the kids in to do performance. She also mentioned that Wednesday nights, they have a star watching program where attendees can watch stars with a professional.
      - 1. Christina Cummings requested that she put that on Facebook so that parents know these things go on in the community.
      - 2. Hongying Song said she will send a flyer to Valerie (who will upload it to Facebook.)
    - ii. Valerie Gregg stated that if anyone has ideas (Community Outreach), let us know. Beach Cleanup is always good.
    - iii. Karen Bagaria stated that homeschooling groups have a lot of programs. The zoo has a program once a week where you can shadow the zookeepers. Maybe there is something

with the idea of exposing kids after 3pm to a world outside of this concrete building of community and servicing animals. Something to think about. Valerie Gregg stated she liked that idea and perhaps that could line up with Career Day, too.

- b. Family Dinner Night – Christina Cummings reported:
  - i. The event went well. They had 230 tickets sold prior to the RSVP date. The following day they had an additional 30 that came in. Then over 20 tickets were sold at the door. That brought the total to around 300 that bought tickets, and close to that attended.
  - ii. They also had 12 teachers donate their time to help that evening. Many parents helped as well. Ms. DeSantis did a great job with the performance. Morris Music Academy came and played and he was great. She was nervous that she wouldn't get volunteers. Fletcher showed up with 25 and JWJ showed up with 28 volunteers so ended up having a lot of help.
  - iii. There was more than enough food to feed everyone, including their volunteers.
  - iv. It was a lot of work but everything came together and it went very well.
  - v. In the future, she'll share her contact at JWJ because she said the volunteers there were hustling and were great. Kathy Waller mentioned that a lot of them went to school here so the kids were excited to come help their old school.
  - vi. She recommends getting student volunteers and letting the parents enjoy their time with the kids.

#### **New Business:**

- A. VP of Fundraising Re-Election: Recently, the VP Fundraising, Christina Cummings, has chosen to step down. Christina plans to remain an active volunteer and continue to be involved with our PTA events and meetings. She has recommended Katie Hathaway take over the rest of the year, and the Executive Committee supports this recommendation as Katie is the current Chairperson of the second and final PTA fundraiser, the Fund Run.
  - a. Valerie Gregg asked for a motion to vote Katie Hathaway in as VP of Fundraising for the remainder of the year.
  - b. The motion was seconded.
  - c. Everyone was in favor!
- B. Nominating Committee Election: The Nominating Committee is an elected group of volunteers who will be tasked with finding qualified potential nominees for the elected officer positions of the organization. The committee must be an odd number of people of 3 or greater.
  - a. All positions are open. Even if they weren't open, anybody is welcome to put their name in a hat and get voted on any position they are willing to do.
  - b. Karen Bagaria has volunteered to be the spokesperson of the Nominating Committee.
    - i. Amanda Farrell and Morgan Siders volunteered to be on the committee.
    - ii. Karen Bagaria wanted to do some field work to see if we can pull a group of more diverse people in order to reach more people.
      - 1. Christina Cummings clarified that even with the committee forming, you can still go talk to whoever and see if they're interested. They just wouldn't be on this committee.
  - c. Kate Ansart clarified that the majority of the current board has reached their 2 years maximum time in a position. For the PTA to continue, we have to have certain positions in order to even be a PTA (President, Treasurer, and one VP). She stated that we had this issue two years ago. The president who ended up standing up, did so begrudgingly (and she would say that). But she

did it so PTA didn't fizzle out. She emphasized the magnitude of how important this is and asked that everyone spread the word of how big a deal it is to find a full slate.

- i. Karen Bagaria suggested sending a flyer home so that parents can see the magnitude. She suggested putting on paper what is at stake if there is no PTA.
  1. Valerie Gregg agreed, but also pointed out that she invited 600+ people to today's meeting, and here is what we have (referring to the lack of attendance).
  2. Kate Ansart added that she feels like she's constantly bothering people on Facebook, and the volunteer result is still low.
  3. Amanda Farrell suggested maybe having homeroom parents send it out instead, so that it is more personal.
    - a. Kate responded that we have done this in the past and have actually had negative backlash from the room moms. She added that she always ends up reaching out to this core group. She stated that we (those in attendance) know what's at stake because we're here every month, but she doesn't think that everyone knows. Every single program is a PTA program and we have to do it because we don't have the funds to put on anything without the PTA. Kate added that since we have such a diverse group of kids, it's hard to cut any programs. She said they tried desperately to cut something this year because of the budget, but couldn't cut a single one because we didn't want to break hearts. Unfortunately, it's going to take us getting out there and saying how it is.
- d. Karen Bagaria stated that since we won't slate a new board until May, there is time to ask around.
  - i. Kate Ansart stated that it is a definite time commitment so make sure you're okay with that and it works for you. We are doing everything we can to be organized and share information so that when we pass it on, it can be turned over smoothly. Obviously, the new person can make it their own but there is guidance available.
  - ii. Jamie Schacter asked if it would be possible to hold a future PTA meeting in the evening because perhaps mornings aren't an option for many. Valerie Gregg agreed and will consider making the April meeting an evening one.
  - iii. Amanda Ferrelle also suggested that since Science Night has a big turnout, maybe doing a shout-out at the event. It's a PTA run event so to stand up and say something there could notify parents of what's at stake. Deborah Anthony announced that if you ever need someone to stand up and say something, she's willing to do so.
  - iv. Karen Bagaria asked if we can allow one person to split a job.
    1. Valerie Gregg mentioned that logistically it may be a nightmare but next PTA board can do whatever they want. She suggested maybe a shadow who can do some of the work and learn what the position entails but that would take double the volunteers. Valerie clarified that the by-laws state you would have to vote in 'replacements' to officially split the position.
    2. Kate Ansart stated that it would have been great for her particular position (VP Programs) to have someone concentrate on the first half, and another for the second. Just because it's a lot. Valerie Gregg added that Kate has done an incredible job using Facebook to get to parents and this hasn't been utilized in the past.

3. Christina Cummings mentioned that in the past, there hasn't been a problem with not having enough bodies to be able to do the job. She suggested having multiple chairs under the program umbrella that can help do pieces of it.
- e. A vote was taken to elect Karen Bagaria, Amanda Ferrelle, and Morgan Siders to be our nominating committee.
- f. Everyone was in favor!

C. Upcoming Programs:

- a. Talent Show - Corrine Heller heading this and it's in progress.
- b. Literacy Week - (Ms. Peters covered this earlier in meeting.)
- c. Science Week – Amanda Ferrelle reported:
  - i. Invention Convention is the biggest thing during the week.
  - ii. Science Night will be held on Thursday.
  - iii. Flyers went out and it's being posted on Facebook.
  - iv. Amanda is starting to recruit judges for the projects. She is trying to find volunteers to do this. She is hoping to find some that are in a science related field. They have to be unrelated to students.
  - v. Nicole Schkrutz will be co-chairing this event.
  - vi. For Science Night, they are meeting with teachers next week to plan their events.
  - vii. Amanda is working on recruiting different businesses to do the interactive activities in the cafeteria. She was having trouble contacting Dr. Fishman and Katie said she would follow up. Amanda is also trying to get in contact with Dr. Patel and others. She asked if anyone has ideas of companies that have cool interactive activities to let her know.
  - viii. The Magic of Science is coming back.
  - ix. Sign-up Genius will be coming out
  - x. There is not a ton of volunteer needed, just a few student volunteers.
- d. Magnet Tours – (Ms. Mattingly covered this earlier in meeting.)

D. DCCPTA Meeting Update – Christina Cummings reported that the next meeting is January 30<sup>th</sup>. There hasn't been a meeting since the last JBE meeting. The January 30<sup>th</sup> meeting will be a regular meeting with some speakers. There will be a Magnet School Board Rep there to talk about changes. There will also be a lunch and learn. After the meeting there will be a free lunch with a speaker coming in to talk on human trafficking. This will be a what to look out for, what we can teach our children, etc. The 2018 Florida PTA Conference will be January 28<sup>th</sup>. It educates members on important state legislation and is open for any PTA member.

E. Volunteer of the Month: Thank you Ms. Guthrie for all the art for Night of the Arts! Ms. Guthrie was given some flowers to show our appreciation.

F. Random attendee winner – Katherine Lazarus has won cookie butter!!!

G. Open Discussion: no report

**Announcements:**

The next General Meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 2nd, 2018 at the Jacksonville Beach Elementary School Cafeteria in Jacksonville Beach, FL.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 AM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Carey Johnson (Recording Secretary)

Approved as:

Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Corrected: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_