



## JAMES MORRIS SCHOOL

### PTO MINUTES

10/7/2014

**Attendees:** Diana McIntosh, Tracy Barger, Allison Storm, Lisa Galinski, Laura Crane, Jessy Barone, Margaret Coe, Lois Silver, KC Chapman, Tracy Keilty, Barbara Connery, Jean Leonard, Amy Kennedy, Robin Moore, Missy Layman, Laurie Bernardi

**Meeting called to order at 3:45 p.m.** by Lois Silver, President

**Welcome and Introductions** – Lois welcomed everyone and introduced our two speakers: Tracy Keilty and Barbara Connery.

**Progress Reports** - Tracy Keilty, Chief Academic Officer presented to the PTO the new grading system as it relates to the CT Core Standards. We will replace the terms "Report Card" with "Progress Reports." The reports will reflect reading, writing, math and 21<sup>st</sup> century work habits. The new Progress Reports will be out in November. There will be 4 levels: minimum progress, making progress (target), making benchmark and applying standards. The ELA reading levels are on the JMS website.

**Enrichment Program** – Barbara Connery presented to the PTO information about our next enrichment program. On October 29<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Robin Moore, Storyteller and Children's book author will offer 2 assemblies based on the grades and then in the afternoon he will offer a writer's workshop. Mr. Moore will return to JMS at night for an evening with parents and children. Mr. Moore will incorporate your own family stories and he has promised to provide some surprises along the way. [Robinmoorestoryteller.com](http://Robinmoorestoryteller.com)

The PTO took a vote to approve the funding for the storyteller. All in favor.

**Treasurer Report** – Margaret Coe, Treasurer reported a balance of \$9,759.72. Expenses: Carnival \$80, School supplies/balance beam \$764.82, A-Z directory and PTO Enrichment program \$875

## Old Business

**Carnival** – PTO Carnival was a huge success! Many local businesses made donations and parents, students and teachers volunteered. Some popular games: Splash! To win a goldfish, the 20 ft inflatable slide, inflatable twister, hair braiding, face painting, hair coloring, dino dig, spin art, pie eating contests and the infamous Dunk Tank. Basketball coaches Mr. Mark Zappone, Mr. Jeff Crane and Mr. Dave Sylvester were in the tank. Ms. Alyssa Wright arrived wearing her "Goshen is Great" tshirt to entice the JMS kids to dunk her in the tank, Mrs. Jennifer Johnson, former JMS teacher was in the tank too as well as Mr. Tom Weik! And as a highlight, our very own Mr. KC Chapman sat in the Dunk Tank and then moved onto the "Pie in the Eye" event! All great sports. The event ended with a 50/50 raffle winner: Dan      the gumball winner was Marky Barone! The Grand Prize raffle drawing was held at 5:00. The winner of the girls bike was                      , the winner of the boys bike was Joshua Del

**Book Fair** – Wayne, media specialist has volunteered to take over the Fall bookfair with all proceeds to go the PTO. It is scheduled for October 20-24. Beth LaVollo, parent suggested bringing in authors through a Skype program as they are more cost effective then physically bringing in an author.

**Silent Auction** – This is our auction year!! Many, many volunteers will be needed. PTO will hold a ziti dinner at the Bantam Firehouse along with a kids penny auction, Silent auction and a live auction. Classroom projects were discussed and KC informed us that there is a lot of artistic teachers and they may be able to assist.

**Open Floor** – Barbara Connery will like to be a liaison with the PTO for field trips. 6<sup>th</sup> grade will need to raise their own funds for field trips. Jamie Fisher, Wamogo to offer Enrichment theaters. PTO discussed opting out of the Community forum newsletter. Lois will attend the next meeting on 9/30 to obtain more information. Parents discussed the playground condition. Fence is falling down, playground needs mulch, garbage is all over outside and behind the fence and the Buddy bench is too high for most kids to sit. KC Chapman listened and will speak with Fran O'Dell.