



JAMES MORRIS SCHOOL
PTO MINUTES
October 7, 2015

Attendees: Jessy Barone, Laurie Bernardi, Margaret Coe, Carrie Maillet, Alison Storm, Jamie Kingsley and KC Chapman.

Meeting called to order at 4:55 by Jessy Barone, President

Old Business

Open House and Ice Cream Social

Laurie Bernardi and Jessy Barone supervised the PTO table in the front lobby. They disseminated information about the Carnival, A to Z Directory, JMS Note Cards, Box Tops and Square one Art.

Mrs. Maillet organized the 6th grader volunteers into shifts. They did a fantastic job volunteering as door greeters and ice cream servers. Mrs. Maillet would like to continue having the 6th graders volunteer at next year. Students and parents were happy to enjoy ice cream with toppings and whipped cream. Not enough ice cream was purchased, so serving sizes were limited to one scoop per person. Next year more ice cream will be purchased to offer larger serving sizes.

Lisa Galinski will help Jordana Hood publicize and encourage students and families to bring Box Tops for Education to school.

JMS Note Card Sales are low. To boost sales, note cards will be sold during the scholastic book fair/parent teacher conferences.

Carnival

The welcome back carnival was very successful and enjoyed by all. Many JMS parents, families and students attended. The PTO thanked all volunteers, parents and teachers for their time and donations. Jessy Barone will post a "thank you" list on the PTO website

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| Income | \$1266.00 |
| Expenses | <u>-\$918.56</u> |
| Profit | \$347.44 |

Once extra boxed candy and table cloths are returned to the store for a refund, an additional profit of approximately \$30.00 will be profit. Principal Chapman expressed some suggestions made to him by some JMS families. Some parents would like children with physical disabilities to have better access to certain games/activities. Some parents were surprised to see the use of water guns used in the "Squirt" game. Some parents with the "Ping Pong Goldfish game" because gold fish were used a prizes, parents did not want gold fish as pets, they died easily and it was cruel to animals.

Necessary consideration will be taken to make appropriate changes for the 2016 JMS Carnival

One recommendation is to trade the large inflatable slide and twister for a smaller bounce house with a slide (if insurance will allow it). To keep the cost down, purchase less candy, popcorn and cotton candy.

Start earlier for recruiting volunteers, EZ ups and tables.

New Business

JMS PTO Website

The PTO has its own website

JMSPTO@weebly.com

Pages include a Home page, Meetings tab and Events tab

You can access the web site by clicking on the link in the JMS E-Blast

It was discovered that there was no link from the JMS school website and the link will now be added to the JMS website.

PTO Meetings

10/7 at 4:45 pm

11/4 at 5:30 pm

12/2 at 4:45 pm

1/06 at 5:30 pm

2/3 at 4:45 pm

3/2 at 5:30 pm

4/6 at 4:45 pm

5/5 at 5:30 pm

6/1 at 4:45 pm

Meetings are usually the first Wednesday of the month and are held in the JMS Library. Meeting times usually alternate between afternoon and evening time. All parents/guardians of JMS students are welcome to attend. We will also try to arrange child care with older student volunteers at the meeting so that parents with younger children can attend.

JMS PTO Officers Meeting with the Region 6 Business Manager

Jessy Barone and Laurie Bernardi meet with Scott Cleary the Region 6 business manager on 09/21/15

Warren PTO officers were also present but Goshen officers were unable to attend. Discussed were financial aspects of the PTO, obtaining an EIN (Employee Identification Number) and the need for PTO insurance.

Jessy Barone applied for EIN online and immediately received one on 09/24/15. For now, JMS PTO will use the school's insurance and will begin using separate insurance next school year. There is the potential for JMS Warren and Goshen to share insurance; splitting the cost for next school year.

A to Z Directory

Jessy Barone is continuing to receive contact information and waiting for parents to verify their data to ensure that all information is correct.

Lyman Orchard Pie Sale Fundraiser

Kristen Edwards is organizing this fundraiser. Please buy pies for you holiday desserts. Order forms were sent home on 10/5/15. The sale ends 10/19/15. Pies will arrive on 11/4/15

Square One Art

Alison Storm is organizing and working with Laurie Sweet the art teacher. Students' artwork was shipped to Square One, catalogs should arrive on 10/19/15, and orders should be placed by 10/30/15. Final products should be delivered by 11/23/15 prior to the start of Thanksgiving recess which starts 11/25/15. Alison Storm viewed the artwork before it was sent out and was very impressed with the quality of the students' final pieces. Students started with a first draft then refined and remade it into his/her final original work of art. Some students were unable to finish his/her artwork in the time allotted so extra time was taken in class. Alison suggested that next year it may be beneficial to hold an after school session to finish artwork.

Scholastic Book Fair

Margaret Coe Organizing this fall's scholastic book fair which will be held 10/19 - 10/22. A flyer will be sent home on 10/08/15 requesting volunteer at the fair and run the register. Browsing days will be Monday and Tuesday. Younger students can be helped by the six grades and parent volunteers to complete their "Wish Lists." The book fair will also be open Wednesday through Friday during school hours and during evening parent teacher conferences.

Candy Cane Lane

Where you can start your holiday shopping at James Morris School. It will be open 12/7 - 12/11 during school hours. There are unsold items from last year but more inventory is needed. Laurie Bernardi and Jessy Barone are looking into a different school stores such as "Kids Kastle."

Hickory Stick Book Shop

Jessy Barone is collaborating with Shannon Collins on continuing this fundraiser. Need to schedule a date

Stocking Stuffer Drive

The town hall will provide JMS with genders and ages of needy children to be assigned to each classroom. The PTO is asking students/families from each class to donate toys and nonperishable food items for less fortunate Morris families by 12/16 in order to be distributed in time before the holiday break.

Morris Senior Center

Jessy Barone spoke with Kristin Davila the Director/Municipal Agent at the Morris Senior Center. She expressed interest in a night of shopping during the tree lighting ceremony and having a table to sell craft items made by seniors. In the past, the PTO coordinated local vendors to sell their products here, but the PTO no longer coordinates this event. Kristin was referred to the Brian Leonard at the Morris Rec. Dept.

Kristin Davila/Morris Senior Center organize "Big Bus Trips" which are open to the public. The next trip is to the Radio City Music Hall Trip this December.

School Enrichments

Principal Chapman is continuing to work with students and staff on deciding on enrichments and field trips for this school year. During the September PTO meeting Principal Chapman discussed the possibility of afterschool classes, but it was decided that this particular vendor was too expensive to offer. Principal Chapman discussed upcoming "Enrichment Clusters," about which he will be sharing information in an upcoming E-Blast.

Arts Alive

Will Discuss possibly continuing Arts Alive but on a more affordable budget. Old notes showed that the budget was \$5000 in the past. Principal Chapman shared that when JMS staff were polled, 50 % were in favor of continuing with Arts Alive and 50% were not. Mrs. Maillet shared that Arts Alive was started by Deb Goepel as a way to bring local artisans into the school and reestablish a connection to the community.

PTO Membership

There is a lack of attendance at PTO meetings. Discussed was how to encourage greater attendance at PTO meetings and participation in PTO sponsored functions. Promoted was the idea of a having membership list and specific PTO email list to send out PTO minutes. Also, suggested was the idea of framing membership around the goal of strengthening the connection to the community. Conveying this, demonstrates that there is a purpose and awareness to the PTO membership. Suggested, was doing a "meet and greet" potluck night where JMS parents can meet each other.

Minutes Submitted by
Jessy Barone, PTO President