



**JAMES MORRIS SCHOOL
PTO MEETING MINUTES
December 11, 2017**

Attendees: Margie Groht, Jessy Barone, KC Chapman, Margaret Coe, and Barbara Connery.

Meeting called to order at 6:08 pm by Jessy Barone, President

Treasurer Report

Current balance: \$27,451.79 as of today 12/11/17

This amount includes the transaction of the 6th grade spirit wear fundraiser and deposit from Candy Cane Lane. Payment to Candy Cane Lane/A Small World Gift Shop is still pending.

Freund's Farm Fall Pie/Cookie Dough Fundraiser

This fall fundraiser profited \$932.17.

A to Z Directory

This online directory costs \$250.00/year. The PTO will send home a poll in the spring to determine if the A to Z directory is worth the cost.

Candy Cane Lane

A Small World Gift Shop supplied the merchandise for the JMS Candy Cane Lane Holiday Shop. Parents helped set up the store on Friday 12/01/17. The store was open to shoppers on 12/5-12/7 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Parents helped clean up on Thursday 12.07.17. The profit was \$490.00.

Stocking Stuffer Drive

The JMS community is continuing to donate many gifts, gift cards and toys, benefitting many Morris families. Items will be transported to the town hall for distribution to the families. Thank you to all who donated.

Food Drive in Lieu of Teacher's Gifts

The JMS community has donated many nonperishable food items, gift cards and money to the Morris Food Pantry instead of buying teachers gifts. The items will be transported to the town hall. A letter will be given to the teachers and staff acknowledging all families who donated. Thank you to all who donated.

Enrichment Programs

Heroes Day

This enrichment was organized by Jessy Barone. The Army National Guard, Morris Volunteer Fire Department, EMS, CT State Police Motor Cycle Unit officer and Canine officers participated. The students witnessed a Blackhawk helicopter landing and takeoff and interacted with EMS, the Morris Volunteer Fire Department personnel, CT State Police Motorcycle Unit officer and Canine Unit officers and their dogs. The students explored the Blackhawk helicopter, the Litchfield ambulance, the MVFD fire truck, and the CT State Police Motorcycle. The volunteers and students also participated in a question and answer session. Margie Groht suggested inviting a dive team in the future and KC Chapman suggested inviting more women in these professions.

One Revolution

The enrichment is scheduled for March 2, 2018. Heike Robillard from Goshen Center School is organizing this enrichment. Warren, Morris and Goshen students will be involved. Heike is managing the details of the enrichment.

Outdoor Classroom

The outdoor classroom is still in the planning stages. Mr. Chapman is in contact the Ag-Sci department at Wamogo about its construction. It was suggested to have planning meeting with Wamogo, the JMS PTO officers, Mr. Chapman and JMS parents involved in the construction of the outdoor classroom.

Terracycle

This program continues. JMS students continue to bring in the designated items. We will wait for further updates from Jennifer Finch about its progress.

Upcoming Events

Reading Celebration

This celebration will take place on 12/15/17. Students from Warren and Goshen will visit JMS. They will rotate through different stations. (Designing a bookmark, voting on the winner and distributing) 6th grade will participate in a Norman Rockwell analysis and Poetry session. Books were gathered and each student will pick a book to take home. The remaining books will be used for the book swap and less top quality books will be donated.

Valentine's Day Flower Sale

The PTO will continue with the February Valentine's Day Flower Sale. Date TBD.

Trivia Game Night with 6th Grade

The JMS PTO and the 6th grade class will collaborate on organizing a Trivia Game Night for the JMS community. All proceeds benefit the 6th grade class. Date TBD.

Earth Day Bottle and Can Drive

The PTO will continue with the Earth Day Bottle and Can Drive this spring. Date TBD.

Arts Alive Day

The PTO will continue with Arts Alive Day this spring. The PTO will avoid scheduling Arts Alive Day during the spring Scholastic Book Fair held May 11-18th. Date TBD.

Spring Field Trips

Currently, there are no spring field trips planned. The PTO voted and set aside one thousand dollars to contribute to field trips for this school year.

LAW

Leadership Awareness Workshop has expanded to Warren and Goshen. Mrs. Barbara Connery teaches this workshop to students. She requested to 2 podiums for LAW for students to use during their speeches. Margie Groht and Jessy Barone suggested that Jeff Groht and Mark Barone can make wooden podiums for LAW.

Dance Sessions

Barbara Connery shared that Micah Sessions is interested in teaching dance sessions to JMS. Either several sessions or regular weekly/monthly sessions suggested. This would be a paid activity. Further discussion needed.

Story Teller

Barbara Connery shared that the JMS Media specialist is organizing a story teller, Nancy Ayre, to visit JMS free of charge.

Principal's Report

Amazon Gift Cards

Amazon Gift Cards were not purchased or given to teachers to used to purchase needed items for their students/classrooms. Jessy Barone will purchase and distribute.

Minutes submitted buy,
Jessy Barone, PTO President

Open Floor