



**JAMES MORRIS SCHOOL
PTO MINUTES
September 6, 2016**

Attendees: Hope Sattazahn, Jamie Kingsley, Carrie Maillet, Margie Groht, Laurie Bernardi, Denise Weik, Margaret Coe, Marsha Doran and Jessy Barone.

Meeting called to order at 6:00 by Jessy Barone, President

Meeting Dates & Times

New meeting dates are scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month alternating between morning and evening times. Jessy Barone will send out an email asking JMS parents which evening times are convenient to attend. These dates and times will also be listed on the JMS PTO website at jmspto.weebly.com

9/6 6pm

10/4 9am

11/1 time TBD

No December meeting

1/3 9am

2/7 time TBD

3/7 9am

4/4 time TBD

5/2 9am

6/6 time TBD

Teachers Gifts

As a tradition, The PTO gave teachers monetary gifts to purchase items for their classrooms/students. 19 teachers including specials teachers and special ED were each given

\$50. The total cost of teacher's gifts was \$950. Jessy Barone presented teachers with their gift prior to the start of school.

Freeze Pops

JMS PTO Officers and teachers passed out freeze pops on September 2nd to all JMS students during an afternoon gathering outside. Total cost was \$13.74.

JMS Notepads

The PTO will continue to sell the JMS note pads titled "A Note from Home" at future events this year. They cost \$5/pad. They are pre-printed note pads allowing parents to quickly fill in the student's name, date and information about his/her child being tardy, early dismissal/pick up change, bus change and after school activity participation.

A to Z Directory

The A to Z directory will be used again this year as JMS's online directory. JMS uses the A to Z Directory as our school's directory of parents, teachers and students. You can quickly access directory information through the web or your mobile app. It is a powerfully convenient way to search, sort, and filter by parents, teachers, classmates, or grade and allows users to connect with each other via text, email and phone number. It lets users update their own information directly. Jessy Barone entered last year's data into the directory. The PTO is requesting a volunteer to organize this year's directory. It will cost \$250.00 for the year. For each new referral the company receives from JMS PTO, they give a \$50.00 discount. Jessy Barone asked that everyone refer A to Z to schools who do not use them in order to receive a discount.

Open House/Ice Cream Social

Open house is Wednesday, September 21st from 5:30-7:00. Last year the PTO provided an ice cream social, but this year the PTO discussed the possibility of holding an ice cream social on a later date or providing ice cream at the carnival.

Science Lab

Principal Chapman requested \$791.12 for the first supplies purchase order. \$600.00 raised last year by the PURE Haven fundraiser will go directly to the cost. The PTO will fund the remaining amount.

Enrichments for the Year:

Suggested, was the idea of the PTO funding one fall and one spring enrichment. The PTO can reach out to Goshen and Warren schools to collaborate. Booking enrichments

together may save money. The PTO officers would like to hold a science enrichment in the fall. Other enrichment ideas presented are: White Memorial, the Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy, and Audubon Sharon. Marsha Doran offered to research these.

Square One Art:

Alison Storm organized last year. The PTO will contact her to ask if she will organize this fundraiser again. It was previously requested by Mrs. Sweet that Square One Art not be done in the fall but in the spring due to time constraint. Discussed was the idea of having children stay after school to complete their art project or send the paper/packet home to complete and return. Parents like to use their child's artwork as holiday gifts. Alison will be contacted to discuss this possibility.

Fall Pie Fundraiser

Traditionally, JMS has used Lyman Orchards for the company supplying the pies. Earlier Amanda Glover showed interest in baking the pies instead for the fundraiser. Jessy Barone will reach out to her to see if she is still interested.

Scholastic Book Fair:

The Scholastic Book Fair will take place October 17th-22nd during the day and during parent teacher conferences. Margaret Coe will organize this event. She will send out notices and will need volunteers during the book fair to help. JMS PTO would like to transfer the responsibility to the Instructional Specialist, Mrs. Battistoni. Margaret Coe will discuss this with her. Margaret Coe will also look into Barefoot Books as another book fair option.

School Portraits

Heather Norris Photography did school portraits last year. Some JMS parents were unhappy with the quality. The officers would like the PTO to remain separate on the decision of a photographer. Parents voiced some of their concerns about having a traditional class picture, class picture included with a package purchase, a family discount, lowering prices, viewing proofs before purchasing, offering portraits with siblings, making school portraits a fundraiser. Jessy Barone will share these concerns with the principal and possibly form a committee to research other photographers.

Carnival

This year's "Welcome Back JMS Carnival" will take place on Saturday September 24th 1-4 pm at JMS School. Many volunteers are needed, without them the carnival will not happen. Jessy Barone and Laurie Bernardi are organizing this and need help. They are in the process of obtaining volunteers, games, concessions items and prizes. Still needed are raffle ticket prizes, monetary donations, small prize/candy donations, tables, chairs, tents and volunteers. Jessy Barone will send out an email requesting volunteers. Having a petting zoo run by Wamogo Ag /FFA students was suggested. Mrs. Maillet suggested having 6th grade students also volunteer

for community service hours. The PTO officers will try to obtain permission to use the gym in case of rain that day.

Field Trips

The PTO Officers budgeted \$1000 for the 2016-1017 School year for field trips to be distributed evenly among grades K-6 for field trips.

Room Moms

The PTO can reach out to teachers to obtain the names of each room mom.

Minutes submitted by,
Jessy Barone, PTO President