

TJHS Parent Teacher Organization I September 8, 2020

The PTO Mission is to support the educational experience at TJHS and to foster a stronger school community for students, parents and staff.

Board Members in Attendance: Eileen Robinson, Teri Hetzel, Megan Perkins, Brooke Bolinske, Janet Willson, John Trujillo, Carrie Oss, Karla Henke

Total Attendance: 42

6:00 pm **Welcome & Introductions**

- Eileen Robinson, PTO President welcomed parents in attendance and presented the PTO Board which includes the President, Treasurer, Spirit Store Managers (2), At Large Members (4). Each board member introduced themselves.

6:10 pm **Principal Christoff TJHS Community Update**

- Staff Updates
 - There was some staff turnover for personal reasons. Mr. Palmieri, Mr. Vore and Mr. Showers all retired. Other teachers moved out of state to be with family or in response to the cost of living in the Denver metro area.
 - Some staff have changed positions and new staff has been added. The net difference are more teachers and staff. TJ administration is trying to grow in a sustainable and responsible manner.
 - Classroom space is fully utilized. The student body is at an all-time high of approximately 1300 students for the 2020-21 school year.
 - Limited staff are in the building. Leave a voicemail at the main number if you need to reach someone or you can email them. Email addresses are found on the Faculty page of the TJ website.
 - 20% of staff have elected to teach remote only.
- Construction Update
 - The bond construction project in the lobby is finally finished! Changes include a new terrazzo floor, new trophy cases, new bottle filter water fountains and a new concession stand.
 - Other bond construction projects were finished last school year including a library remodel and a new outdoor concession stand with indoor bathroom.
 - Other school updates include new shadowboxes to spotlight student work. The boxes are made from wood reclaimed from the old TJ bleachers. The PTO paid for the shadowboxes.
- In Person Learning
 - Scheduling Issues – there are many large issues to iron out before in person learning can take place. There are constraints placed by the Denver County Health Department, DPS and teachers. Right now, there is an agreement that students would be assigned to a cohort of up to 30 students. Teachers would be assigned to 2 cohorts to limit exposure. This poses a significant scheduling problem. Teachers typically teach 5 classes a day. There isn't clarity on how teachers would cover their classes if they are limited to seeing 60 students in a day.
 - The classroom tables have been replaced by individual desks. Desks have been spaced according to health department guidelines. Classrooms are on the smaller size so most

- can accommodate 25 students in this manner. Approximately 500 students have selected remote learning only for the semester.
- The TJ leadership team is considering having students in the building on Fridays for learning support, lab work, robotics, and studio arts. This would be voluntary. Any student in the building would have to comply with health guidelines by wearing masks and maintaining social distance.
 - Any plan for in person learning must be approved by the Denver County Health Department before proceeding.
 - Transportation Issues pose a large obstacle. Hundreds of students travel to TJ by RTD. RTD service has been cut significantly and there are constraints on how many passengers can ride on a single bus. It isn't clear how students would get to the building if public transportation is not readily available.
- Status of Safety Resource Officers (SROs)
 - Denver Board of Education voted to terminate a contract with Denver Police Department at the end of the 2020-21 school year. This contract allowed for police officers in school buildings as Safety Resource Officers. TJ's SRO has been in the position for 12 years and serves an important role in building to help foster positive relationships between law enforcement and students. He personally is invested in the TJ students and is well regarded by students, staff, and parents.
 - Mr. Christoff and some parents have reached out to DBE members on this issue. Parents are encouraged to address their concerns, questions, or issues with the Denver Board of Education.
 - College Prep Testing
 - SAT testing will be available for seniors only this fall. Juniors will be able to take the PSAT10.
 - There is no standardized testing schedule for the spring at this time.
 - Name Change Discussion
 - Due to more pressing issues with the pandemic, this topic has been set aside for future discussion. Mr. Christoff feels strongly that students and alumni should drive this process.
 - No information is available about winter sports. CHSSA is still working on guidelines. TJ Athletic Director Anne Rice will make announcements as information becomes available.

7:11 pm **Meeting Adjourned**