



PTO Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2021

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

PTO Board Members in attendance: Wassila Hamitouche, Karla Henke, Teri Hetzel, Megan Perkins, Eileen Robinson, John Trujillo, Janet Willson, Krista Zizzo

Total attendance: 22

7:00pm Welcome

Eileen Robinson, PTO President, welcomed Board members and parents in attendance. The meeting was held virtually, via Zoom.

7:01pm Announcements & Updates (Eileen)

- **Welcome Back:** Thank you to Lisa LoJacono and Betsy Leonard for leading the “Welcome Back” efforts last week. Administration reports that the first week back to in-person learning went well.
- **TJ by the Numbers:** Eileen reviewed the school fact sheet that is available on TJ’s website under Shadows & Tours. Its main audience is prospective TJ families but has lots of interesting information. The [TJ Did You Know](#) information sheet includes demographics, academics, athletics and other fun facts. Enrollment numbers are up this year (approx. 1300 students), with more expected next school year. More students are staying through 12th grade (less attrition). TJ’s reputation in the community is growing and the parent community is part of this success.
- **Teacher Appreciation:** Thank you to Suzy Stone, who has put together a “Welcome Back / Valentine’s” Grab-and-Go breakfast for staff, to be held on Friday, 2/12. Parents quickly filled all the needs available on the [Signup Genius](#) list. Suzy connected with “Card My Yard,” a local company that is owned by a future TJ parent. Their display will be outside the staff parking lot.
- **Open Offices/Positions:** The PTO needs a Vice President (to hopefully take over as President next year); a Communications Coordinator, and parents to serve on three committees: Teacher Appreciation, Auction and “Curb Appeal.” Interested parents are encouraged to contact Eileen Robinson at tjhspto@gmail.com.
- **Curb appeal project:** This is a work group being formed to consider improvements to the front of the school. For example: freshening up the area to make it more attractive and usable through hardscape, not landscape. Possibilities include new banners, art, sculptures, new concrete benches, etc. Outcomes would be presented to administration and funded by the PTO and school budget. Interested parents are encouraged to contact Eileen Robinson at tjhspto@gmail.com.
- **Bylaws:** The PTO Bylaws were reviewed and updated last spring. They will be posted to the PTO webpage next week. Board members and officers are encouraged to review them every few years for updates.

7:20pm Treasurer Report (Teri Hetzel)

- **Current financials:** The PTO has approximately \$90,000 in all accounts. About \$25,000 is payable to programs and class accounts. Available funds: \$58,960. The January financials will be posted to the website.
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- **Classroom grants:** Last year, \$10,000 in grants were awarded. Due to the pandemic, \$2,000 of these funds were returned by teachers whose plans had changed. Eileen suggested that a similar amount be awarded this year. An anonymous donor contributed \$1,500 to class grants to increase the total available for grants.
- **Request for funds - Outdoor screen:** Jon Poole is working with Eileen on specs for the purchase of a large outdoor screen to be used for school events. The cost will be between \$500-\$1000. Funds will come from the Class of 2020's left over Class Funds (as approved by parent sponsors) and the PTO's general fund. Starting this year, any unused class funds (as of December 31 after the class graduates) will be evenly divided between the next four Classes.

7:30pm Auction Update: (Megan Perkins)

Plans for the annual online auction are taking shape, which is scheduled for April 11-15, 2021. This is Megan's fifth year heading the auction. She will be co-chairing it with Becca Mahoney. Lisa LoJacono will lead auction communications and volunteered to fill the overall Communications Coordinator role.

Eileen reviewed how the PTO's fundraising efforts have grown the PTO funds from \$6,000 in 2015/16 to \$67,000 last year. This is largely due to the auction. The money raised this year will fund next year's budget and allow the PTO to meet its mission. The auction committee requested help with donations/acquisitions. Megan has a donation appeal letter, which reflects the challenges of asking for donations amidst the pandemic. Please contact Megan or Becca if you can help: megandperkins@gmail.com or beccaandjoemahoney@gmail.com.

7:43pm CSC Update: Marlene Talavera is a parent rep to the Collaborative School Committee. TJ admin reports that the school budget should not be a concern next year as enrollment is up. Parents are encouraged to contact Marlene at tjspartans2022@gmail.com if they would like to learn more about the CSC or share concerns.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Staff Sponsors for the 9th grade class have been determined and will be announced soon.

Preparations for the Senior Showcase event are underway. There are lots of opportunities for Seniors to get involved with this new tradition. It will hopefully be held in person for all Seniors to attend.

Mr. Christoff has committed to holding an in-person graduation this year, and a COVID-appropriate Prom is under consideration.

7:55pm: The meeting was adjourned

Next PTO meeting: March 9 at 7 pm

And don't forget to...

- Sign up for the school newsletter and follow TJ on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Download the School Deets App
- Register your King Soopers Card for Community Rewards Program
- Use Amazon Smile if you shop at Amazon