



PTO Meeting Minutes

April 13, 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: Brooke Bolinske, Karla Henke, Teri Hetzel, Carrie Oss, Megan Perkins, Eileen Robinson, Janet Willson, Krista Zizzo

Total attendance: 25

7:03pm: Welcome

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

Robinson noted that contributions to the Spartan Assistance Fund topped \$3,600 in just a few days after the announcement last week that a community member was in need. The PTO agreed to round this up to \$4,000 using general funds.

7:03pm: Introduction of tonight's Speaker - Jon Poole, Assistant Principal

Mr. Poole gave updates on spring semester plans and events. Of note:

Juniors: About 90% of the juniors showed up today to take the SAT in person. This stat is impressive as only 40% of TJ students are attending classes in person. The juniors have the Accuplacer test next Monday, 4/19.

Seniors: They are working on a movie night for this Friday, 4/16, but if weather intervenes, it will be held next Wednesday, 4/21 during Senior Celebration Week. The Senior Showcase will be held outdoors next Friday, 4/23 and Saturday 4/24 is Prom. After Prom will be an outdoor barbecue held on Sunday, 4/25. Senior Awards night is 5/4 and the last day of school for Seniors is 5/14. Check out date is TBD. Graduation will be held at Coors Field or Dick's Sporting Goods Park. DPS will tell us the date and time by this Friday. Graduation will be live streamed.

Other Events: The Powder Puff game is scheduled for 5/14, but it may be a different sport this year due to social distancing. They would like to hold this under the lights if possible. There may be another movie night on 4/30 for the other grades. Plans for a 5/21 event for freshmen are being discussed, possibly a BBQ/Backyard Bash. During next August's Ninth Grade Academy, there may be a couple of days for 10th graders, so that this class can start building relationships.

Finals: The schedule for final exams will feature finals for Periods 2/3/4 on Monday, 5/24. Periods 6 and 7 will be on Tuesday, 5/25 and Periods 1 and 8 will be on Wednesday, 5/26. Makeup exams will be held by appointment on Thursday, 5/26 and teachers will be submitting grades on Friday, 5/27. Students are not in attendance on Thursday unless they have make ups, nor Friday.

Plans for the 2021-22 School Year: DPS' goal is to return to a "traditional" format with students attending 100% in person. There will be a choice for 100% remote learning, called "Denver Online." It will be a separate program and students will have to opt in for the entire school year. It will be run separately from the "brick and mortar" schools. The choice window for this option will be in May. The District's enrollment projection for TJHS next year is growth. However, the funding from 18 students equals the equivalent of one teacher in the budget. So, there could be staffing implications given the remote school option, or due to growth. Also, DPS has

changed the process for health accommodations for teachers for next year. This is not an issue for TJ's staff - no concerns for an operational shutdown.

Summer School: This will be held June 1-25. It will be a half day, in person program taught either by a TJ teacher or online through Edgenuity. DPS will also be providing a central Summer School program starting 6/15 that is remote. Students who need "credit recovery" are encouraged to participate.

Questions:

Will the schedule be modified? The schedule submitted to DPS is for 7 periods each day. In the past, when a block schedule was tried it wasn't well received by students or staff. Next year will feature an Advisement class for Social Emotional Learning. It could be around 30 minutes long, held twice a week. Classes will be a little shorter on those days to accommodate this class, with the focus on supporting the whole child (SEL and Academic) as we transition back to in person learning. More guidance is coming from the District on this. There will no longer be office hours on Wednesdays, as in past years.

Poole also answered questions about the school start time for next year. DPS gave schools three choices and decisions were made taking transportation needs into account. TJ administration requested 7:30a,m, or 8:00 a,m, and received 7:30 a.m. DPS published start times for all schools in last week's DPS newsletter. Schools can have an extended school day with a 0 hour or 9th hour option. This is primarily for students who need to take an extra class to make up credits. TJ may opt for 9th hour, given the early start time assigned.

It was also noted that the school year schedule has been moved to one week later. The first day of school will be 8/23/21. The DPS board made this decision because a high percentage of older schools, like TJ, do not have air conditioning. TJ is slated to get air conditioning in the 2023/24 school year. This could mean that finals may be held after winter break. This will be determined by June.

What happens if a student needs to quarantine, and students no longer have access to a remote option within TJ? Plans for this scenario are still being determined.

Will there be a "Senior Sleepout" next August? Right now, given restrictions to the building after hours the answer is no but that could change by August.

Tell us more about the decision to change the grading policy? Mr. Poole indicated that there is a lot of research on the theory and philosophy that guided this decision. The goal is to make sure that students can find motivation, versus feeling sunk and in a hole they can't get out of (from low grades that start with a 0 as the base, versus 50%).

Mr. Poole ended by thanking Dr. Becky Andrick for her work to set up a COVID vaccination clinic at TJ.

7:29pm - Financial Report (Teri Hetzel)

Teri reviewed the PTO financials for 3/31/21, which are posted online. Total cash on hand is \$94,527.89, with \$62,169 available for distribution.

7:30pm - Auction Update (Megan Perkins and Becca Mahoney)

The online auction is live this week! The co-chairs are blown away by the participation. A new online auction service was changed to just last week. Their goal was to raise \$5,000, but now they feel that they can double that! Participants are bidding and donating generously. Donations are increased from past years.

A review of auction stats from the past five years was presented. (See photo). There has been steady increase in support over the years.

	2017	2018*	2019	2020	2021
# of Items	143	204	176	398	171
Active Bidders	98/153	112/181	87/124	137/244	107
Total FMV	\$ 14,682.00	\$ 38,350.00	\$ 19,841.00	\$ 28,324.00	\$ 13,142.00
Sales	\$ 9,413.00	\$ 14,933.00	\$ 11,381.00	\$ 19,917.00	\$ 2,760.00
Straight Donations	\$ -	\$ 1,225.00	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 3,000.00
Text to Give	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$ 250.00
Expenses	\$ -	\$ (1,214.00)	\$ (1,163.00)	\$ (1,287.00)	\$ (1,900.00)
Net	\$ 9,413.00	\$ 14,944.00	\$ 11,268.00	\$ 19,230.00	\$ 10,110.00
% of FMV	64.11%	38.94%	57.36%	70.32%	66.66%

Notes:
*520,945 in trips that only netted \$3,814 in

7:33pm - Classroom Grants (Eileen Robinson)

Requests for 7 grants were received, totaling \$13,900 in funding. Six grants were approved, including:

Special Education Department - \$1000

Art Department - \$500

World Language Department - \$1100

PE Department - \$3000

Counseling/Mental Health - \$2500

JROTC - \$1300

The seventh grant request, which was \$4800 from the Counseling Department to provide water bottles to students, will be discussed with the requestor. The PTO felt that there may be a better use of funds or a more appropriate item as most students have and use a preferred water bottle.

One request from last year, which was postponed due to COVID, will be fulfilled. This is \$1800 from the Math Department for calculators.

7:49pm - Vaccination Clinic Information (Dr. Becky Andrick)

Dr. Andrick explained that she has been volunteering with the CDPHE and secured 700 vaccine doses under Governor Polis' "Vaccines for All" program. The event will be held on Saturday, 4/24 and 5/15 (second dose) in the TJHS parking lot. A "Sign Up Genius" site is being used for [vaccine sign ups](#) and another for [volunteer sign ups](#). The vaccine sign up will soon be opened to the TJ community - alumni, family, community members. Additional populations were discussed, like inviting the Food Bank participants. A parent must be present with any 16- or 17-year-olds to be vaccinated. Volunteers are needed as runners, traffic assistants and to be paired with each health care professional serving as a vaccinator. It was noted that 4/24 is also Prom, so parents setting up for Prom will be asked to use the staff parking lot. Thanks and appreciation to Dr. Andrick and Carrie Oss for their efforts!

7:57pm - Hospitality Committee / Teacher Appreciation (Eileen Robinson)

We need a parent(s) to fill this role and lead these efforts. Suzy Stone is stepping down and was thanked for her efforts thus far in the school year. The appreciation efforts during National Teacher Appreciation Week

(May 3-7) are usually spearheaded by one class taking each day to provide an item with the PTO taking Friday. Eileen will work with Class Sponsors to assign dates. There will be a box lunch drop on 5/26 during Finals. Karla Henke volunteered to coordinate this event.

The Hospitality Committee also plans the newcomer cookout in August. The administration has not yet asked for the PTO's assistance with the May BBQ they are planning.

MISCELLANEOUS:

The PTO could use a parent who is interested in keeping abreast of DPS initiatives, watching the DPS board meetings and reporting anything parents should know about from the District level.

Elections for board members and officers will be held at our next meeting. The PTO is in need of leadership for 2021-22 as Eileen Robinson has intended this school year to be her last as President and we presently have no Vice President.

8:08pm - Meeting adjourned

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, May 11 at 7pm via Zoom