



# PTO Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2021

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

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**PTO Board Members in attendance:** Brooke Bolinske, Karla Henke, Teri Hetzel, Lisa LoJacono, Carrie Oss  
Megan Perkins, Eileen Robinson, Janet Willson, Krista Zizzo

**Total attendance:** 23

## 7:00 pm – Welcome (Eileen Robinson)

Thank you so much for being here.

## 7:05 pm – Reviewing the TJ PTO Mission (Eileen Robinson)

The purposes of this PTO are to:

- Enhance the educational experience at TJHS
  - Classroom grants expand opportunities for students through financial support
  - Foster a stronger community for students, parents and staff
- Communicate widely and share information
  - Teacher Appreciation activities (banners, meals, gifts)
  - Parent Sponsor plan social and fundraising events
  - Sell spirit wear to encourage Spartan Pride
- Provide support of school activities through:
  - Parent volunteers
  - Donations of prizes, food, and other goods (e.g., outdoor movie screen)

## 7:07 - Treasurer's Report (Teri Hetzel)

- Currently \$90,000 in checking account, \$60,000 available to PTO, \$30,000 is in Class Funds
- Class of 2023 has had several fundraisers, Stadium Party, Rooftop Rap and has over \$10,000. Junior year is the time to do a lot of fundraising, so senior year can be for planning events.
- Class of 2022 is well-positioned financially to have great senior year.
- Class of 2025: PTO will help the Freshman class parents with some social events. We are looking for parents sponsors for the freshman class of 2025. Our goal is to have parents on board by second semester to lead that effort.
- Class of 2024 is on their way with good leadership and are brainstorming ideas for fundraising.
- Class of 2021 remaining funds will possibly be used for a class gift, but that is still to be determined.

No questions on the overall financials were raised.

## 7:15 - Overview of how PTO raises money and how it is used (Eileen Robinson)

We've simplified it and focused efforts in a couple of areas.

- Online Auction, run by Megan Perkins and Becca Mahoney, has been able to build up a healthy PTO balance over the past 5-6 years to make it possible to have conversations about how to spend. Last year, we raised \$18,000. This money funds Classroom Grants to enhance the educational experience at TJ.

- Passive Fundraising Option: King Soopers, the loyalty card can be connected to TJ PTO. Currently we have 100 families participating and now we receive \$6,000 in a calendar year. This money helps fund class accounts to help boost fundraising. Each class gets a total of \$2,500 over the course of 4 years. Info to connect your loyalty card to benefit TJHS is on the TJ website. [King Soopers Community Rewards Program | Thomas Jefferson High School \(dpsk12.org\)](#)
- Amazon Smile is another passive fundraising option. Last year we earned \$400, so we consider it bonus money.
- Class Activities: This is money raised by parents for their children's classes. Money is used for after-prom parties, senior showcase, and other senior year celebrations. Class of 2022 will be looking for parents to brainstorm and participate how to spend these senior year funds. Class Parent Liaisons support social events for parents as well as fundraising.

PTO does not do restaurant nights, and they are left for clubs, activities, games.

### **7:25 - Options and Possibilities for TJ PTO to support TJ Athletics (Krista Zizzo)**

Krista Zizzo and Eileen Robinson met with Anne Rice, Athletic Director, to find out more information about TJ Athletics. Some background information: TJ has a long history of academic excellence among its athletes. The average athlete GPA is 3.44. Of the 23 varsity sports teams, TJ had 15 DPS Coaches of the Year just last year! (2020-21)

TJ Athletics Funding Background: DPS Budget of \$30,400

- Supports 23 varsity teams + numerous other teams
- Athletic training and supplies
- Tournament fees
- Equipment (bases, nets, ball carriers, 4-year rotation for varsity uniforms)

Not included:

- Coaching stipends
- Transportation (these come from DPS) small support for transportation. Most teams transport themselves due to bus driver shortage

Athletics Fundraising:

Each team has fundraising efforts for their team. There is an online donation button or in My School Bucks app. Your donation goes directly to the team you are interested in supporting. Facilities upgrades: interplay between DPS grounds and school. Fundraising complete for a new scoreboard for baseball and softball, but DPS facilities has prevented that from moving forward. Sometimes the rate with which DPS moves is a challenge. Grounds are used for community rentals, but these funds don't go to school, but to DPS. This creates wear and tear on the grounds

*What are the TJ Athletic Dept. needs?*

3 identified needs are: 1. Equipment, 2: Warm-ups, 3: Team dinners  
Anne Rice is also considering additional needs.

PTO could make a donation through the athletic control fund, and Anne Rice would allocate this as needed. Mr. Poole and Ms. Rice could submit a funding request through the grant cycle.

Discussion about possible PTO investment:

- Comparison of TJ to other school in DPS that have other items. DPS schools has difficulty competing with suburban schools with fundraising.

- Question if donations for matching funds to a 501C3.
- Consider a total dollar amount that would go toward athletics. The amount of fundraising varies by team.
- Pop Up Tents/ Shade structures: these get ruined very easily, so it might be possible for Class of 2021 to purchase better quality tents.
- Explore tent/shade structure with limited lifespan and consider replacing every 2-3 years.
- Some teams have smaller fees, and it comes down to lots of fundraising dependency which is on the coach.
- Cheerleading is considered a club and is eligible to apply for a grant.
- Athletics could write a grant for uniforms, equipment.
- Krista will revisit the question with Anne Rice and ask why we don't have similar materials as other DPS schools.

We will keep you posted on what we learn from on this.

#### **7:43- Food Bank Update** (Megan Perkins)

First distribution was held a few weeks ago. 25 families received food. \$7,000 grant from Newmont Mining for food bank from their Covid food insecurity fund. Also TJ Food Bank is now connected to Denver Rescue Mission Food Bank. Currently brainstorming how to sort and distribute food in addition to fresh food including: cheese, butter, eggs, apples.

Food storage is a concern because there is no room for food storage in the building. Samantha Davis and Paula Hammel reach out to families on free/reduced lunch to alert them about food bank availability. Next distribution is October 26, 2021. Still figuring out volunteer needs. Considering including in Spartan Edition. Mr. Christoff is sending dates to faculty and staff so they can let families know. Some remaining food is going to Merrill. Including information to register in English and Spanish.

#### **7:55- Other Discussion** (Eileen Robinson)

Volunteers to help complete College Applications can reach out to Denver Scholarship Foundation's Future Center, Emily Webster. Considering a volunteer effort to support the Future Center and how juniors can be supported.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**Tomorrow (10/13/21): Teacher Appreciation Lunch** during Conferences. PTO is paying for sandwiches (\$600, sandwiches are from Jimmy Johns), parents are donating snacks for teachers to supplement sandwiches.

**First Fridays:** Brittany Nicolo taking the lead on TJ staff. Looking for ideas of how to support the staff with these First Friday events.

#### **8:02 pm - Adjournment**