



# PTO Meeting Minutes

November 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.*

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

**Total attendance:** 15

**7:05 pm – Welcome** (Eileen Robinson)

**7:05 pm – Thanksgiving Meals & Holiday Gift Giving** (TJ Social Worker Samantha Davis)

- Samantha has worked at TJ for 20 years as a Mental Health provider for special ed, suicide prevention, resources, child abuse, counseling check-ins with students, parent talks.
- **Thanksgiving:** Skills USA students take on the food drive as a project. Collaborate to determine distribution. Megan Perkins and Becca Mahoney are working with Skills Food Drive. The need is much greater now than in past years. The TJ community and families have taken on supporting families in their neighborhoods. 5-6 years ago it was 15-20 families. Currently there are 89 TJ families signed up for Thanksgiving provisions. The reach has grown immensely.
- **Timing for Thanksgiving:** Students brought in food this week to their first period classes. Collections throughout this week and through Tuesday. Next week on Monday, Skills USA will put boxes together in conjunction with Sign Up Genius donations through PTO. Gift cards will be delivered at the same time or can be dropped off Monday or Tuesday. Each family will receive a gift card for a Turkey or protein of their choice courtesy of a donation from Newmont Mining.
- Distribution is next Thursday, Nov. 18th 3-5:30 pm to families.
- **Holiday Adopt-A-Family:** Last year was most efficient process ever of Holiday Adopt-a-Family program which climbed from 20 families in the past to 80 families in 2020.
- Parents and staff sign up to be “Holiday Helpers” and are assigned a TJ family to support. They can recruit other friends and family to meet the family’s wish list. Families looking for assistance will complete an application for program (kids only). Wish and Want list is collected for each family. DECA will handle wrapping paper, labels, tape and ribbons for gifts.
- DECA and Ms. Davis will collaborate to get gift cards to supplement each Holiday Helper family.
- PTO is preparing a Holiday Helper “need to know” info sheet to help. Ms. David to create a Google form with genders, ages, and other helpful gift buying info. Krista Zizzo to follow up with information about how the holiday program works at her school.
- Sign Up Genius for Holiday Helpers will go out before Thanksgiving.

**Current Budget/Financials 7:37** (Eileen Robinson)

- Food Bank balance is currently \$9,901 which will be spent for Thanksgiving and Winter Break meals.

- Balance in general fund is \$58,000.
- Over 130 households are participating in King Soopers program. Those numbers continue to increase.
- The Auction from the spring funds the next year's school grants. Spirit Wear sales are going strong. PTO has invested a lot in spirit wear. Goal is to have less inventory on hand, sell what we have and then buy more inventory as needed.
- PTO Budget for this school year
  - Income for 2021-22 is budgeted at \$46,800.
  - Last year, we allocated \$12,000, and had holdover grants from prior year. For this year, we have budgeted \$20,000 for grants which will be applied for and paid out by the end of the school year.
  - Staff appreciation: Currently 144 staff members, which we allocate \$55 per staff member. Costs have gone up as we can't provide homemade food currently, so that includes burritos, food trucks and many other ways to honor the teachers and staff.
  - \$500 for staff wellness in conjunction with Brittany Nicolo.

**Bus Shelter Artwork** – (Megan Perkins)

Kendra Black, District 4 Denver City Councilwoman, has offered \$2000 from city of Denver to go toward a rotating display at the bus shelter on Hampden. We need someone to lead the effort to change out the art periodically. Money would be available for printing/art. Partnership with JROTC which is responsible for maintenance and trash clean up. Perhaps a partnership with Yellow Dog to pay for printing, photography class, CCT Art, conflict resolution artwork is a possibility. Changing it out quarterly is a realistic expectation.

**Teacher Appreciation Holiday Gifting** (Eileen Robinson and Susan Dolson) \$10 budget per staff member, any ideas are welcome, maybe socks?

**Healthy Start Times Initiative** (Krista Zizzo) DPS is doing community forums about school start times for 2023-24. Google Docs survey is available in the TJ newsletter to provide feedback for an 8:50 or 9:10 start time for TJ.

No meeting in December, so we will meet again in January.

**8:11 pm - Adjournment**