



# PTO Meeting Minutes

February 8, 2022

*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, Wassila Hamitouche, Karla Henke, Eileen Robinson, Janet Willson, Krista Zizzo, Briana Rimkus

**Total attendance:** 28

## 7:00 pm – Welcome (Krista Zizzo)

Welcome to everyone and just a reminder that TJ Partners PTO has monthly meetings, held by Zoom during the pandemic. Points of pride for the organization are:

- Our “Classroom and School Grants” program will provide \$20,000 in funding to the school this year, increased from about \$12K in the past. The grant program gives teachers and school staff opportunities to enhance learning and the student experience.
- We support a parent-led Food Bank, which distributes food monthly to 40-50 families in our community.
- Although we can’t be in the school, we’ve ramped up Teacher Appreciation efforts during the pandemic, finding unique ways to make our staff “feel the love.”
- Welcome to our newest board members: VP Robyn Schiff and Member at Large representing the Class of 2025, Briana Rimkus.

We don’t have an agenda tonight as our meeting will primarily be our guest speaker.

## 7:05 pm – GUEST SPEAKER: SCOTT BALDERMAN:

Scott Baldermann is a parent of two children and lives in Southeast Denver. From 2016-2018 he was the PTA President at Lincoln Elementary School and was on the school’s Collaborative School Committee before being elected to the DPS Board of Education in November, 2019. Scott grew up in Aurora, graduated from Rangeview High School and received his Master’s in Architecture from the University of Nebraska. We welcome Scott tonight to share information about some upcoming Board initiatives.

Since Scott was elected in late 2019, the main focus has been COVID-19. Now that the impact of the pandemic may be lessening, the Board is now focusing on Policy Governance, which is the framework to function as a Board. The current Board has several goals, but Scott’s presentation emphasized three items:

**Climate Action:** Students from three schools, including TJ, have been pushing the Board to become more proactive on Climate Action, including minimizing the carbon footprint. DPS is a very large employer, and land and facility owner, and there is an opportunity to lessen the impact of these facilities on the environment. The Board is drafting a Bond initiative for voters in 2024 to raise funds to make the buildings more energy efficient. In addition to helping the environment, this will save DPS money on utilities over the long run. For more information, go to <https://www.dpsclimateaction.org/>

**Policy Governance:** In November 2021, the Denver Board of Education adopted John Carver's model of Policy Governance to better define the relationship between the school district, the board and the DPS Superintendent. This framework includes five aspirational goals as well as expectations and limitations to create structure and accountability for the way the board functions. The board is responsible for managing the Superintendent. To read the details of Board's policy's, go to the Board document page at [BoardDocs® Pro](#) and select Policies.

**Employee Treatment:** The board is working on a new policy regarding employee treatment. Currently, some schools, including those designated as "innovation schools," have special waivers to certain rules, policies and regulations. The goal of this initiative is to improve consistency among all schools so that all teachers have the same rights and protections across all DPS schools.

**Consistent School Calendars:** Currently, there are schools that have special days off or flexibility when scheduling teacher planning days. This can make it difficult for families with children at more than one school. The initiative strives to make one standard calendar for all DPS schools.

In addition to discussing these three initiatives, Scott asked for feedback and questions on the new Healthy Start Times Policy. This resolution, which will take effect for the 2023/24 school year, states that middle and high schools will not start before 8:20 am. After listening to community members, the Board has created potential scenario options to bring Healthy Start Times to schools. There will be a Zoom "Town Hall" meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 9 from 6-7:30 p.m.

<https://www.dpsk12.org/healthy-start-time-virtual-community-event-phase-2/>

Scott also mentioned that the Superintendent, based on information from Denver Health, will make the decision on if and when to discontinue requiring masks in schools.

If you have questions for Scott Baldermann, he can be reached at [scott\\_baldermann@dpsk12.net](mailto:scott_baldermann@dpsk12.net).

Thank you to Scott for joining the PTO meeting!

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Financial standing as of the end of December 2021

- Class of 2022 \$12,000
- Class of 2023 \$11,000
- Class of 2024 \$4,300
- Class of 2025 just getting started with leadership and fundraising.
- \$65,000 available to TJ PTO to use for grants as well as budgeted needs for this school year.

### **Announcements:**

After consulting with Mr. Christoff, we decided that we don't have the bandwidth to support a "9 News Health Fair" this school year. Perhaps we can consider this for a future year.

**Valentine's Teacher Appreciation** - thanks to Susan Dolan, who heads up Teacher Appreciation, will distribute something special in staff mailboxes on Monday.

**Food Bank** - distribution is happening next Tuesday.

Vice President Robyn Schiff will be taking the lead on the "**Bus Stop**" art project and she'll be reaching out for volunteers once a plan is in place.

Our **School Grant program** starts soon and we're looking for a parent to take the lead on administering the grant program. If you know of anyone with this experience, or someone who is detail oriented, good at responding to emails about the program and compiling grant requests, please let us know.

The **TJ Auction** will be held April 10-14. This is a 100% online event. If you can help secure donations, please reach out to our Auction chairs, Megan Perkins and Becca Mahoney.

To volunteer for the auction or any other initiatives, contact us at [TJHSPTO@gmail.com](mailto:TJHSPTO@gmail.com)

**Class Parent Meetings -**

Class of 2022 - February 24th - to discuss After Prom Planning. More information will be in the newsletter.

Class of 2023 - March 2nd, 7pm.

Class of 2024 - Third Tuesday of each month. Reminders and Zoom information will be in the newsletter.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 8 at 7pm (via Zoom)

**7:50 pm - Adjournment**