

JEFFERSON HOUSTON PTA EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES

Date: September 21, 2023

Time: 7:00 pm

Facilitator: Andrea Walton, President

In attendance

Pillars: Community Building | Advocacy | Fundraising

Chairs:

President: Andrea Walton

Vice President: Sujata Mitra

Treasurer: Caitlin Terrel

Secretary: Larkin Harris

Advocacy Chair: Natalie Clewell (Former President)

School Board Update

An update will be provided at the October meeting. Voting was taking place for middle school sports during the

Admin Update

Ms. Fernandez & Ms. Brown-Dunn, Ms. Donahue

School Improvement Plan

GOAL: Increase number of students passing state assessments or making growth to achieve the VDOE state assessments achievement levels to reach 75% for reading and 75% for Math and Science

The plan lives on the JH website and is a living document – goals and activities will change throughout the year.

International Baccalaureate: JH is an International Baccalaureate School: Learner Attributes are ~ Inquirer, Knowledgeable, Thinker, Communicator, Principled,

Teaching students that our local community is connected to our Global Community. Students are encouraged to find their voice and make the choice to take action and make our community a better place.

Student Support Team (SST) & Function

Mr. Beason – Chair, School Psychologist

Ms. Brown - Elementary Counselor & Co Chair

Ms. Gettis - MS Counselor (Grades 5-8)

Mr. Patterson – School Social Worker

Ms. Brown-Dunn - Dean of Students

Meets on Tuesdays from 9-10:30: Identifying and offering support in and out of classroom for students.

Referrals are made through teachers, parent requests,

Focus on: Academics, College and Career, Health and Wellness, and Social-Emotional Behavioral Development

SST Provides Lessons and services to all students, small group and individualized interventions

Partners with teachers and administrators to ensure all children thrive and meet their goals.

Administrative Reminders:

- School opens at 7:35a
- Students are late after 8am
- Transportation changes should be made no later than 1pm.
 - Email your child's teacher and call the main office for changes

CLUB Transportation

- PTA clubs are not able to provide transportation at present
- Campagna students will be escorted from clubs to Campagna

Upcoming Events

- 9/23 – K-2 Popsicles on the Playground (11a-12p_
- 9/24 School orders due
- 9/25 No school for students or staff
- 9/28 Parent Coffee
- 10/4 National Walk to School Day
- 10/26 Parent Coffee & Student Picture Day
- 10/9 NO SCHOOL
- 10/30 NO SCHOOL
- 10/31 Book Character Parade

Committee reports

DEI Community Outreach: Ashley Buscetta

ACPS/Jefferson Houston Partnership with Kindred

Looking for new members, please reach out to Ashley with

Past:

Substance Abuse Awareness

Opioid Awareness

Partnered with Community Services Board of Alexandria to provide more Emotional and Mental Health Support to JH Students and their Families

SAPCA event RSVP <https://www.research.net/r/AlexandriaVa-SAPCA-15th-RSVP>

Mental Health Needs Survey:

Survey in English: <https://forms.office.com/g/3L2RzNCxB>

Survey in Spanish: <https://forms.office.com/g/wHvT0Xd99r>

PTA Role: Sujata Mitra

The Jefferson-Houston PTA is a 501c3 that works to raise funds to provide support for families, advocate for the school community, teachers and admin, and help support learning initiatives such as funding field trips, providing teacher grants, coordinating elementary clubs, and supporting JH electives such as the school orchestra.

Fundraising: Mary Harvey & Michelle Schell

There are many new venues for contributing to Fundraising including your talents (volunteering, baking, attending pancake breakfast, bake sale, spring carnival etc.)

You can now choose JH PTA with the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) this is a new opportunity for us and we're very excited about it

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events we can use your help. Please reach out to Mary Harvey and Michelle Schell

After School Clubs

Deadline for registration has been extended to 9/27

- Chess
- Robotics
- Upcycle
- And more!

PTAC Update: Citywide PTA to address city issues

Highlights:

- Dr. Kay Wyatt will hold a community chat on 10/3 at Alexandria City High Auditorium from 6-7pm a Zoom link will be made available soon
 - Deadline to submit questions is 9/25
- 10/16 there will be a community budget forum to set school budgets for upcoming school years, NOW is the time to have your voice heard
- Dr. Kay Wyatt will be visiting bus stops to hear from parents
- ACPS websites were updated 2 years ago
 - School Directories have been lagging behind
 - All school directories should be published by 10/2

Treasurer's Report

Treasure: Caitlin Terrell

Budget Audit Report for SY22-23

Began SY22-23 with \$12,000

Total expenses (around) \$27,000

Budget Approval:

Beginning SY23-24 \$8,087 starting funds

Major Expenses: 4th Grade Jamestown, Teacher Appreciation, Clubs

Major Income Revenues: Restaurant Nights, Pancake Breakfast, Bake Sale

Motion to Approve: Natalie, Second Sujata Mitra, Approval Alan Rukin

Secretary's Report

Approval of Minutes

May 24th,

Motion to Approve: Jennifer Palute, Second Michelle Schell, Approval

New business/Q&A

What is the expectation of room parents funding activities?

You're welcome to ask parents to donate (\$5-10 optional) for classroom activities, there is a budget for end of year activities through PTA (\$300 K-5, and \$100 5-8)

Advanced Academic Services: what is this, and how does the referral window work?

- Teachers usually refer students to Advanced Academic Studies Office (Formerly - Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program)
- There is an approval process which includes teachers submitting work samples, submitting assessments, and looking at MAP scores.
- Additional information will be sent out in the future
- Evan Smith noted Advanced Academic Studies group for the school board, a new local plan has been adopted for the gifted
 - District Wide meetings occur monthly, interested parties are welcome to visit the school board website or reach out to Evan directly at:

Motion to Adjourn: Natalie Clewell, Second Larkin Harris

Next meeting

October 26th , 7:00 pm

Zoom