

Jefferson Elementary School PTA

April 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

<i>Jenny Elder, President Katie Jones, 1st Vice President Brett Bielewicz, 2nd Vice President Amanda Rost, Treasurer Anne Clarke, Recording Secretary Nicole Lust, Corresponding Secretary Tracy Young, Historian</i>	<i>Additional members:</i> Click here to see sign in sheets sign in sheet page 1 sign in sheet page 2
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I. Call to Order

President Jenny Elder called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and welcomed all members in attendance.

II. Executive Committee Reports

A. President's report – Jenny Elder

Mrs. Elder began by offering the following: Since we last met in March, the PTA held a successful science fair, wrapped up March Madness; and Breakfast with Someone Special. She further reported that the JES talent showcase had to be canceled for this year as the person who was to chair the event unexpectedly stepped down and we could not find a new chair in time to hold the event. Mrs. Elder further stated that we will have a Kona Ice Day which will take place after school on Friday.

B. 1st Vice President's report – Katie Jones

Mrs. Jones had nothing new to report.

C. 2nd Vice President's report – Brett Bielewicz

Mr. Bielewicz reported the following:

Our Kids of Steel marathon will possibly take place on May 6th. Many activities are planned to take place before the end of the school year. We hope to have a staff v. student basketball game. Field trips are taking place again. We will be having a “wacky water day” for the 5th grade class winners of March Madness. JES was the only elementary school that incorporated all families into the “Breakfast with someone special” day. It was a great day and everyone was very appreciative for making it happen.

D. Treasurer’s report – Amanda Rost

Mrs. Rost presented the March 2022 treasurer’s report: [click here](#) to view the report.

E. Recording Secretary’s report – Anne Clarke

Mrs. Clarke submitted the following report: Mrs. Clarke noted that the minutes from the March 15, 2022 PTA meeting have been distributed to all via the PTA’s email of April 18, 2022. She asked for a motion to approve those minutes. Mrs. Nicole Lust motioned to approve the minutes and Mrs. Karen Wolling seconded the motion. The motion passed.

F. Corresponding Secretary’s report – Nicole Lust

Mrs. Lust stated that she had nothing new to report.

G. Historian’s report – Tracy Young

Mrs. Young reported the following: her people have all turned in their reports at this time.

III. Standing Committee Reports

A. Membership - Elizabeth Smith

Mrs. Smith was unable to attend the meeting so Mrs. Elder reported the following: we currently have 120 family memberships & 31 faculty memberships.

B. Fifth Grade Farewell - Nicole Lust & Erin Appelt

Mrs. Lust reported the following: The field trip for May 10th has been finalized. The children will be going to Lutherland and participating in team building activities. The fifth grade service project will be for the Light of Life Mission. On May 25th, they will be making bagged lunches at JES for the Light of Life Mission. Prior to the 25th, each grade level will be asked to bring in supplies to support this service project. The pool party is still on for June

2nd. Mrs. Lust stated that she believes each 5th grader will receive a cinch bag with their last name & class of 2029 on it. Memory books are close to being finalized. The memory brick sale has not done as well as we thought it would. Various ideas were then discussed to make this more profitable for next year.

C. Gardening - Alisa Zisman

Mrs. Zisman could not be present so Mrs. Elder reported that the front containers have been planted. The back garden needs a bit of TLC. The broken pottery pieces will be removed. Mrs. Zisman will be planting a “pizza garden” (i.e. items that go on pizzas). She will also be having the student plant strawberries.

D. Field Day - Amanda Harris

Mrs. Harris was not at the meeting. Mrs. Elder reported that Mrs. Harris has stepped down from chairing this event. The date for field day is 5/31. After reporting that this event no longer had a chair, Mrs. Elder asked for volunteers and Andrea Croom stepped up and graciously offered to chair this event!

E. Yearbook - Amanda Rost

Mrs. Rost reported the following: we have sold 65% of our goal of yearbooks. A reminder will go out from the membership toolkit next week. It will also be included in the JES weekly eblasts.

F. Teacher Appreciation - Nicole Lust & Anne Clarke

Mrs. Lust reported that instead of doing one week, we will be switching to showing our appreciation each Friday in the month of May. Week 1 will be flowers to the teachers and breakfast in the teacher’s lounge. Week 2 will be a homemade cookie bar via sign up genius. Week 3 will be notes & letters of appreciation + possibly chalk the sidewalk with the children’s words of appreciation again. Week 4 will potentially be a boxed lunch for the teachers. Various ideas instead of the boxed lunch for the teachers were discussed with the idea of potentially doing a taco bar instead.

IV. Other Business/ New Business

A. Elections for the 2022-2023 PTA Board

Mrs. Elder updated all on the PTA’s process thus far. She stated as follows:

Before I reread our slate of officers from our March meeting and we take a vote, I would like to take a moment to update you all on our process.

Some concerns were brought up to me by Mt. Lebanon Council of PTA’s regarding our 2022-2023 slate of officers. Those concerns

forced me to reach out to our PA State PTA bylaw chair, Cindy Horner. Her and I talked through our nominating process. I provided her with our Unit Bylaws, our amendment from 2020, the rationale behind the amendment, meeting minutes, and any other correspondence she needed. Let's be reminded, the work of the nominating committee is not an easy task, especially when you have more nominees than positions. The committee did their due diligence, followed our bylaws, and presented a 2022-2023 slate of officers at our March meeting. They met in confidence which is the utmost important aspect of their work. Per instructions/emails from the Mt. Lebanon Council of PTA's, we ran our March meeting as they have always advised us to run it. The committee read their report and presented their slate. As President, I went one by one through the offices and asked for objections and nominations from the floor for each office. Except for Mr. B and Amanda Rost. It is important to note for the record again, there were none.

At the meeting where the slate is read is the time when any member of our unit PTA who was not on the slate BUT wished to be on the slate should be nominated from the floor. Tonight's meeting was supposed to be just a vote of the entire slate to become our Officers for the next school year because it was uncontested at our March meeting.

However, in all my talks with Cindy Horner at the State, Council has been improperly advising our local units on this process. According to the State the bylaws say the slate should sit for one month. Before the election takes place at this meeting, nominations from the floor should be called for. I would like to reiterate that every unit in our Council does it the way JES has always done it. I would like to state for the record that the opportunity has already been given to our members to nominate themselves from the floor. However, I would like to make it right tonight for our unit. At this time, I would like to open nominations from the floor for any of the positions for next school year except for 2nd VP.

Jean Thomas then interjected that Mrs. Elder was not able to call for nominations from the floor because it was not identified in the PTA agenda for this meeting and as such, nominations could not be made tonight since no notice had been given and therefore asking for floor nominations was improper. Mrs. Elder replied that she had been in contact with Cindy Horner the PA PTA Bylaw Chair prior to tonight's meeting and that Ms. Horner had instructed Mrs. Elder to do so in the manner in which Mrs. Elder had done so tonight. Mrs. Thomas then stated that because she was aware of others that

were not happy with the nominated slate, and in an effort to level the playing field, she wanted to nominate “the other candidate”. Mrs. Elder asked Mrs. Thomas to identify “the other candidate” by name. Mrs. Thomas then stated that the “other candidate” was Marisa Hupe and that she was nominating Mrs. Hupe from the floor. Mrs. Elder then asked Mrs. Thomas to identify for which position she was nominating Mrs. Hupe. Mrs. Thomas stated that she was nominating Mrs. Hupe for the office of JES president. (It should be noted that Mrs. Hupe was not present at this PTA meeting.)

Mrs. Elder then stated that because there was a floor nomination, a paper ballot would be necessary and that she needed to call Cindy Horner to instruct how to take the vote. Mrs. Elder placed a call to Ms. Horner at 7:53 pm. The call lasted until 7:58 pm.

During Mrs. Elder’s five minute call with Ms. Horner, Mr. Bielewicz stated that he was thoroughly embarrassed & disgusted that this situation had gotten to this level where it was the subject of discussion by other Mt. Lebanon PTAs, as well as on the state and national level - and that volunteers who had done nothing other than give their time to the children of JES should be put upon in this manner. He stated that this situation is absolutely embarrassing. He stated that he would find it very difficult to see how those individuals that have made this so difficult, would actually have the students’ best interests at heart.

When Mr. Bielewicz finished his comments, and while the blank paper ballots were being handed out, Mrs. Thomas then stated that she had to leave to pick up her child. She was asked if she would like to write her vote on one of the blank ballots before leaving. She declined to do so. She was then asked that since she was not going to cast a ballot, if she would like to withdraw her nomination before she left. She declined to do so and left the meeting.

At this time, Mrs. Elder had concluded her call with Mrs. Horner and at 7:59 pm a paper ballot vote was taken. The vote was taken by paper ballot with each member present being able to cast one vote. The voting was concluded and all ballots counted by 8:02 pm. Eighteen (18) votes were recorded for Ginny Chambers and zero (0) votes were recorded for Marisa Hupe. Mrs. Elder then reiterated all of the names on the slate. She noted that the vote for JES President had been unanimous in favor of Mrs. Chambers and against Mrs. Hupe and that there were no challengers to the other members of the slate. Therefore the members of the slate were adopted and the JES board for the 2022-2023 school year adopted.

Many in attendance commented that they appreciated the efforts of Mrs. Elder throughout this process and the efforts of the nominating committee.

B. Proposed 2022-2023 Budget

Mrs. Rost then presented the 2022-2023 proposed budget. [Click here for a copy of the proposed budget.](#)

C. By-law Revisions / Amendments

Mrs. Elder then asked for volunteers to work on the by-law revisions and amendments. Katie Jones, Jenny Elder, Kristen Misutka, Anne Clarke and Emily Myer volunteered and will be the members of the by-law committee.

V. Adjournment

Mrs. Elder offered a final word of thanks to everyone in attendance. She stated that the date and time of the next meeting will be determined at a later date. She concluded the meeting at 8:11 pm.