

Julian PTO Meeting Agenda
November 14, 2016
7:00 – 8:30 pm
Julian Media Center

Present: Kristi Oltman, Laura Smith, Robert Shaw, Joe Anderson, Jamie Winchell, Marianell Bassett-Pilley, Lisa Sensat, Ellen Maliff, Lesa Kiefer, Laura Crawford, Ronald Pierre, Ed Klinger, Barbara Di Eugeno, Lori McConnell

Girl Scout Presentation:

Working on an anti-smoking project: a smoking-prevention event at Julian. An assembly, a pledge, and a video contest with a prize. Scouts understand they cannot get \$\$ from the PTO but is looking for support with the assembly and the video contest.

Question: Do you have a teacher sponsor? Parent says she has sent some emails but hasn't gotten a response back. Looking to do this in the near future, but no specific deadline. Looking at spring? Looking for funding for the prize - they want it to be something students would really want.

Laura Smith:

New goal-setting process. Students work with their advisory teacher to set an academic goal based on MAPS for the January MAPS test, and a personal goal. They'll also set action plans for how they'll reach their goals. They'll look at progress in February after winter MAPS, then set new goals based to work toward for spring MAPS.

Students also continue to work on Second Step in advisory.

Joe Anderson - teacher presenter

New apps (right now they are using "Procreate") allow students to "push the limits" and see images as painters do. They begin with a photo, then move on to using physical media for color. Students are often consumers of technology, but not often creators of content. Students are engaged in inquiry-based learning, which means they have ownership. Students need to have their own reasons for seeking mastery. There are 3 full-time visual arts teachers. 6th grade is art foundations. Art club has around 90 students participating in one hour of open studio on Thursday afternoons.

Question: If a student doesn't choose art for 6th grade, can they still do so in 7th.

A: With the foreign language requirement, students now have to choose one art.

Students still can shift to art for 7th grade even if they didn't take art foundations in 6th.

Q: When do 5th graders choose an elective, and what information do they get to help them make a choice?

A: They choose sometime after winter break, and course descriptions go out to help them decide.

Jamie Winchell - Julian librarian

Shared "snapshot" of the Julian collection. We have a good balance of nonfiction and fiction. Jamie would like to see the nonfiction collection increase. For a library where students do not have a set library time, they do borrow a lot of items each year (@7,000). The Julian library 32% of titles are "aged" - she is working on lowering the average age of the nonfiction titles in particular.

Aiming for a tone that is welcoming but respectful.

Book fair earned \$1,743.25. Anderson was a great vendor - interest was high. The book fair was also a chance to learn about student interests.

Mock election: real polling booths loaned by the league of women voters. 87% voter turnout.

New ideas: Casters on library tables to make the space more flexible. Some library chairs are in poor condition. Aiming for a higher level of student engagement. The computer lab is up for renovation/re-envisioning. There are school libraries that are in greater disrepair, so it's unclear which of these things can happen.

Question: How are students learning how to use virtual library resources.

A: We have a library orientation in the fall, and the librarian teaches classes around specific subjects. Students can use the OPPL databases from Julian without logging in. Students can come in the building any time between 8 and 8:35, any day except Wednesday. They can also choose to come during lunch.

Library volunteering: went well last year. The library had a lot of help. This year, because Tish (the library aide) is new, the librarian hasn't asked for volunteers.

Bob Shaw - Special Ed teacher and assistant coach for track and field.

We don't have a regulation track and field in Oak Park. Last year we did well, but without really having a home base. We had a state qualifier in pole vaulting, and a back-to-back state champion hurdler.

This is a no-cut sport. We will find a place for anyone. We had over 120 students last year between 3 coaches, which made parent support important.

We are hoping to improve organization and communication.

Due to numbers, older kids used uniforms and younger kids used gym clothes. That was a problem in certain meets, when everyone has to match. We are always looking for ways to improve materials.

In track and field, the stopwatch doesn't lie - you can always beat your own mark. The students get into their numbers and improving them.

Question: Is there a list of all the events?

A: Relays, individual races, high jump, long jump, shot put, discus. We don't have the full array of events the high school has. We do not have a track and field website at this time.

Q: Are there resources available for students who can't afford equipment like shoes.

A: We do have used shoes, but special shoes are not required. The uniforms are rented for the season. It's a low-cost sport.

Q: When does enrollment begin?

A: Around February. First meets are usually the week or two after spring break. Sectionals are around Memorial Day weekend. We do end up traveling quite a bit for competition because there aren't a lot of track programs around.

PTO is willing to share any information Track and Field needs through the PTO newsletter. We are also willing to talk about equipment needs and possibly fund it.

Presidents' Report:

Halloween Dance: @220 students. It was crowded and awesome.

Conference night pot luck dinner for staff was successful. Teachers were appreciative.

End of Year Donation Campaign: we send out a digital appeal for PTO donations.

Wish List: we plan to put out another form to staff to ask what they are thinking is needed.

Brooks/Julian Trivia Night:

This was a very successful event last year - 130-140 people attended. It happened at Fitzgeralds. We'll be repeating this year. Planning will kick off immediately. Custodian appreciation - this happens at Brooks. We are thinking to do something around feeding them, perhaps around 3:00 when the day shift is winding down and the evening shift is arriving. Ms. Jackson is a good resource for what type of food the custodians might like best.

Treasurer's Report:

We collect 90% of our money through the lunch program at the beginning of the year. The cash is high at the beginning of the year, and gets whittled down throughout the year. Our goal for the year is to break even. The Friday lunch program is extremely successful. We hoarded money for a bit when it looked like that would end.

Spirit wear did very well on conference night this year.

VP Programs Report

Dine around town at Chipotle was hugely successful. We made around \$400. An attendee suggested a shop around town event.

Green Team

Laura Smith is helping with a teacher survey to get some ideas about what staff is thinking.

Volunteer Coordination

All teams are covered with at least one team parent. If you have volunteered, you just wait to be called/asked.

Question: Has Julian been communicating to parents about background checks/fingerprinting requirements for chaperoning. Laura will check in with Dr. Fitzgerald about that.

VP Communications Report

Nothing really to share. Our website is getting lots of hits - traffic is up from last year.

A parent suggested that the PTO lunches were easier to locate on the district website. There has been confusion around CAST vs. PTO lunches. PTO sells lunches on Fridays, either Jimmy John's or pizza. CAST offers Wednesday lunches, pizza or Buona Beef. You sign up for the entire year at the start of the year. If any parents have suggestions for how to make this all easier to understand, let us know. Specifics are also announced on the Facebook page.

Fingerprinting, part 2

Parent volunteers' names simply get run through a few websites, UNLESS the volunteer is going to be working with students one-on-one, etc. Then the parent needs to go to the district office for full background checks.

Minutes from May 2015 were passed.

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