



TJ PTSA General Membership Meeting Minutes      September 09<sup>th</sup> , 2021 at 7:00pm - 9:00pm

**Attendees:** Fluctuated, as high as 117

**Location:** Virtual (Zoom)

President Harry Jackson called the meeting to order @7:03 pm. The president screen-shared the meeting agenda and asked the members to vote to approve the agenda via a poll. The president reported that the agenda was approved with 33 in favor, 3 against, and 4 abstaining.

Treasurer Report - Himanshu Verma presented the following:

- Financial Review (Audit) Report performed on July 24, 2021 by Kaushik Goswani, Anna Lee Kim and Himanshu Verma. See [attachment](#).
- Reconciliation Reports for Jul 1, 2021 to Aug 31, 2021: [ANGP July 2021](#), [ANGP Aug 2021](#), [PTSA July 2021](#), [PTSA Aug 2021](#)
- Proposed Budget for 2021-22 year. See [attachment](#).

Some members reported that the chat feature was not available to them. Discussions ensued for several minutes. The president reported that he could see some of the chat. Members said that not all of them can see nor participate in chat. This was confirmed by TJPTSA First VP Li Yang and a few members of the VAPTA Support team.

A member suggested giving Himanshu host/admin rights so he can figure out how to fix the issues. The President said "the chat is not necessarily critical to the meeting right now". (minute 49:40).

Some members asked to have the budget shared on the screen again as the financial documents presented by Himanshu were not available to members prior to the meeting. The President re-shared the budget into the screen and proceeded with the poll to approve the budget. A member called out asking if a motion had been made. There was no motion brought at that time.

The President re-shared the budget for another minute then asked Himanshu to make a motion. The Treasurer answered "I guess we can do that". After a pause, a member said "I second that". The President closed the poll and declared the motion passed with 19 in favor, 17 opposed, and 10 abstaining (from about 117 attendees).

Members spoke up with complaints about the vote. Some said that they did not know the voting had started because the motion had not been properly stated. Some said they did not see any

poll window where they could vote. A few said they saw a poll window briefly, but it disappeared before they could register their vote.

So many people were talking at the same time that the President muted everyone and disabled the microphone for the remainder of the meeting until the Q&A session.

A few members with chat access protested the result as they did not have a chance to cast their votes. Members still have questions regarding the proposed budget.

### President's Report - Dr. Harry Jackson

- In accordance with the new uniform bylaws adopted by all local units, the president announced that he will not seek to fill the President-Elect position.

## ARTICLE 5: OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION

**Section 1.** The elected officers of this local PTA/PTSA shall be a president, one or more vice president(s), a secretary, and a treasurer.

*Proviso: Units currently with the president-elect structure will be allowed to continue this structure until election year 2023.*

## ARTICLE 6: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

**Section 2.** The president-elect shall:

- Act as aide to the president.
- Perform duties of the president in the absence or inability of that officer to act.
- Understand that by accepting the nomination of president-elect, they agree to automatically succeed to the office of president at the end of their term as president-elect.
- Perform other delegated duties as assigned.

*PROVISIO: This position is only for local units with an approved president-elect position. It is not required to elect a president-elect. Position to be phased out election year 2023.*

- Restructuring of the committees

### 2020-2021 Committees

- Academic Support Committee
- ANGP and Senior Celebration Committee
- Challenge Success Committee
- College Outreach Committee
- Diversity Committee
- Reflections Committee
- Hospitality Committee

- Health & Wellness Committee
- Membership Committee

### 2021-2022 Committees

- Academic Support Committee
- College Outreach Committee
- Diversity Committee
- *Family Engagement Committee (new)*
  - ANGP and Senior Celebration Sub-Committee
  - Challenge Success Sub-Committee
  - Reflections Sub-Committee
  - Hospitality Sub-Committee
  - Health & Wellness Sub-Committee
  - Membership Sub-Committee
  - *Human Relation Sub-Committee (new)*

1st Vice President Report - Li Yang : Provided a short introduction

2nd Vice President Report - Jun Wang :

- A to Z Connect (membership directory, newsletter email distribution, members' storefront) is migrating to a new platform. All parents need to be on the lookout for an email or a post in the newsletter/website on how to create a new account on the new platform and update their information.

Recording Secretary Report - Laura Marschoun :

- Using this opportunity to inform the president that there are quite a few protests from the members via the chat (since no one can unmute themselves at this moment) regarding the last budget vote. The president said "Thank you for your report".

Correspondence Secretary Report - Hanning Chen:

- He is updating the website and compiling the weekly newsletter. Announced that TJ PTSA does not use any social media platforms to communicate with members.
- Informed members how to reach him, how to submit articles for the This Week Newsletter and recommended that the new parents explore the TJ PTSA website (tjptsa.org)

Family Engagement Committee Report - Shawna Yashar, Chair:

- Informed members what her subcommittees are and identified their respective chairs.
  - TBD - names of sub chairs
- A call for Hospitality Chair

Diversity Committee Report - Julia McCaskill, Chair :

- Reported that they had their first meeting
- Informed that they have 3 components: Diversity within TJ; Outreach to the Community; and Learning Style Diversity within TJ (new this year)
- Will redefine the mission and purpose of the committee

Academic Support Committee Report - Randy Turner, Chair:

- Asked for more support as he is new to this role

College Outreach Committee Report - Tanuja Ghodgaonkar, Chair:

- The chair was not present and did not give written report

**Principal Report - Dr. Ann Bonitatibus**

- At 1900+ students, the largest TJ student body to date
- August Scavenger Hunts (over 2 days) gave opportunities for 2024 and 2025 parents and students to be inside the school and familiarize themselves to the 'lay of the land'
- Welcome and Regional Parties to welcome Class 2025
- Thanked PTSA for the Staff Ice Cream Social at the end of the first week of school
- Thanked the Administration Staff for the successful opening of the school year and beyond
- Thanked the teachers for learning the new lesson delivery platform, Schoology.
- Thanked the custodian team for doing deep cleaning everyday to reduce chances of COVID transmission
- Thanked the students to be mindful and to follow health protocols to ensure the continuing of the in-person education
- "Belonging" theme to start the school year via Advisory periods, IBET teams, and other activities woven into the first few weeks of school.
- Challenge Success Initiative: decoupling 'rigor' and 'workload'; manage expectations teachers-to-students, students-to-teachers, and students-to-students; emphasize the importance of sleep
- Covid update: mitigation efforts worked well; only 1 confirmed case to date; will update parents every Friday;
- Rescheduled BTSN
- Worked with SGA for the Homecoming Week (Oct 20-24)

- More information regarding the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Fund (ESER Fund) is forthcoming: some of the money have been used to provide activity (aka late) bus (6:30 pm, Wed and Thu) starting the following week for FCPS students; looking to provide various intervention programs (afterschool and weekend); and other programs for students' wellness.

### **SGA President Report - (Leon Jia):**

- Wrap up the last school year with some activities (games and refreshments)
- Online Toward TJ modules toward the end of the summer to ease Class 2025 (was open for Class 2024 as well) toward the in-person learning environment. 300+ students registered.
- Helped the Administration conducting the Scavenger Hunts
- Helped the Admin during Freshman Orientation with its BigSibs program
- Back to School Bash was coming the following day
- Upcoming: Homecoming Day and Homecoming Week; there will be covid-related restrictions and limitations
- Upcoming: Homecoming Dance, try to reduce cost

### **Announcements:**

- Next GM meeting will be held on October 14, 7:00 pm, via Zoom
- General Membership Fee Structure Changes, from \$40/adult to as low as \$20/FAMILY
  - Note: Each PTA member will cost around \$4.00 from various dues that need to be submitted to the Council, State, and National PTA.
  - A vote will be taken during the next General Membership meeting in October

### **VA PTA Support Team**

- VA PTA support team is in the meeting in the capacity of support only: to look, listen and learn and to understand some of the emails that they receive from the members; to be of service for the TJPTSA EC and the TJPTSA members.
- Announced a small change of the lead of this support team, from Ms Alexander to Ms Kilpatrick (former TJPTSA President)
- Reminded the forum that they are not there for any attack and asked any questions to be respectful to any individual and to the VA PTA as a whole
- Ms Kilpatrick introduced herself and expressed wishes that this year PTSA can work together and build a TJ community she felt and experienced during her time at TJ.
- She reminded the membership that the PTSA's priority is to serve the TJ students and they should not let any personal goals hinder the priority to serve the students.



## Open Q&A Session

- A member asked about the VA PTA blocking people from their Facebook page in the past. Ms Croom stated about the VA PTA Social Media Policy posted in its Facebook Page and recommended the asker to read them. Also recommended that all PTA/PTSA units have their own Social Media Policy.
- A member asked to clarify the proposed GM dues reduction: if the proposed fee is \$20/FAMILY and if this is for this 2021-22 year. The president answered yes to both of the questions. There was a follow up question about how this year's programs will be funded. The president said that the PTSA planned to hold fundraising events in the future, with specifics to be determined.
- A member asked about the validity of the probation, specially on the partisan accusation point, VAPTA President replied that there is a difference in running for office than bringing partisan issues to the local unit and informed that the TJ PTSA Board has accepted the probation conditions. The president confirmed that fact and indicated that in the last few weeks, he had been interacting with the VAPTA President, she has been very professional. He vouched for her character.
- A member asked the legality of the adoption vote of the budget and questioned how the budget with a large deficit even being proposed in the first place; specially given that there is another proposal to drastically reduce the dues. The president answered that the parliamentarian told him that the vote was legal. He mentioned that if the PTSA runs out of money then they will stop spending.
- A member asked Dr Bonitatibus if the BTSA scheduled the following Tuesday will be live or recorded. She answered that there are recorded portions and there will be live Meet & Greet or Q&A sessions . Member's second question was regarding the covid case announcement. Dr Bonitatibus apologized for the message sent in error by a staff member. Also she stressed out that a parent will receive a personalized email and a personal phone call from the school if that student is identified as potential close contact to a confirmed positive covid case within the community.
- A member asked if an in-person general membership meeting is under consideration. The president answered that he feels that too many parents are still not comfortable in a large gathering. He will put that question into the next EC meeting agenda item.
- A member shared his experience when his student was asked to stay at home for extended periods and was not able to reach FCHD (Fairfax County Health Dept) in 5 days. Dr Bonitatibus shared that she sent all the feedback from the parents to the FCPS which then worked with the FCPH to ensure that students can be cleared and go back to in-person learning as soon as possible. This week newly implemented processes should be an improvement and she mentioned that in some cases, the student was cleared within the hour.
- Himanshu used his time to explain the budget deficit. He said that inflation is the root cause of the huge budget deficit proposed for this year. The cost of the parliamentarian of \$8000 contributed to the deficit size.

- A member stated that the BTSN had been reduced in quality (and quantity) over time across FCPS and the difficulties that some parents experienced on registering to 7 different zoom links. Dr Bonitatibus answered that in a July 22 email, parents were asked to reserve 2 nights for in-person BTSNights. At TJ, BTSN is historically attended by 100% of the parents, therefore it is not possible to have all 4 grades in 1 night. However, due to the heightened concern of the Delta variant, she asked input to the TJ PTSA Board for Virtual BTSN and got feedback that last year the BTSN went smoothly and the Board supported the Virtual BTSN for this year as well.
- A member mentioned that a non-for-profit organization should not have a large cash reserve therefore it is wise to reduce the cash reserve as soon as possible; especially since VA PTA threatened to confiscate the funds. The VAPTA President reminded him that nowhere in the Probation Letter mentions that VAPTA plans to confiscate the funds. The letter strictly mentions what the Bylaws says. The VAPTA does not have any intention to take funds, they have explained this to the current and former Executive Committee. The rumor that VAPTA can just take funds from local units is misinformation. During the dissolution process, local PTSA can utilize the funds toward the approved budget that they have in place, to donate funds to other non-for-profit organizations. She stressed that there is no time in the VAPTA history to have taken any funds or threatened to take any from the disbanded local units.
- A member asked if the PTSA has ever functioned with a deficit budget and asked the feasibility of fundraising activities that are not even in the proposed budget. The president answered that TJ PTSA has not had a deficit budget in the past. The president also stated that he will be able to do fundraising should the need arise.
- A member raised a concern that most of the participants were not able to vote. The window showed up and disappeared before they could touch. She also raised the issue that none of the fundraising activities have been planned and the deficit will be worsened with the proposal to reduce fees/dues. She also asked if it was customary for TJ PTSA to give a mere 10 minutes for the members to see the budget and a vote was conducted. VAPTA answered that instead of the president. She recognized that there are a lot of concern regarding the proposed budget and the vote to adopt it, assured the members that the concerns have been heard by the EC, and finally suggested that Himanshu, the Treasurer, will revisit and will re-propose the new balanced budget in the next General Meeting for a re-vote.
- A member asked about the Human Relations Committee. The president answered that it is not a new committee and it is given an added responsibility this year. Its purpose is to engage different stakeholders within the TJ community, to create a forum for discussion, and to create solutions.

Minutes Prepared by:

Laura Marschoun, TJHSST PTSA Secretary

Minutes Approved as \_\_\_\_\_ Presented or \_\_\_\_\_ Amended on \_\_\_\_\_

# **ATTACHMENT**

## **TJ PTSA General Membership Meeting Agenda**

**Location:** ZOOM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlf-qtrDgtG9lrGj0JzGwwuENWPOGyWWq9>

### **Attendees:**

TJPTSA Officers -

Dr. Bonitatibus

VA PTA Support Team representatives -

Mr. Berke

### **A. Call Meeting to Order and Welcome (3 min)**

### **B. Officer's Reports**

- a. Treasurer's Report: (20 min): Presentation of Audit Report, Approval of Budget, Reconciliation report for July & Aug
- b. President's Report: (3 min)
  - i. Action Items
  - ii. Meeting Dates for (current year)
- c. 1st Vice President (3 min)
- d. 2nd Vice President (3 min)
- e. Recording Secretary's Report (3 min)
- f. Corresponding Secretary's Report (3 min)

### **C. Committee Reports**

- a. Family Engagement – update on progress (3 min)
- b. Diversity Committee – update on progress (3 min)
- c. Academic Support Committee – update on progress (3 min)
- d. College Outreach Committee – update on progress (3 min)

### **D. Representative Reports**

- a. Principal's Report (10 min)
- b. SGA Representative (5 min)

### **E. Unfinished Business (5 min)**

### **F. New Business (5 min)**

### **G. Announcements (1 min)**

- a. Our next meeting will be held on October 14, 7pm, via Zoom
- b. General Membership Fee Structure Changes



**H. Question & Answer (20 min)**

a. Virginia PTA Support Team

**I. Adjourn Meeting (9pm)**