

Governor French PTSO: September 15th, 2021 MINUTES

Opening of meeting by Sean Jordan

- Introduce Officers
- President—
- Treasurer—Regina Chiu
- Secretary—Crista Jamous
- Advocacy Chair—Matt Pidgeon
- Fundraising Committee—Patika Hackleman and Dee Patel
- Student Outreach Committee—

4:45 pm:

- Approval of the August meetings minutes
- Wednesday, August 18th
 - Mrs. K. Powers shared that enrollment is at 113 students currently and that the school is in a healthy state. The school year has gone well so far and the school has no immediate needs.
 - Mrs. Jordan shared that the Yearbook Staff could use 1-2 loaner cameras for the next year. These need to be DSLR-style digital cameras that are compatible with Canon Rebel lenses

4:47pm:

- Treasurer's Report
- Banking Information:
- FCB
- BOB
- Need Mrs. K. Powers on account
- Need President and Treasurer for account

4:51 pm:

- Committee Reports
- Fundraising Committee Goals
- Student Outreach Committee—Any Parents Interested?

4:53 pm:

- Founder's Day Committee Members? Ideas, Updates? (Scheduled Saturday, November 13th)
 - Sean Jordan provided some detail on the Boosters Club, which will start later this year and focus on external community fundraising. This club is intended to be independent of the PTO but to work in tandem with it.
 - Sean Jordan and Mrs. Stewart also provided an update on the Founder's Day event, which is now planned for November 13th and will involve two virtual hour-long videos. Sean Jordan (who has headed the committee for planning this event) explained that fundraising should involve reaching out to three groups: alumni and their parents, the broader Belleville community and current parents and students. Sean envisions a crowdfunding-style fundraiser to provide support for key events and which involves little to no physical items to ship out. The target (based on the last event) is \$3,500 in raised funds or \$5,000 total.

5:01pm-5:48pm (meeting close)

•School Projects

- Addition of doorways to connect buildings for student safety
- Security System Update
- Wallpaper and Light Fixtures
 - Ron Herberts shared plans to add interior doorways to connect the OCJ Building, the classroom building and the Kindergarten classroom. He has raised approximately \$17,000 to support a bid of \$25,000 from a local construction company. Ron suggested that this could be installed during Spring Break, but a member suggested that it might be better to wait until the summer.
 - A concern that arose later in the meeting regarded how the doorways might impact the space in the OCJ Building used by the drama productions if it becomes a thoroughfare and the curtain is removed. The discussion suggested there may be a need before construction to plan out the impact of both doorways will impact traditional school activities as the use of spaces changes.

- Ron Herberts indicated that Mr. Paeltz, as owner of the building, had approved the project and the plans and donated \$1,000 towards the effort.
- The Beautification committee provided some detail on their project, which includes repainting or repapering the walls in the OCJ Building and hanging new light fixtures.
 - Two students joined the meeting to voice their concern about the project. Because they are students and under the age of 18, I have opted not to include their names in this written record.
 - One student felt that the building reflects an important history of the school as well as the legacy of the Joseph family, who donated the building to the school after they moved their car dealership. She suggested that the building has a character that is important to both students and alumni and that their voices should be heard before any further changes are made.
 - The other student echoed the suggestion that students should have a say in what happens in how the school is renovated or redecorated because the students are the primary users of these spaces. He also raised concerns about the age of the buildings being a factor in any structural changes.
 - The first student also shared that these changes impact the drama program because lighter colors make it difficult to get the room dark enough for plays. The student also pointed out that the room is used for much more than Convocation. Mrs. Jordan echoed this concern as well.
 - Barbara Staples King said that the current state of the OCJ Building after minor redecoration efforts began does not look professional for visitors or events and that this room should be restored to its previous state. She suggested redecorating should happen in the summer, not during the school year.
 - Ms. Schlesinger voiced her concern about the current state of the redecoration and said she would like for things to go back to their original state, as she feels the room does not look appealing right now for students, staff or visitors.
 - Mrs. K. Powers said that the current efforts were stopped because the look of the paint was not consistent in two different areas of the building.
 - Emily Adams and Regina Chiu indicated that they had spoken to Mr. Paeltz and he had donated \$200 and given very little direction about what he wanted beyond (perhaps facetiously?) adding a water feature.
 - Sean Jordan suggested that the students should be provided with a forum for voicing their concerns and ideas, and the students agreed that they would like this. Doris Smith further suggested that Mr. Paeltz should be present for these forums.

Unable to get to these talking points as ran out of time:

- New Business
- Pumpkin Fundraiser
- Meet and Greet for new families? Sponsored by the PTSO

- Paint the High School lunch area? Need a student liaison.

- Closing**

- §Questions

- §Comments

- §Suggestions

- Future Meetings:**

- October 20th, 2021**

- November 17th, 2021**

- December 15th, 2021**

- January 19th, 2021**

- February 16th, 2021**

- March 23rd, 2021**

- April 20th, 2021**

- May 11th, 2021**