

**JAMES W. ALEXANDER PTA, INC.**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**  
**October 6, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

President Tori McMahan called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and led the flag salute. She welcomed teachers Mrs. Hassell, Mrs. Nami (5<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Mrs. Noon. Lastly, she welcomed new Executive Board member, Stacey Everett.

**ESTABLISHING QUORUM:** (Executive Committee)

Excused from tonight's meeting and those present; see attached list.

**OFFICER'S REPORTS:**

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes were distributed and will be filed as approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Tori McMahan reported on Julie McGuiness' behalf from the Statement of Accounts for September 15, 2009 through October 6, 2009. A beginning balance of \$7,629.38, receipts of \$2,389.41, disbursements of \$3,450.15, and an ending balance of \$6,568.64. The report was filed for audit. (See copy of attached report.).

**Correspondence:**

Jen Haley read a thank you note from the Fifth Grade teachers for the sweet treats and bottled water they received on back to school night

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Membership -** Kalyn Vizzoni reported that some more memberships have been received but membership is a little below from last year and that she will be sending letters home to hopefully get more membership. The Three For Me program is going well and was utilized for Back to School Night.

**Family Activities** – Cindy Mimmo reported that the flyer went home for School Fair which will be held on October 17, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. She further stated that the Mum Sale flyer was sent home selling 8" mums for \$6 each from A&M Gardens. She stated that a new event this year at the School Fair is the Volkswagen Test Drive for which we will receive \$5 per test driver. She is looking into a Hay Maze to be set up and coordinated with the hay ride. Volunteers are needed for the stands at the fair and also for the bake sale. Donated baked goods can be donated and dropped off the night before or the morning of the fair. Boomer is coming to the School Fair and Debbie Hamm is working on that. Another flyer will be sent home regarding sponsorship, volunteers and pre-ticket sales.

**Fundraising** – Ellen Iorio thanked everyone who participated in the Fall Fundraiser and stated that it looks like we will make a profit of approximately \$4,800 which is about \$600 above last year. Pick-up will be Tuesday, November 10, 2009.

Ellen also thanked everyone who helped out at the Not Just Clothing Drive. We collected over 4,700 pounds of items and will be receiving a check for \$618.

Ellen also thanked Cindy for taking care of the Mum Sale. The deadline to pre-order your mums is this Friday, October 9, 2009. Pick-up will be at the school fair.

Ellen further stated that Friendly's Family Night is tomorrow from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Friendly's at Foxmoor. Use your flyer and 15% will go back to our PTA.

Ellen further stated that Boxtops will be submitted by October 31, 2009. If you have any Boxtops which you will not be using for the School Fair, please send them in with your student.

Ellen further stated that Barnes & Noble day is Monday, November 30, 2009. Executive Board volunteers will be gift wrapping throughout the day so if you are interested in helping out, please let Ellen know. Gift wrapping is free and the tips we earn will go to our PTA.

Ellen further stated that other fundraisers her committee is working on are Kids Stuff Coupon Books, Thanksgiving pies, gift cards for the holidays and the Holiday Shoppe.

Kalyn Vizzoni stated that sweats and T's will finish up this coming Friday and sales are going well. It was also discussed as a possibility that she will bring last year's sweats and T's to the School Fair as a Clearance Sale.

Kalyn further stated that the Book Fair will be held October 26, 2009 through October 29, 2009 and that this year on Monday, October 26, 2009 there will be a Books and Bagel event for the teachers from 8:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. when the teachers can go to the Book Fair and make their wish list without the students and enjoy breakfast. Kalyn will seek volunteers from the Three For Me program to help with this.

**Summer Reading** – Kathy Register stated that the Summer Reading program is done and that Certificates will go out within the next week.

**Arts and Education** – Rachel Sorrento stated that the Reflections announcement went home on October 1, 2009 and that participation is mandatory for Fourth and Fifth Grades. She thanked Cindy Boone for the beautiful bulletin board display. All Reflections rules and guidelines for each category are uploaded on the [www.AlexanderPTA.com](http://www.AlexanderPTA.com) website. Her committee will have a station at the School Fair where students can design a paper skateboard, sneaker, kite or flower and write what they think is beautiful. Students can also fill out a form and enter the Reflections Theme contest for 2011-2012 school year at the Fair. The deadline for theme entry is October 26, 2009 and the deadline for the

Reflections projects is November 4, 2009. Mr. Canazarro and Mrs. Silver have agreed to judge and a friend of Cindy Boone's can judge the dance portion. Judging will take place the week of November 9 through November 13, 2009.

**Library** – Linda Ackerson stated that there are tons of volunteers this year and things are going well.

**Room Representatives** – Deb Conti stated that all the room representatives were chosen except for preschool and that monies were distributed. Deb further stated that the meeting went well and seemed less confusing this year and that it was emphasized to lean toward less sweets and treats and to only provide a small snack for the class parties.

**Hospitality** – Gerri Soleimani thanked those who sent a donation for Back To School Night and that the committee is starting to request items for the School Fair. Sue Fox stated that items of need are pans, fuel and ice chests which they will seek within the committee and then look to others for these items and will send an email if need be.

**Fifth Grade Activities** – Debbie Hamm stated that the first meeting was held October 1, 2009 and that seventeen parents attended. They reviewed the activities for the year and started to form committees to be finalized by this Friday. Deb also stated that a Chair meeting will be held on October 15, 2009. There are two upcoming activities. First, Boomer will be at the School Fair from 12:30 p.m. until 1:30 p.m. and that Trenton Thunder will also be donating all of the leftover all star team pictures and the second event will be the Election Day Bake sale. A flyer will be sent home asking for more volunteers for this event which will be held 8:30 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Tori McMahon stated that all flyers should be on letterhead and sent to Jodi and Tori for approval, to Sue Bishop to be submitted to HTV, to Debbie Hamm for Historical yearbook, Bev Braddock for the website and Deb Conti to send to room moms for our going green campaign. Tori further stated that in our effort to help reduce the flow of paper in the school this is a very important step for the room parents to have. Our short term goal is to reduce the paper flow by utilizing the website and e-mail. Tori further stated that one of the first steps of going green is to have December's newsletter be the last hard copy and it will only be posted to the website.

**NEW BUSINESS:** No new business.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Tori stated that if you have not received a folder yet to let her know as she has some folders that were not picked up at the last meeting. There was one new member to the Executive Board added and Tori has e-mailed the updated lists and recommended printing them out to put in the folder that was received previously.

Tori stated that if anyone is interested in attending 2009 Fall Legislative Day, the date is Wednesday, October 14, 2009 from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The registration fee will be covered by monies from the PTA budget.

Tori further stated that Parent Education Night is Monday, October 12, 2009 and that flyers went home in the Back to School packet and copies were available at Back to School Night. If anyone is interested and still needs a copy, they are available on the website.

Tori further stated that if anyone signed up to go to the dinner on October 29, 2009, the cost is \$20 per ticket and you must give Julie a check. Eleven people signed up to attend the dinner.

Jodi Morgan attended the Chartwells meeting this afternoon on Tori's behalf and stated that it was discussed that the students love the cookies, Chartwells follows all of the States Rules and provide a protein, vegetable, fruit, bread and grain on the menu. Chartwells will be adding homemade stuffed pepper to the menu and they also provide a portion controlled menu per the guidelines and that if a student wants more food than provided, that an additional lunch should be purchased. Chartwells encourages pre-paid lunch tickets and the form is found on the back on the menu calendar. Chartwells will also begin offering whole wheat pizza. Chartwells express an interest in partnering with the PTAs for events. The breakfast program was discussed and Mrs. Stevenson stated that this program is separate from the YMCA before school program as they provide breakfast to their children. The breakfast program is also part of the pre-pay system.

Tori further stated that with regard to NJPTA news, we were selected to receive the Character Education award but found out after the meeting that we also received Honorable Mention certificates for Father's PRIDE and the Environmental awards. She will be sending around a sign-up sheet for those interested in attending this year's dinner which will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 2009. The cost is \$43 per person, but the budget allows for \$200 for this event and will defray the cost of each person's ticket. Debbie Hamm stated that she received a letter of congratulations for First place of Historical Year award.

Tori further stated that if you are an Executive Board member and have not paid your PTA dues, please get those in as soon as possible, especially if you are a room parent.

Tori also discussed that something to start to thinking about is next year's officers. The positions up for election are President, Vice President, Treasurer and Budget and Finance. Tori stated that we have a fabulous PTA and a great team of members and that the job is not as overwhelming as someone may think and she encouraged everyone to consider doing their part.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:** Mrs. Stevenson reported that Back to School Night was a huge success and thanked the PTA for participating. She further stated that this week we Mr. Leonardi, the Third grade long term sub will be leaving, Mrs. Katz will now return and Mrs. Stevenson is hoping Mr. Leonardo will replace Mrs. Braender when she goes out on leave. Mrs. Stevenson also stated that on Friday Mrs. Camilleri will be leaving and Miss Catherine Hayes will be a long term sub until March. Mrs. Stevenson

announced that Mrs. Nami in Second grade is pregnant and Mrs. Stevenson will be looking for another long term sub.

Mrs. Stevenson further stated that the Walk-a-Thon will be this Friday at 2:30 p.m. and the Halloween parade route will be taken. This event is in honor of Ryan's Quest and proceeds will go to the non-profit organization. If it rains on Friday, the vent will be held next Friday. Mrs. Stevenson stated that she would like to add additional Walk-a-Thons throughout the school year.

Mrs. Stevenson further stated that Columbus Day is on October 12, 2009 with a 1:15 p.m. dismissal and it is also school picture day and that October 13, 2009 is school picture day as well.

Mrs. Stevenson further stated that an assembly will be held on October 23, 2009 at 1:30 p.m., "Books, the Magic is Real" which books will be available at the Book Fair the following Monday.

Mrs. Stevenson further stated that conferences start that following Monday during Book Fair as well.

Mrs. Stevenson further stated that the Halloween parade at will be at 1:30 p.m. with the class party at 2:30 p.m. on October 30, 2009. Children will be dismissed with permission at 12:00 p.m. and return at 1:00 p.m. as in previous years.

Tori stated that regarding PTA recognition, Lifetouch went above and beyond for the Anderson family and was able to reprint last year's school photo packages of the children for them at no cost. Rachel will prepare and help send off the recognition certificate.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

*Tricia E. Bannister*

**Recording Secretary**