Sounding Board Meeting Minutes (in Green)  
March 2nd & 3rd, 2017

Thursday's meeting was held at 7:02pm – 8:00pm in the Media Center. Attendees: 6 parents, Mr. Newcomb, and Mr. McEvoy  
Friday’s mtg. was held at 9:30am – 10:25am in the Conference Room. Attendees: 4 parents and Mr. McEvoy

1. Welcome

2. Mr. McEvoy

   ❖ 2017-2018 Scheduling is in progress.
     o JJH Counselors have been meeting with incoming 6th Graders.
     o Counselors from Utica High School and Stevenson High School were at JJH on March 1st to kick off the scheduling for the current 9th Graders.
       ▪ The High School counselors will come back to JJH on March 22nd to be available for further discussions and input the 9th Graders schedule into the system.
     o If there are any questions about scheduling, contact your student’s counselor, Mr. McEvoy, or Mr. Mueller.
     o Monday March 13th is:
       ▪ Incoming 10th Graders Orientation at Stevenson High School and Utica High School
       ▪ Incoming 7th Graders Orientation at Jeannette Junior High (which was previously scheduled and announced)
         • March is a very busy month with parent/teacher conferences, “Evening of Excellence” on March 9th etc. so unfortunately there will be conflicts.

   ❖ Academic Blitz and Career Expo
     o Career Expo is March 16, 2017 at Eisenhower High School.
       ▪ This is open to all families.
       ▪ Over 100 careers will be represented.
       ▪ UCS Counselors are also planned to be there.
     o College Fair will be April 19th at Ford High School.
       ▪ A parent asked at what age should students be participating in these College Fairs or Career Expo
         • Suggestion was all Jr. High aged students could attend to begin to plant that seed of the many opportunities available.
     o Academic Blitz was discussed at the last meeting so no new items to report on that event.

   ❖ 2017 Incoming 7th Grade Curriculum Night is March 13th at 6pm at JJH.

   ❖ “Call to Action” – Response – 2 additional responses were received.
     o JJH had received a positive letter response from Diana Farrington.
     o The Sounding Board members each received a positive response letter at their home addresses from Tory Rocca. Since the letter we sent did not have our home addresses, we were impressed that Tory’s office took the time to look up each person that signed the letter and send us a personal letter back.
Quarter 3 Progress Reports – March 3rd marks 1/2 way through the 3rd Quarter as 5 weeks have passed.
  o Progress Report hard copies will be available at the parent/teacher conference. If not picked up at conferences, then it will be sent home with the student.

Spring Parent Teacher Conferences – March 8th 4:30 – 7:30pm One Day only.

JJH Staff Recognition
  o Mrs. West, JJH English Teacher, was nominated and received the UCS Teacher of the Year!! She does great things with her students both inside and outside the classroom. She will be recognized at the District Recognition and be entered into the Macomb County Teacher of the year submissions.
    ▪ She is one of 3 teachers chosen from UCS since there is 1 chosen at each level – Elementary, Junior High, and High School.
    ▪ Mr. McEvoy is proud of all the great teachers at JJH and is happy to see this well-deserved recognition.
    ▪ At 3/3/17 meeting, one parent mentioned that 1 teacher will also be chosen to receive a car lease!

Great Job JJH Builders Club!
  o Prior to Winter Break, the Builders Club held a week long fundraiser including such items as penny wars, selling bracelets, or buying a piece of duct tape to tape JJH Administration to a wall (which has not taken place yet). From their efforts and the JJH community support, the Builders Club raised over $4700 for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society!
    ▪ Last year the fundraising was in the $2000 range but this year they set their goal at $4000.
      • Mr. McEvoy and Mr. Mueller had given the students some additional incentive since if they met the $4000 goal, they said they’d dress up as Super Heroes
      • The winning class that collected the most donations gets an Olive Garden lunch.

3. UCS EDAC meeting follow up

  Melanie Barash attended the EDAC (Enrollment District Advisory Committee) meeting on Feb. 28th as the parent representing JJH. This meeting is held once a year by the district to give updates on enrollment which based on the birth rates, the family homes being built in our district, and overall retention from year to year, it is estimated that over the next 5 years, enrollment will be stable and level out at around 28,000 students.
  • As the district follows students from one grade to the next (for example, the number of 6th graders from last year vs. the number of 7th graders from this year), a summary showed 102% of students from year to year. This means students are remaining in our district and we are gaining a few more.
  • Stephanie Egan gave input on how this impacts the budget.
    • Presentation is on the Board Meeting website.
4. Honor Roll Award

- Parent Volunteers distributed a free pizza coupon and a 20% off apparel coupon to the Honor Roll students during their lunch times.
  - For those that had already purchased apparel, their coupon could be used to add their name onto a shirt.
  - Kids seemed to enjoy getting the extra recognition during their lunch period.
  - On the day of distribution, there were over 50 kids not present so those were placed in an envelope and distributed through their 6th hour class.

5. Board Nominations

- It was explained that per our Bylaws, we require at a minimum of 3 Board positions which are President, Treasurer, and Secretary. We currently have also as part of the Board an Activities Coordinator and an Athletic Liaison. The current nominations are:
  - President – Melanie Barash
  - Treasurer – Beth Bowen
  - Secretary – Carly Hacker
  - Activities Coordinator – Gail Lusky
  - Athletic Liaison – Maria Quijano

- If there are no other nominations at the Friday morning meeting, then elections at the next meeting will be easy as nominations close with the end of the March Meetings.

- NEW INFORMATION from the Friday, March 3rd meeting.
  - Beth mentioned that she may not be able to be Treasurer since her daughter is applying to the IB program so if accepted, Beth will not be at JJH next year.
  - Beth mentioned that those accepted to the IB program are to be notified on March 31st which is the last day of our “April” meeting where elections are to be held.
    - The group agreed that we will move forward with the elections with the current nominations and if we find out after the vote that Beth is not going to be at JJH, then we will hold a special election to fill the position.

6. Secretary Report

- Membership Status
  - We had one Dad of a 9th Grader unsubscribe but the Mom is still on the list so no change in how many students are represented in getting our Sounding Board distributions. We currently have 132 emails that get our distributions.

7. Activities Coordinator

- Copy Parent Program is still going well. Copiers have been jamming lately.
  - Copier Service Technician was at JJH all day performing maintenance/cleaning on the copiers. Gail was at the school when the technician was at JJH and explained to the group that he was very informative and passionate about taking care of the copiers. He was explaining items to her (since she was in the copy room).
• If the copier ever displays a message like “fuser web maintenance”, then this is an indication you may have reached your 600,000 copies made and the copier needs to be cleaned.
• If the copiers start jamming, they may need to be cleaned.

❖ Panda Express Community Day registration was completed online by Gail.
  • **March 25, Saturday from 11am – 9am** at the Rochester Rd. near Auburn Rd. location
    • Show the flyer and JJH will receive 20% of sales. There is no minimum sales that need to be reached to receive the 20%. No flyers can be distributed at the restaurant.
    • From special promotions from Panda Express, we have 7 free meals at Panda Express that don’t expire until Nov. 2017 so we can decide if we want to use these for teacher appreciation week or something else.

8. **Athletic Boosters** Mr. Newcomb participated in the Thursday night meeting and informed us of the following items:
  ❖ With the Buffalo Wild Wings fundraiser that was held toward the beginning of the school year, a new dolly for holding chairs was able to be purchased.
    • The dolly is compact and a great replacement from the flat cart used previously which by the end of the basketball games ended up being a mess as the stack of chairs would slide around or sometimes fall off causing hazards.
  ❖ For Track & Field, Mr. Newcomb is the starter so he is asking for volunteer help for:
    • Selling tickets from 3:30- 4:30pm at our home games.
    • Selling water & Gatorade at our home games. Due to the travel to the high schools for our home games, he mentioned cutting back on the food and concentrate on water & Gatorade since this can be accomplished by carting around coolers. He is OK if a volunteer wants to sell from the stands too so they can see their athlete’s events.
  ❖ 7 schools participate in the Track & Field events. Each week, 6 schools are playing at the high schools and 1 school has a buy week.
    • Track & Field is run on the high school tracks since the Junior High tracks are too small to run meets. Therefore, the schedule of who plays where is subject to availability as the high school fields are also used for Lacrosse, Soccer, Etc.
      • At the 3/3/17 meeting, one parent mentioned last year they were using the high school track while the field was being used for another group’s practice (like Lacrosse or Soccer) so it is a very tight schedule for the track and the field.
    • For our 7th Graders, 1st week is a buy week (after spring break) and then they have 3 home games. There is 1 meet at Eisenhower High School (which is furthest distance away from JJH)
    • There are 3 away games and 3 home games for the 7th Graders meets.
    • There are 3 away games and 3 home games for the 8th Graders meets.
      • From the 3/3/16 meeting, 2 parents mentioned they will be at the 8th Grade meets since their children are on the track team so they can help with volunteering. One athlete is a sprinter which has been one of the first events so once that is over, the parent could give full attention to the concessions (or ticket sales).
• The “City Meet”, which is for all 8th Graders, will be held the Thursday before Memorial Day at Henry Ford High School and JJH is the host again so we will need more volunteers this day as this is a big event.
  • Glad to have it at Henry Ford since their track has 8 lanes which is great for running the meets.

❖ Mr. Newcomb (and Mr. McEvoy) asked the group that starting next year, we’d like to make a concerted effort in recognizing our athletes in some sort of end of season recognition award so asking for the Sounding Board help.
  • Award paper is expensive (like 12 for $50!) so would need card stock for next year’s awards.
    o From 3/3/17 Meeting: it was mentioned in previous years, the Media Center Clerk took it on to get the names of the Athletes but think the Sounding Board purchased card stock and the copy parents ran them off?

❖ Any questions for Mr. Newcomb?
  o One parent heard a rumor that the “SOS” – “Support our Sports” 5K was not going to take place this year. Is that true?
    ▪ No, it is not true. The SOS 5K has been scheduled for June 3rd at Dodge Park and glossy flyers of the event are now available. They are working on getting the word out to the Elementary Schools too since some have established running clubs so would be nice to see them at the event.
      • For the SOS 5K, you can run or walk it. If it is set up like last year, the round-about is closed as runners/walkers head down the street passing Stevenson High School and then turn around to come back to run/walk around Dodge Park. It is a great event for the whole family.

❖ Liaison Report (Maria)

  • The Track & Field participants will be getting last names on the back of their shirt. There will be new shirts this year. Last year the army design shirt/shorts were $15.
  • Running practice starts on March 20th and sign-ups are in progress.
    • 7th Grade girls currently at 3 but last year was bigger
    • 8th Grade girls currently at 5
  ▪ It was mentioned that Malow and Bemis have many more Track & Field members as they have more students than JJH. If JJH doesn’t have more kids in the Track & Field program, we won’t win the meets.
    • One Athlete informed their parent that it is not about winning but about personal growth.
  ▪ Track & Field is a pay to play sport ($16) to the district so what does this cover?
    • District provides basic essentials only to maintain the program like officials and equipment.
  ▪ Parent asked what about having a sponsor support our team and they could have their logo on our shirts?
    • Mr. McEvoy informed the group that UCS does not approve having logos on team shirts since basic concept is “not going to sell our kids out”.

❖ Track & Field (see above)
9. Treasurer’s Report

- **February Report** was distributed.
  - One correction was made. The Apparel & Spirit Items Spent YTD for this year’s budget should read $319.80, not $2546.85 since Summer Budget/Expense was already called out in the above rows.
  - One item was added. $83 for annual Bond renewal.
    - Katrina mentioned this is an annual expense for bonding only (not insurance) that is due in January. A postcard is usually distributed in December to the school so make sure in the future to check the Sounding Board mailbox when at school. If you don’t remember to submit, they will call you since that is how Katrina found out this item was missed.

- **AP Fundraiser**
  - Melanie explained that the AP World History teacher asked if we could help with the logistics of a fundraiser to help the over 100 students in the AP program to cover their AP Exam expense ($93). The Sounding Board would collect the money from fundraising along with the parent’s check to cover any money left to pay after the fundraising was done on 3/10. Then the Sounding Board would pay the school so we are a pass through of the money to help coordinate the fundraiser money raised.
    - Mr. McEvoy explained that a parent is keeping track of who participated in the fundraiser and then he will provide an invoice to the students of what they owe so this can be kept private.
      - Those students on free or reduced lunch also have a reduced fee for the AP Exams.
    - If someone raises more money than what they need to cover their AP Exam costs, then the extra money will be distributed equally to those who participated in the fundraiser.

10. Question and Answer / Items from the group

- A parent asked if there was going to be a parent meeting for the Washington DC trip with “World Strides” Tour Company.
  - Mr. McEvoy explained this is not a school trip as Mr. Tasich is coordinating a Washington DC trip after school is out for next year’s 8th Graders but he will inquire what his plans are.

- One parent gave Mr. McEvoy a flyer of “Art Club” from the Elementary Schools where they have 4 weeks for 1 hour after school for $25 for those that want to have some art instruction. Request was to give to Mr. Acker to see if he’d like to do this for the Junior High Students.
  - This request was coming from the students who had all electives filled based on their necessary programs but still liked Art so wondering if an Art Club option after school would be available.

- One parent asked what was the status of the “Screenagers” (that was talked about a few meetings ago) coming to UCS.
  - Mr. McEvoy has not received feedback yet from the others in the district so if we were to do anything now, it would just be for JJH.
    - Group discussed that it would be a benefit to the whole community so agreed to table the item until fall since it is getting too late in the school year to plan such a big event.
Dr. John’s Office had requested the Sounding Board meeting schedule for the rest of the year so they could determine if Dr. John’s can participate in one of them.

• Last year it was the April meeting that Dr. Johns and Ms. Egan came to but no word yet from the district on this year’s plan.

11. Close

**Next Sounding Board Meetings: March 30th & 31st** (which is still 4 weeks away from the March 2nd & 3rd meetings)

**Due to Spring Break, these will replace our April meetings.**