



## **Cabin John Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association**

**General Meeting Minutes:** 25 March, 7-8pm (In-person)

### **1. Welcome – Debra Fleischer, PTSA President**

The meeting was called to order at 7.10pm and 24 individuals were in attendance at that time.

### **2. Treasurer’s Report – Denise Schainker, Treasurer**

- Denise walked through the February financial report. We are in a healthy financial position with good cash reserves. All monthly financial reports and the annual budget can be found on [the PTSA website](#).
- Reviewing our spend to budget this year as a good data point as we begin planning for next year’s budget. Membership will vote on next year’s budget at our May 12 meeting.
- A financial review committee will be formed in the coming weeks to review PTSA finances and ensure the right checks/balances are in place. This is done annually as good practice. If you’d like to be part of the review then please reach out to Denise ([treasurer@cabinjohnptsa.org](mailto:treasurer@cabinjohnptsa.org)) - it’s a one-off commitment and you don’t need to be a finance expert!

### **3. Membership & Fundraising - Rachel Azoff, VP Membership & Fundraising**

- Our goal was to reach 450 members this year and we’ve reached 492 so we now hope to make it to 500! Encourage everyone who hasn’t been able to join yet to consider it.
- A lot has been happening with restaurant nights. The February Gregorios night raised \$700, last night’s 5 Guys night was busy so hopefully raised a lot of money. Look out for a Shake Shack night on May 20th and possibly another night at the end of April. If you have a favorite restaurant that you’d like to see, please let Rachel know!  
([vp-membership-fundraising@cabinjohnptsa.org](mailto:vp-membership-fundraising@cabinjohnptsa.org))
- Spiritwear - successful online pop-up shop before winter holidays. Working on getting a small line of staples to sell in the school store. Hoping to get the school store re-opened regularly but we need volunteers - please get in touch if you can help.
- Harlem Wizards event was a big success, [check out the videos on the PTSA website!](#)  
Huge thanks to the Cabin John teachers who came out and played brilliantly.



- We had planned to have a color run in the spring, but Churchill is having one as part of their Carnival (25 April). Instead we hope to have a color run, in conjunction with Cabin John SGA, in the Fall.

#### **4. Community Events - Heather Braswell-Ho, VP Communications & Events**

- [Multicultural Night is coming up soon](#) - May 1st, 6.30-8.30pm. We need volunteers to host tables and put on performances. PTSA will reimburse up to \$75 for each country table. [Sign up here](#) to get involved in one of our most popular events!
- One attendee suggested asking Model UN club if they'd like to host a table (they have done this at Bells Mill international night), another attendee suggested a Reflections contest table could be a good idea since next year's theme is about culture.
- Heather reminded attendees of the various communications channels PTSA runs to help everyone stay informed and connected.
  - Cougar Clips newsletter: [Stay Informed – Cabin John Middle School](#)
  - Whatsapp channel for PTSA short notifications and announcements. Please join the channel: [Join Our New PTSA WhatsApp Community for Instant Updates! – Cabin John Middle School](#)
  - PTSA Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/762399707127131?ref=embed\\_page](https://www.facebook.com/762399707127131?ref=embed_page)

#### **5. Reflections Contest - Frank Ross, Reflections Chair**

- This year's contest had the theme 'I Belong'. 22 CJMS students submitted entries across a wide range of mediums (dance, photography, visual arts, literature). From MCCPTA, 9 of those Cabin John students were selected to move on to State competition. A huge achievement and we are very proud of all who submitted entries. We will celebrate their achievement at the 14 April PTSA meeting.
- Next year we hope to encourage even more students to enter projects. This year's entries were all from 7th and 8th graders, so one goal is to get our 6th graders involved too.



## **6. School Support & PTSA Updates - Debbie Fleischer, President**

- School spring clean-up will be on April 25 (morning). Fall event was excellent, let's do it again! Look out for sign up genius after spring break – SSL hours available for students.
- Spring book fair – April 30 to May 8. Our Fall book fair sold about \$6,000 in books (an increase on last year). We had a good experience with the new vendor so will be using them again in the spring time.
- 25 April is the Churchill carnival – Cabin John PTSA will be represented as will all of the other Churchill cluster PTSA/PTAs and it includes a color run.
- Staff appreciation is the first week of May, look out for volunteer opportunities to help celebrate our wonderful Cabin John staff.
- Many volunteer opportunities are coming up – look out for the PTSA nominations call and for committee volunteers. PTSA can't do anything without volunteers, please consider getting involved.
- Our May PTSA meeting (12th) will vote on the draft PTSA budget for next year (so we can spend money come 1 July) and the nominations slate for next year's PTSA Board.

## **7. National PTA School of Excellence - Debbie Fleischer, President**

- National PTA has a School of Excellence recognition program. One of our PTSA goals this year was to open up more lines of communication between families and school, this goal aligns with the School of Excellence program.
- We ran the baseline survey in the fall. We only had 18 respondents, so one of our goals is to increase participation for the next survey in June.
- PTSA Board has looked at the data from the fall and reviewed some findings. We will launch another survey before the end of the school year.
- Cabin John's scores were very good for welcoming families and treating them as valued partners in education.
- From reviewing the data, the areas that PTSA want to focus on are:
  - The school staff help me connect with other families in the school
  - PTSA regularly encourages me to communicate with my child's teachers
  - School shares printed materials and videos that help me understand my child's report card and test results
  - School helps me know the most important things that my child should know and be able to do by the end of the school year
  - School asks me about my talents/skills and invites me to share them



- School helps me know how to advocate for my child
- Suggested activities:
  - Continue back to school picnic and principal's teas
  - Look for resources to share on understanding report cards and test scores
  - Provide tips for self-advocacy and how parents can support
  - Add virtual session for parents around course selection and planning, as well as pathways for classes
  - April PTSA meeting: get student input and engage them in decision making
- Attendees discussed and supported the above ideas. There was an additional suggestion that this year's ILT / parent panel meeting happens in June if possible and includes student voices.

#### **8. MCPS Updates - Debbie Fleischer, President**

- Debbie briefed on the upcoming decisions being made by the Board of Education regarding boundary study and [regional high school programs](#).
- Reminders shared about MCPS calendar updates:
  - April 15 is now an early release day
  - Last day of school is now June 18 (early release)

#### **9. School Updates - Ms Snider, Principal**

Principal Snider talked through the Maryland state report card and CJMS findings. She encouraged all parents to review the results in more detail. These can [be found online](#).

Overall Cabin John scored 4 out of a possible 5 stars. In 2025 there were no 5 star middle schools in MCPS. Ms Snider walked the group through some of the detailed findings and explained some of the methodology used by the State. She emphasized the importance of MCAP testing in determining academic performance and reminded the group of upcoming testing dates (May).

**Next PTSA meeting:** April 14th, 7-8pm (in person). Focus on student engagement, there will be SSL opportunities for students - look out for details!

**Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8.13pm.