**AJW PTA Board Meeting January 10, 2025**

Meeting changed to email updates only since inclement weather caused an eLearning day.

**Minutes from December meeting:** The December meeting minutes have not yet been approved. They will be reviewed at the next in-person meeting, scheduled for February 7.

**Principal’s Report: Cameron Brice**

* January Birthday Club is scheduled for Friday, January 31
* Car-line traffic flow updates:
  + The timing of the traffic lights at S. Hudson St / N. Markley St and at N. Markley St / S. Academy St have been changed in an effort to improve the flow of traffic exiting the car-line at drop-off and pick-up. Some improvement is noticeable. Will continue to monitor. Mr. Brice obtained help from GCS and the City engineering team.

**Treasurer Report: Shannon Ellis**

* Financial Report to be provided separately.

**President’s Report: Bonnie Barr**

*Bingo Night:*

* Bingo Night is scheduled for Monday, January 27 in the cafeteria. Doors will open at 5:30pm. Bingo will start at 6:00pm.
* This event will serve as a General Membership Meeting.
* Board Members should make every effort to attend. Arrive by 5:15pm to help with sign-ins and passing out Bingo materials.
* Food: Jonathan is working on securing a food truck to provide a dinner option to attendees.
* Bingo Prizes: Please let Bonnie know if you can help gather prizes for the winners. Bonnie will be at the school on January 16th and some time the week of January 20th to put everything together.
* Guest Callers: Please let Bonnie know if you are willing to ask teachers / staff to be guest callers. This worked well last year. We should plan to have 9 guest callers and ask each to share an interesting fact or story about themselves ahead of time so we can share that as we “introduce” them during the event.
* Agenda: Look for more info about the meeting agenda. Please let Bonnie know if there is anything you need to cover with the General Membership during the meeting.

*Nominating Committee & Nominating Process:*

* Currently, the proposed Nominating Committee members are Mr. Criss, Mrs. Wilson, Jessica Blake, and Drew Hincapie. **We need one more parent committee member. Please let Bonnie know if you can fill this role, or if you have any suggestions**.
* Important Dates:
  + The proposed Committee needs to be voted on and approved by the General Membership at Bingo Night.
  + The current Board needs to vote on the proposed Board for next year in March.
  + The General Membership must vote to approve the new Board in April.
  + The General Membership vote will likely be electronic and combined with a vote on the proposed budget for next year.

*2025-2026 Budget:*

* Work will begin shortly on developing a budget for next year.
* Send recommended budget adjustments, or any topics for consideration, to Bonnie & Shannon ASAP.
* PTA Membership Dues will need to be increased. They are currently $5 per person. This covers the cost of National, State, and Local PTA Dues that we are required to pay. National Dues are increasing by $1.00 next school year. We will need to increase our PTA Membership Dues to cover this increase.
* The Board will vote on the proposed budget at the March 7 Board Meeting.
* The General Membership needs to approve the budget by the end of the school year. The plan is to combine the budget vote with the vote on the new Board Members for next year. Therefore, an electronic vote will be needed in April.
* NOTE: We will be able to quickly revisit the proposed budget after Robot Ruckus. If changes are needed, we will re-do the Board vote electronically.

*Misc:*

* *Duke Energy*is offering energy efficiency assemblies and home energy efficiency kits to AJW. Mr. Criss has requested that the PTA help raise awareness of families about the benefits these kits provide. Families will be able to request a kit that is specifically designed to help reduce energy consumption and lower utility bills. These kits will be FREE to families.
  + We can raise awareness of this opportunity during Bingo Night.
  + We should communicate this opportunity via social media and, perhaps, using an A-Frame in the car-line.
* *Literacy Night* is a new idea that Mr. Criss discussed with Bonnie earlier this school year. In a previous meeting, it was discussed that the PTA could help with this event and that it could potentially serve as our third General Membership Meeting. This event will not happen this school year. But Mr. Criss and others are working to determine if it is something that can be introduced next school year.
* *Playground reques*t: A teacher asked Bonnie if the PTA could paint a 4-Square area on the basketball court. Mr. Brice has approved this. **Please reach out to Bonnie if you can help make this happen!**
* *Book Fair*: A school sponsored book fair is scheduled for March 24-28!
* *Next Board Meeting:* The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 7th. Mark your calendars.

**Fundraising Report: Jessica Blake**

*Boosterthon:*

* Jessica worked with Mr. Brice and the Boosterthon team to get everything set for another successful year raising money for AJW.
* Boosterthon kicked off on Thursday, January 9th
* The Fun Run is scheduled for Friday, January 17th. The Kroc Center field is under construction. We will host the run on the field by the car-line.
* As of Monday, January 14th, we had raised $4,585 out of our $15,000 goal, 31% of students had registered, and the top 3 classes were in K5, 1st, and 2nd grade.

*Sponsorship:*

* The Corporate Sponsorship Campaign is live!
* Spread the word. You can share the sponsorship form with friends, family or business, or distribute fliers. (Link [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeY4IcpKSy2KuOELY2kdsp9_PqEQ6aqD7vMVJjQLgtoX-LajQ/viewform))
* Reach out to Jessica with any questions.

**Communications Report: Kathryn Knott**

* January communications to include Boosterthon, Swap Shop, Bingo Night, February 6th Class Pictures, Robot Ruckus and Duke Energy Home Efficiency Kits

**Outreach Report: Sherlen Crawford**

* *Reading Initiative:* 
  + The reading initiative is moving forward positively
  + Sessions are expected to be held Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings starting at 7:30AM.
  + Volunteers are still needed! The more volunteers we have, the lighter the load for everyone, allowing us to create a more flexible schedule where each person can contribute just once for about thirty minutes.
  + A couple of PTA board members have signed up - thank you!
  + If you’re able to lend a hand, even just a small one, it would mean so much to our readers here at AJ Whittenberg. Please feel free to bring a friend along!
  + I’m also working on securing some sponsorships for the reading program, which would help us provide snacks and other fun activities for the kids.
  + If you’re interested, please sign up [here](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1XJ06PJN8EAOgqgh2zJvmtRNTTeK1M_diiWvt0anDxHE/viewform) and let me know what times work for you.

**Hospitality Report: Allie Kramer**

* Allie Kramer and the Hospitality Team put together a festive spread of bagels, fruit, treats, and coffee for our teachers, admin, and staff just before Winter Break. It was a great way to show our AJW team some love, and it was greatly appreciated!

**Volunteer Report: Kat Bougie**

* The January Birthday Club volunteer sign-up has been created.

**Swap Shop: Sarah Dowsley**

* The January Swap Shop date has been moved to Friday, January 24th due to Boosterthon. It will open at 7:15AM.
* Will plan to have a swap shop booth during Bingo Night and have people get a Free Space token if they bring an item to donate to the swap shop.
* Creating an email address for the swap shop and developing a mailing list for people who want to know when it will be open.

**Spirit Wear: Drew Hincapie**

* Fall Spirit Wear is almost done.
* Graphic Cow sent over a third and final invoice, but nobody has let me know that the last few jackets are ready for pickup so I am waiting on a response from them as of January 9th.
* Working on setting up a store in Givebacks, but it looks like we need to have an admin account in order to do this. Do we already have one? If not, work with Givebacks to get that set up.
* Evaluate whether we want to continue selling Spiritwear given the very low number of orders we’ve had the last 2 rounds.
* From a cost perspective the polos really don’t make sense for a lot of people because an embroidered polo costs around $22 and you can get a plain one on sale at Old Navy or Target for less than $10.
* For the future, it makes the most sense to offer just the jackets at the beginning of the school year and maybe a t-shirt, and that’s it as far as clothing.
* We can look at other AJ merchandise, but the smaller cheap stuff all has minimums and so that’s something that PTA would have to pay for up front for the inventory and then somebody could just fulfill the orders once per week or so. We’d just have to make sure the Givebacks platform can track inventory.

**Spirit Nights: Kendle Sloan**

* Kendle is working with the Greenville Swamp Rabbits to potentially host an AJW Spirit Night at the hockey game scheduled for February 17th,. Pencil this date in your calendars.

**Robot Ruckus: Allie Munafo**

* The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 21 at 8AM**
* If you are at all available to come to this meeting it would be greatly appreciated.
* Our current biggest concerns are volunteers and volunteer coordination. We expect to need 100+ volunteers, and based on feedback from last year feel we probably need more guidance/oversight with the volunteers day-of.
* A request to all the teachers at AJW was sent by Mr. Brice so that each grade can donate a basket to the silent auction. **If you have any leads on potential donors/donations for the silent auction, please let me know!**

Respectfully Submitted, Jeannine Cox