

Johnstown Elementary PTA (JEPTA)
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2026
Location: Knox
Time: 3:15 PM

I. Attendees

Jamie Sedal-Ammann, Katie Warner, Ashley Valik, Amanda Bunker, Burton Rulison, Natasha Allan, Bridget Rocco, Katelyn Cross, Jen Friers, Elise Rush, Julia Barringer, Cory Cotter, Nicole Panton, Jessica Hayner

II. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **3:20 PM** by the President.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Secretary's Report

- November meeting minutes have been posted.
 - There were no minutes for December, as no meeting was held.
 - January meeting minutes will be posted following this meeting.
-

V. Treasurer's Report

- Report provided (see attached).
[Treasurer's Report](#)
 - **Motion to approve:** Cory Cotter
 - **Second:** Katelyn Cross
 - Motion carried
-

VI. Principal's Report

- Report provided (see attached).
[Principals Report](#)

VII. Fundraising and Events Update

C&H Fundraiser

- A local business offering a "Penguin Patch"-style children's shopping store.
- Items appear to be higher quality with more reasonable pricing.
- The C & H company could potentially be used multiple times throughout the year.

Future Fundraising Ideas

- Coffee sale (Utica Roasting)
- Scentsy fundraiser (Burton Rulison is a consultant)

Penguin Patch Recap

- Received two \$50 Walmart gift cards as a thank-you.
- Challenges included supply shortages due to shipping issues and logistical difficulties for teachers.
- It was difficult for students to shop alone, particularly for younger students at Pleasant Avenue. Required a lot of adult attention and time.
- A **huge thank you** to Bridget Rocco for her help with this event.

VIII. Other Reports / Announcements

Thank You Notes Sent To:

- Mike Allen & Driscoll Foods (excess frosting was donated after use)
 - Emilia Ruth Photography (gift card; this was the start of a strong community partnership and positive promotion for her business)
 - Mrs. Whitman (cookies; gift card)
 - LEAPS staff and coordinator
-

IX. Public Library Basket

- Coordinator: Katie Warner
 - A budget line exists; specific donations may also be requested according to theme.
 - Possible theme: filling a child's wagon with spring toys and books.
 - Baskets are accepted through **March 26, 2026**.
 - Drawing will be held on **March 30, 2026**
-

X. JEPTA Structure and Knox Middle School Discussion

- Discussion regarding dissolving Knox Middle School from JEPTA.
- Knox currently receives:
 - \$1,350 annually for t-shirts
 - \$2,700 annually for yearbooks
 - \$350 annually for roses
- JEPTA is currently operating at a deficit.
- Knox has lower membership and volunteer participation compared to other schools.
- Bylaws state that JEPTA should benefit all students equitably. Currently, Knox is receiving approximately \$14,000 for JEPTA and the other two schools averaging around \$8,000

Discussion Points:

- Many JEPTA events are geared toward younger students.
- Consider removing or adjusting one large expense item this year to improve fairness.
- Mrs. Panton will consult with Knox teachers to identify potential reductions while still supporting students.

Additional Comments:

- Elise Rush requested a projected budget versus actual budget for the next meeting.

- Jamie suggested cutting the t-shirt budget line (not necessarily the funding) and identifying alternative funding sources.

Motions:

- Motion to table the discussion until the next meeting to allow for budget review and internal Knox discussion:
 - **Motion:** Cory Cotter
- Motion to look into the dissolution of Knox from JEPTA:
 - **Motion:** Katelyn Cross
 - **Second:** Ashley Valik

Lack of parent participation and volunteerism was noted as a significant concern across all buildings.

XI. Upcoming Events

Winter Carnival (Community Event)

- **January 31, 2026 | 12:00–3:00 PM**
- Organized by the Johnstown Tourism Board
- JEPTA will host a popcorn stand inside a tent.
- Two raffle baskets will be created using apparel sale items and donated goods.
- Jamie will coordinate the baskets.
- Discussion included popcorn machine selection, supplies, and leadership for the sale.
- Suggestion made to accept donations rather than charging a set price.

Spring BOGO Book Fair

- Pleasant Avenue: **April 28, 2026**, coinciding with the Art Show
- Warren Street has declined participation; JEPTA would like to advocate for inclusion due to the literacy benefits for the students
- Not primarily a fundraiser, but beneficial and fun for students.
- Suggestion: Stronger encouragement to promote eWallet for easier checkout.

Car Wash Fundraiser

- Month to be determined
- Minimal JEPTA labor required
- Supports a local business
- Potential partnership with 7 Brew discussed.

Spring Chocolate Fundraiser

- March delivery for Easter
- Gertrude Hawk booklet.

BINGO Night

- Chair: Jen Friers
- Burton Rulison volunteered to assist
- Proposal to split into two nights:
 - Knox: February 6, 2026
 - Elementary Schools: February 26, 2026 (tentative)

High Rollers Event

- Chair and date to be determined
- Discussion tabled until next meeting
- Jamie will inquire about available dates
- Consideration of pros and cons of combining Knox and elementary schools.

XII. Future Meeting Date

**February 11, 2026
3:00 PM
Pleasant Avenue**

XIII. Additional Comments

- A Purple and Gold Spirit Day was added for **January 16, 2026**, to showcase new apparel.
 - Next meeting topics include “Animal Land” and Dodgeball.
-

XIV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **4:25 PM**.

Respectfully submitted by:
Katie Warner