

**Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Meeting Minutes**  
**November 19, 2019 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM EST**  
**Location – J.P. Ryon Elementary (Media Center)**

**Meeting Minutes**

<p>6:30 pm to 6:35 pm (Stephanie Rosa)</p>	<p><b>Sign In</b> – Stephanie Rosa, PTO President, conducted introductions and disclosed to all parties that the PTO meeting is being video recorded and posted to the J.P. Ryon Facebook page.</p>
<p>6:35 pm to 6:50 pm (Ms. Downs)</p>	<p><b>Productive Struggle Presentation</b> – Third grade teacher Ms. Downs presented on the topic of productive struggle. The premise of the presentation was based on a study done with J.P. Ryon students in relation to the educational “struggling” in mathematics. Teachers and staff wanted to understand what it means for a child to struggle and how to assist.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. What does it mean when a child struggles?</b> All children struggle. Struggle means, “something that doesn’t come naturally”. With mathematics, it was explained by Ms. Downs that some children, don’t get it. In some avenues, to avoid the struggle teachers, parents and other students tend to give the answer to a “struggling” student versus providing helpful tips for the child to provide an independent solution.</li> <li><b>2. Should children struggle?</b> According to the article yes, children and adults need to struggle; it’s a positive part of brain development. Affording people, the ability to struggle puts forth a sign of discovery and curiosity. Henceforth, strategically placing them in a position to want to discover or find the mechanics behind an answer creates perseverance and resilience.</li> </ol> <p>Dr. Johnson spoke on how the administration is instilling perseverance and resiliency as core values within J.P. Ryon students. With Honor, Integrity, Grit and Hope (H.I.G.H) it teaches children how their efforts aren’t unnoticed. The schools mission is to teach children that you must continue to try if you don’t get it on the first time and it is ok. Parents also need to plan for the struggle. All children are not going to pick up on a new curriculum easily. Parents must perceive the “struggle” differently and provide helping mechanisms instead of answers.</p>
<p>6:50 pm to 7:05 pm (Ms. Marzolf)</p>	<p><b>Personal Safety</b> - J.P. Ryon Guidance Counselor Ms. Marzolf spoke on personal safety at school. Charles County Public School utilize a teaching mechanism called 2<sup>nd</sup> Step. 2<sup>nd</sup> Step is a program that outlines child protection mechanisms between children and adults. Lessons for 2<sup>nd</sup> Step start at First grade. Grades below First are trained on emotions, through a books series entitled, Lonely. For grades 1<sup>st</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup>, the teaching curriculum is provided by the Counseling Department Management. Lessons are phased in monthly. Below will break out the curriculum for primary and secondary elementary.</p>



	<p>1. Grades 1<sup>st</sup> thru 3<sup>rd</sup> – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Step content for primary elementary focuses on child protection. During this regimen of content, the different types of “touch” are discussed, safe touch and unsafe touch.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Safe Touch help you feel cared for and loved</li> <li>b. Unsafe Touch – Hurt your body       <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Bullying can fall into the “unsafe touch” category if a child is being harmed through the severity of the bullying. Through 2<sup>nd</sup> Step there are 3Rs to Bullying, “Recognize, Reporting, Refuse It”.</li> <li>ii. Anti-Bullying Reinforcement Skills – If a child is being bullied, children should reinforce the skills learned through the 3Rs of Bullying. These steps are reinforced through role-play with the Guidance Counselor.           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If possible, talk through the situation. Sometimes incidents escalate due to misunderstandings. In talking through certain situations, it provides clarity.</li> <li>2. Make up scenarios – to assist children real-life scenarios are used through role play. Children learn through repetition, if a child is comfortable dealing with a situation, they become more assertive and confident. This is a step that could be used to shy away bullies.</li> <li>3. Create a Plan – children can create plans to assist in the “what if” situations of bullying or an issue of child protection.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p>More information on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Step program can be found at, <a href="http://www.secondstep.org/childprotection">www.secondstep.org/childprotection</a>. Hyperlink to 2<sup>nd</sup> Step will be added to the CCBOE – J.P. Ryon website.</p>
<p>7:05 pm to 7:30 pm (Stephanie Rosa)</p>	<p>Upcoming Events and Tasks – The PTO has several planned events between the months of November and December that require voting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. October Meeting Minutes – ACCEPTED, VOTED YES</li> <li>2. January IHOP Spirit Night – VOTED YES</li> <li>3. Clothing Closet (remaining donations) – Remaining clothing donations are given to Lifestyles: VOTED YES</li> <li>4. Holiday Craft Night (Budget) – \$200 budget for holiday crafts, concessions, boxes and gift wrap: VOTED YES</li> <li>5. <b><u>NEXT J.P. RYON PTO meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2019.</u></b></li> </ol>
<p>7:30 pm (Stephanie Rosa)</p>	<p><b>Meeting Adjourned</b></p>