

JGEMS Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 4:00 P.M. * JGEMS via Zoom

Attending: Mike Weddle, Madhu Messenger, Andrea Price, Kathleen Huun, Doug Gunter, Ruth Ames

Call To Order – 4:01 PM Mike Weddle presiding

I. Approval of Minutes - Minutes from April 2025 approved. Motion to approve by Kathleen, second by Madhu.

II. Communications from the Floor – None

III. Finance Report - George Carter (Merrill Lynch) on to speak with board. He indicated we have had a recent rebound due to a pause in the tariffs. He believes we should become more conservative with our equity allocations. Possibly decrease by 35% to further minimize volatility. International markets have improved so possibly increase allocations in this sector. He also noted the performance for gold is up and JGEMS should consider some exposure there. In reflection, our previous correction has helped, we are down only about 3% as compared to the S&P down 5% and the NASDAQ down 8%. There was a motion to get even more conservative based on the recommendations of George Carter. Kathleen initiated the motion, Madhu seconded the motion. All were in favor. For the actual finance report see the finance document.

IV. Executive Directors Report –

1. State testing is being done. For ELA all grades ran about 25% higher than the district and state scores. Notable is the high scores of the year's 6th graders. Science testing is coming up.
2. Endangered species projects are this Friday. Field base research is done.
3. Multiple field trips coming up as the school year nears its end.
4. The Salem/Keizer School Board approved our charter for another 5 years. The School Board meets tonight and the contract only needs a final signature from the Board Director Cynthia Richardson.

V. Staff Report –

1. Endangered species project has had great collaboration with the Oregon Zoo. Christi has done a wonderful job working with the zoo staff. Students returned on May 6th to present their final projects.
2. Students have signs up at various parks about the Native American First Foods project - Woodmansee and Englewood in Salem and David Sawyer Park in Turner.

VI. Items for Discussion -

1. Jane Goodall visit went amazingly well. Everyone felt very fortunate to see her. Mike traveled with Jane for a visit to Lincoln HS in Portland on the next day. Her energy is remarkable. The feedback from her people was that our events were very well planned and they were happy to be here. Mike discussed the funding for the event and all of the tedious and time-consuming background work (much of this was done by SAGE). Additional funding had also been obtained from other sources as the ICL funding only came in as \$5,000. Ticket sales were around \$40,000. Overall expenses are around \$16,000.
2. Mike motioned that the pledged \$25,000 and the JGEMS half of the ticket sales will go to Jane Goodall Institute. This was seconded by Kathleen. All were in favor.
3. Thank you's to the amazing Doug Gunter who will be departing JGEMS to serve as assistant principal at Sunridge Middle School in Pendleton.
4. The process to fill his position has started and the posting is open.
5. Ruth Ames will be the Executive Director next academic year.

VII. Items for Next Meeting (September 9, 2025 at 4PM)

1. Discussion: Decide on meeting schedule for the academic year
2. Action:

Meeting adjourned 5:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Huun