

# Jana PTA Advocacy Tool Kit

More to come here... Please check back soon. - Jana PTA

## Step 1: Be informed

- **Join a Forum Prep Meeting** - PTA will host meetings for Jana PTA members to help communicate important updates and information for the Community Forum **Meeting 10/27 @ 6:30 pm, Hazelwood Central, Library**
  - Please try to attend at least one meeting, each 30 mins long
  - Zoom, links to follow
- **Read the latest Jana PTA update**
  - [Jana PTA Letter \(October 2022\)](#)
- Read reports and documents on the radioactive material found at Jana
  - Report (October 2022)
  - ["Summary Notes"](#) by A. Bernaugh (see tab on spreadsheet) for the Army Corps of Engineers Sampling Data (2022)
  - Army Corps of Engineers [Sampling Data](#) spreadsheet (2022) - data color coded by A. Bernaugh
- Review the [map of Army Corps of Engineers current samples](#) and boundaries for remedial action
- Review [Jana PTA References and Resources](#) section of the update letter (October 2022) ([p. 3-4](#))

## Step 2: How to help

- **Communicate the problem** (with everyone)
  - Explain the concerns and the needs of the Jana Community to friends and family.
  - Share the Jana PTA's letter and story with your friends, family, and communities
  - Share other organizations working on the problems of radioactive waste in St. Louis / Missouri with your friends, family, and communities
  - Share, follow, and support the social media of organizations tackling radioactive/hazardous waste
- **Write or call elected officials and agencies who can help solve the problem at Jana** (See sample scripts below)
  - copy Jana PTA (if you would like) on emails for extra impact, [janatigerspta@gmail.com](mailto:janatigerspta@gmail.com)
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- **Show up, in person or online**
  - Attend a meeting with Educators
  - **Community Forum Meeting 10/27 @ 6:30 pm, Hazelwood Central, Library**
  - Attend public meetings for regulator agencies
    - Army Corps of Engineers meetings
    - EPA Community meetings
- **Ask questions and get answers**
  - If you have questions about the contamination at Jana Elementary you can email the Jana PTA at [janatigerspta@gmail.com](mailto:janatigerspta@gmail.com)
  - Contact Hazelwood School District, ask about the districts proposed next steps
  - Contact the Army Corps of Engineers or the EPA, ask when Jana Elementary will receive a thorough cleanup of the school building and property

### **Step 3: Define Your Area of Impact and begin**

#### **Contact Public Officials**

- **Education Officials - Hazelwood School District**

Sample email or script

"As a Jana Elementary (parent, caregiver, staff member, grandparent, friend, community member), I am asking for your urgent support.

**Our children need the support of their regular classrooms and community. Our emergency situation requires better solutions than to divide our school community between three or more schools. HSD is obligated to act in the best interest of the children and not in any other interests the district may have identified. We are asking the board to uphold their commitment made in August to the Jana community and find us a facility (like Hazelwood Opportunity Center) to accommodate our entire school community to remain together and not disrupted further.**

Ask a question and demand an answer of the HSD Admin and Board of Education,

1. When did the HSD Administration become aware of radioactive contamination on school/schools' property?

2. What was the district's first action when you were alerted of radioactive contamination on school property?
3. Why has the Hazelwood School District not allowed the private donor to pay for the immediate cleanup of Jana Elementary?
4. What is the planned use for Jana Elementary School now that it has closed and students are set to be moved?
5. Will the school district allow for parents to select a preferred school for the students? Why or why not?
6. Will HSD allow students to remain virtual with their existing class setup with classmates and teachers if parents would prefer? Why or why not?
7. Considering the board's articulated overcrowded classes in HSD classrooms, how will HSD honor the appropriate DESE standards?
8. Who does HSD receive advice from related to the closure of Jana Elementary and the movement of students?
9. Considering many students are new to Jana, how would moving students to other school classes be in the best interests of children?
10. What obligations does the District have to meet the needs/requests of long-time employees?
11. Why have parents not been allowed to be a planning partner in creating solutions with the District?
12. Why did the HSD allow for testing of Jana Elementary and what did you hope to achieve in the closed door session?
13. Who has the district selected to provide additional sampling on properties in HSD in addition to Jana?
14. How does the district plan to address the trauma of a radioactive school on your watch for a community?
15. How does the district plan to address the trauma compounded by moving students to new schools with new classes, classmates, and dramatically different cultures (ie. school uniforms)?
16. How did the school district evaluate community and parents feedback on the next steps after the Jana's school closure and what grade would you give yourselves?

17. How many letters have the school received regarding keeping Jana together as a learning community?

18. How many letters has the school received that request their child be placed at another school?

19. If the district's vision is to foster cultural-awareness and critical thinking, what is the District doing to model this behavior when finding solutions for the Jana community and what grade would you give yourself?

20. Please explain to parents and district stakeholders why we should vote in favor of the bond issue, Prop H, if HSD has not been a good steward for properties like Jana and allowed known radioactive contamination to stand since the notices in 2016, 2018, and 2022?

21. What does HSD plan to do to test the school items of the students, with possible contamination brought back into the homes of students and staff?

22. What will HSD do to facilitate testing or health monitoring for exposed students, staff, and parents?

23. How does HSD plan to account for the existing overcrowded classrooms in schools with the influx of Jana students?

24. How will high student achievement be achieved with an unnecessary transition that will separate students from familiar networks and peer groups, considering the research on the negative effects of student mobility?

25. Considering the ongoing trauma of the radioactive contamination exposure for students, staff, and their families, how will mental health be supported in addition to closing the COVID learning gaps?

26. Why does HSD's plan of action feel like fighting a dictatorship rather than a culture of collaboration with parents and teachers?

27. Given the District is not fully staffed right now, what will be done to increase retention and better relationship with existing teachers wronged by the district and placed in harm's way?

- **Regulatory Agencies - Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

Sample Email or Script:

"As a Jana Elementary (parent, caregiver, staff member, grandparent, friend, community member), I am asking for your urgent support.

**Reports have identified high levels of radioactive lead 210 (pb 210) and Thorium 230 (Th230) inside the school building and outside on the playgrounds.**

Jana Elementary School must be remediated **IMMEDIATELY**. There are long-term **health implications** from long-term exposure to radioactive contamination, identified in 2019 by health officials analyzing the rate of illness in North St. Louis County. The **health and safety** of Jana children and dedicated staff are at stake. **As a Jana stakeholder, I am requesting an immediate and complete cleanup of our school and school grounds by the Department of Energy\*."**

*\* The Department of Energy is responsible for both the cleanup of the radioactive waste and the decades-long contamination of Coldwater Creek and nearby North St. Louis communities.."*