

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE CAVALIERS

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL PTSA MEETING MINUTES September 21, 2021 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

AGENDA

6:00 - 6:05 pm	Welcome	Kristen Walker Painemilla
6:05 - 6:20 pm	Principal's Report	Dr. Joe Rubens
6:20 - 6:35 pm	Supporting Our Students' Mental Health and Well Being	Ms. Donniel Gamble, Counselor Resource
6:40 – 7:15 pm	PTSA Report	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Approval of May Minutes● Membership Report● Treasurer's Report● Parent Focal Points● MCCPTA	Kirsten Murray Kirsten Murray Kristen Walker Painemilla Kristen Walker Painemilla B. Benesch & M. Morrow
7:15-7:30 pm	Any Other Business	All
7:30 pm	Adjourn	

The meeting was brought to order by Kristen Walker Painemilla at 6:05 pm.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT by Dr. Joe Rubens

Dr. Rubens began by introducing Sam Levine as our Principal Intern, taking over JFK for 6 weeks in January 2022.

Complete:

Successful reopening of in-person school; the staff had significant concentration on getting new students acclimated to the building.

Implemented a new Advisory Period (CAVS Time) used to execute social emotional learning, grade level specific college & careers readiness activities, and to support MYP and IB learning. JFK was recognized during 9/9 BOE meeting for this effort.

New student orientation day: to make sure the students are focused on graduation day.

In Progress:

Reminders & monitoring about masks.

Opening JFK courtyards during lunch, but the spaces are very limited due to construction. Reminded us that JFK is not an open-lunch school. Lunch is being provided by MCPS for free. Parents will be able to put money on student lunch accounts in order to “enhance” the food & drink options that are available (for fee). School store is open during lunch.

9/9 Virtual Back to School Night.

In November, we will have virtual parent-teacher conferences.

Please do not follow “devious licks” on TikTok. Please make JFK a clean learning environment for all. A parent provided a link in the chat to a Washington Post article on the topic: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2021/09/21/devious-licks-parenting-advice/>.

Scheduled:

9/22 at 6pm: Virtual College Financial Aid Night in English and Spanish.

Virtual and in-person college visits have begun. Check “Family Connections” for full schedule.

9/21 Fall Nonathletic ECAs began.

9/22 at 6pm: MCPS and FranklinCovey Education will host “[Leader in Me” Curriculum Meeting for families](#). Being used during CAVS time. This meeting provides an overview. Will ask students and parents to take a survey next week.

MD State Dept of Education fall student assessment testing started this week.

9/28: KCTV Fundraiser Ledo’s Pizza in Colesville.

Homecoming Spirit Week begins 10/11.

10/13: PSAT and SAT School Day.

10/14: Hallway Decoration Night.

10/16: Homecoming Parade 11am. Football game is at 1pm vs. Watkins Mill. Dance will be outside 7-10pm, for all MCPS grade 9-12 students.

SGA School Spirit Week this week to keep up morale.

Construction/Equipment:

Construction began spring/summer 2021.

Technical upgrades included upgrading the Promethean boards in select rooms with Boxlight touch panel technology.

Zolfa Valiani-Merchant asked if PCR pool testing is focusing on elementary schools. Consent form that was sent out is for a health tech to give test if possible symptoms.

Bryan Benesch asked about MAP testing at same time as Senior Meeting. Dr. Rubens confirmed Seniors are only taking MAP-R on 9/22, not need to take MAP-M.

There are no SROs this year (changed name to Community Resource Officer). So far Dr. Rubens hasn't seen any impact; JFK is still maintaining a relationship with previous SRO Palmer (but not housed in JFK). Dr. Rubens got a preview of the MOA last week.

Ricky Ribeiro asked if everybody will take MAP tests from previous year? Ms. Lewis reiterated MCAP 8th Grade English & Math will be taken by 9th Graders.

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS' MENTAL HEALTH & WELL BEING by Donniel Gamble

JFK did Cavalier Check-ins at beginning of school year. Most (32%) said they were in a "good place" with being back in the building. Students stated their goals include: Making new friends; getting involved in ECA; participating in Lunch & Learn activities (getting assistance from teachers); making Honor Roll; graduating.

Went over Student Well-Being Team responsibilities.

What does Outreach & Problem-Solving Look Like.

Plans for this year to continue the student support.

REVIEW PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES by Kirsten Murray

Motion was made to approve May Meeting Minutes by Bryan Benesch, Fred Azcarate seconded.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Kirsten Murray

68 have paid their PTSA membership (10 staff, 9 students, 46 parents/guardians, 2 grandparents, 1 community member); that's 3 more than what we ended the last school year with! 30 joined during the Membership Drive (8/30 – 9/12).

New website: <https://kennedyhsptsa.new.memberhub.store>

Pay your PTSA membership: <https://kennedyhsptsa.new.memberhub.store/store>

Join Kennedy HS PTSA MemberHub: <https://kennedyhsptsa.memberhub.com/join/3gcp4z>

TREASURER'S REPORT by Kristen Walker Painemilla

As of 9/17, \$2,305.22 Balance. \$190.50 raised during Chipotle fundraiser last week.

Proposed budget for this school year \$6,026; need to raise significant funds for Post-Prom, which runs from midnight – 5am and 200-300 students participate. Bryan Benesch moved to approve the budget, Mayuris Pimentel seconded.

Kristen Walker Painemilla started a discussion about the PTSA, what it can do for you and your family, and what you can do for the PTSA.

Ms. Lewis suggested to encourage your children to get involved & take a risk.

Post-prom requires a lot of parent involvement from the PTSA.

Students can get SSL hours while working in concessions during a sporting event; can even have an entire group selling concessions.

LTI is looking for time for student presentations during October or November PTSA meeting.

Ricky Ribeiro can help with PR, marketing, social media.

Zolfa Valiani-Merchant may take on Special Ed Liaison.

Fred Azcarate can offer informal support & insight; he is already Takoma Park MS PTSA President & Blair Cluster Coordinator; has a Freshman at JFK.

Mayuris Pimentel: lives close to JFK, bi-lingual; not able to lead anything but can definitely assist in other ways.

MCCPTA REPORT by Bryan Benesch

MCCPTA has been very vocal about COVID testing & quarantine policy, which may have led to the recent changes that were announced.

He mentioned his son said there was a grading issue with Canvas & Synergy (displaying 50% on assignments).

He asked about MCAP waivers. Ms. Lewis said if your child takes MCAP this fall, all they have to do is sit for the test; they need to show up (this fall). If they don't take it this fall, they will have to actually pass it this spring instead. We are giving over 5000 tests over the next few months. Dr. Rubens will put out additional information about testing later this week. Basically, it is to satisfy state requirements.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

Bryan Benesch moved to close the meeting, Kirsten Murray seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

28 ATTENDEES:

Aspen Bloomer

Bill Hoffman & Lynn Hoffman
Bryan Benesch & Nancy Goldberg
Donniel Gamble, JFK Counselor Resource
Elizabeth Obenefunde
Fred Azcarate
Jennifer Granados, JFK Academy Coordinator & NHS Sponsor
Dr. Joe Rubens, JFK Principal
Joe Jenkins
Keir Lewis, JFK Assistant Principal
Kirsten Murray
Kristen Walker Painemilla
Kyla Poole
Margot Khoo
Maria
Mayuris Pimentel
Meg Morrow
Nathan Dias
P Foster
Ricky Ribeiro
Sam Levine, JFK Principal-Intern
Shadia Slade
Takia Manley
Tanya Jenkins
Zolfa Valiani-Merchant
iPhone