

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE CAVALIERS

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL PTSA MEETING MINUTES February 15, 2022 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

AGENDA

6:00 - 6:10 pm	Welcome	Kristen Walker Painemilla
6:10 - 6:20 pm	Principal Report	Dr. Joe Rubens
6:20 - 6:35 pm	Kennedy Club Spotlight: Student Internships	Open
6:35 - 7:00 pm	Discussion Upcoming Events: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Hall of Fame● Post Prom● Staff Appreciation	All
7:00 - 7:15 pm	PTSA Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Approval of Previous Minutes● Treasurer Report● Membership Report● MCCPTA Report	PTSA Officers & Others
7:15 - 7:20 pm	Winter Fundraiser Update	Discussion
7:20 - 7:30 pm	Any Other Business	

The meeting was brought to order by Kristen Walker Painemilla at 6:04 pm.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT by Dr. Joe Rubens

George B Thomas Learning Academy is still offering tutoring virtually on Saturdays until May 2022. JFK will be an on-site location for the academy next school year.

College/university visits are taking place now. More info on College and Career Center [website](#).

2/18: MCPS Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Virtual Fair 6-8:30pm for grades 8-12.

2/18-2/19: This weekend is our Hall of Fame Weekend, honoring the inductees during Friday basketball game; the ceremony will be virtual on Saturday.

2/21: No School for Presidents Day.

2/22: On A Roll and Honor Roll Celebrations.

2/24: Healthcare Professions CNA students host a blood drive in partnership with the Red Cross.

2/25: MCPS Dance Showcase at Northwood High School at 7pm.

3/11 and 3/24: Early Release Days.

3/31: Last day of 3rd Marking Period.

5/27: Senior Prom and last day of school for Seniors. Original site in DC is not going to work out due to COVID vaccination requirements. Dr. Rubens hopes to have a MD venue secured in the next week.

6/14: Graduation at 10am at DAR Constitution Hall but may have to move it back to MD because DC is requiring vaccination cards for everyone.

Congratulations to Senior Amelia House (swim & dive) and Freshman Thomas White (JV wrestling) recognized for sports accomplishments last weekend.

JFK's Teacher Academy of Maryland students were highlighted during the Feb 8 Board of Education meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=HLB40Yrjb7I>

Construction/Equipment:

Temporary changes are coming to JFK parking lot. The garage build begins in April 2022 and will shift temporary student parking to inner portion of track, including installation of a temporary ramp and gravel. Fencing will go up around tennis courts.

Building expansion expected completion date is Summer 2022.

Turf field expected completion date is March 2022. New scoreboard will be installed this summer.

Needs:

Door prize donations for school events and the PBIS program (Positive Behavior Interventions); college/university T-shirt donations can be drop off to main office (any sizes); hand sanitizer donations.

Bryan Benesch said he thought DC COVID vaccination requirement may have been lifted Feb 15; Dr. Rubens will confirm.

Bryan asked whether parents could see the recording of the band concert. Dr. Rubens will research this. It was recorded during class.

Post-Prom can probably still use Wheaton Rescue Ballroom. Dr. Rubens said he wants to confirm Prom date/time and location and then will confirm with Wheaton Rescue.

Bryan asked about Graduation Rehearsal and other Senior events. Dr. Rubens said there will be a Senior Town Hall meeting with students and then with parents will take place soon. If graduation is 6/14, rehearsal may be 6/13 (also pass out cap and gowns then). The band will play during graduation.

KENNEDY CLUB SPOTLIGHT: STUDENT INTERNSHIPS by Erika Furr, new JFK

Internship Coordinator:

Leonardo Pico, student intern: at MCPS Sustainability and Compliance Division, focusing on recycling. He is doing graphic design, making flyers and working on banners to put on the website. His interview was at JFK. His mentor is super flexible with work hours. Favorite project is designing the banners, “to add spice” to the website. He was surprised by how nice everyone has been and how helpful they have been. Leonardo believes this internship will help him after graduation. Kirsten Murray asked about the software he is using in his internship. Leonardo said that during the interview, he found he already had experience with the software the office used and he was also provided some software (Adobe Illustrator).

Betsy Alley-Strocher asked whether MCPS asked his opinion on how to reach out to youth. Leonardo responded YES, they wanted to capture a more youthful audience.

Ms. Furr: internships are specifically for Seniors but must apply during Junior year. Students can get applications from school’s website. Internship locations include doctors’ offices, Holy Cross Hospital, TV stations. Some internships are paid.

Akilah Lewis, LTI and Broadcast Journalism: 11th grade, selected LTI as a freshmen, then joined Broadcast Journalism in 10th grade. Mr. Frempong, Mr. Inches, and Becky (PBS person) have furthered her knowledge. She wants to pursue Broadcast Journalism, wants to intern with Mr. Inches as a producer. She is planning to combine her LTI Senior Project with Gold Award in Girl Scouts. She wants to help and guide other students new to the program. These programs are definitely preparing me for the future.

Kristen Walker Painemilla asked how she manages it all. Akilah mentioned she also participates in club volleyball. She communicates with teachers when she needs more time. She needs to know “herself” and learn whether she can manage time effectively.

Elizabeth Cruz, LTI, Teacher Academy, Internship: not able to attend, maybe next meeting.

DISCUSSION UPCOMING EVENTS: HALL OF FAME, POST PROM, STAFF

APPRECIATION by all

Hall of Fame: this weekend is the ceremony. Dr. Rubens created the Hall of Fame Program to be more than just sports standouts. Representatives from three of the five inductees will be coming during the Friday basketball games. The recurring theme for this year’s inductees is service.

Post Prom: will probably wait until Prom date is confirmed. Ms. Lewis said it runs from midnight – 4 or 5am and is a safe place to go after prom. Snacks (IHOP pancakes and sausage), games, caricature artists, photo booth, DJ. Cost is \$25/student. Hang out with your friends atmosphere (whereas Prom is with your date). Maybe give out party favors (like Kennedy 2022 cup with candy in it). Students get dinner and dessert at prom. Post Prom is a PTSA-sponsored event. Ms. Lewis said PTSA may get a grant from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) if we arrange a speaker for seniors. Dr. Rubens will see if Ms. Johnson (speaker) is still available. MC Police are free that night. This post prom is not a lock-in. Probably around 200 students attend. PTSA letter going out to Senior parents to ask them to donate \$20.22 to help pay for post prom. PTSA will be given an opportunity to speak at the Senior Parent Meeting.

Staff Appreciation Week (May 2-6): Kristen Walker Painemilla will be looking for and inviting volunteers to coordinate this event.

REVIEW PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES by Kirsten Murray

Kirsten Murray reviewed the January Meeting Minutes with the PTSA body. Zolfa Valiani-Merchant moved to approve the January Meeting Minutes, Kristen Walker Painemilla seconded the motion.

FINANCIAL REPORT by Betsy Alley-Strocher

Previous Accounts Balance on 01/17/2022 was \$3,191.94. Current Accounts Balance as of 2/12/2022 \$5,660.64. Donations so far of \$2,503.70. \$10 AmazonSmile, \$25 new memberships. \$70 deducted for MCCPTA dues paid in November. Betsy asked for a volunteer to sign our bank statement monthly. Marilee Shelton-Davenport said she could do it.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Kirsten Murray

We had another 3 new members join in the last month. We now have 78 people who have paid their PTSA membership (11 staff, 10 students, 54 parents/guardians, 2 grandparents, 1 community member).

PTSA website:

<https://kennedyhsptsa.memberhub.com>

Pay your PTSA membership:

<https://kennedyhsptsa.memberhub.com/store>

Join Kennedy HS PTSA MemberHub:

<https://kennedyhsptsa.memberhub.com/join/5aeb11>

MCCPTA REPORT by Bryan Benesch

Zolfa Valiani-Merchant is willing to be our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Rep for MCCPTA. Asked if she could create an anonymous Special Ed Parent Survey to ask what types of help families need. She would run it by Dr. Rubens and Mr. Jefferson. Dr. Rubens pointed out all surveys have to be approved by MCPS Central Office because it is a data collection. Dr. Rubens suggested a virtual Fireside Chat instead. Kristen Walker Painemilla pointed out that MCCPTA may already be surveying parents.

Bryan: MCCPTA has lots of committees on curriculum and surveys. Believes DEI Committee published report for BoE. JFK would benefit from more parent involvement in MCCPTA committees. He pointed out a large number of Kennedy Cluster ES and MS do not have functioning PTAs. He suggested parents go to [MCCPTA website](#), including meeting minutes. Kristen Walker Painemilla pointed out we will need a MCCPTA delegate next year because Bryan's son will have graduated.

WINTER FUNDRAISER UPDATE by Kristen Walker Painemilla

Launched the "[PTSA Fund](#)" fundraiser:

<https://app.memberhub.gives/jfkptsafund/Campaign/Details> Direct ask letters were emailed out. Raised \$3,500 so far. Considerable contributions from JFK alumni. Looking for business sponsorships. Betsy Alley-Strocher suggested creating a QR code for this event. Kristen pointed out we can donate anonymously.

Bryan Benesch moved to close the meeting, Zolfa Valiani-Merchant seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 pm.

18 ATTENDEES:

Kristen Walker Painemilla
Kirsten Murray
Dr. Joe Rubens, JFK principal
Darrell Beutel
Ricky Ribeiro
Lynn Hoffman
Betsy Alley-Strocher
Bryan Benesch
Mayuris Pimentel
Akilah Lewis, student intern
12403283949
Erika Furr, JFK Career Preparation and Internships
Jennifer Granados, JFK Academy Coordinator
Zolfa Valiani-Merchant
Keir Lewis, JFK Assistant Principal
Leonardo Pico, student intern
Marilee Shelton-Davenport
Kofi Frempong, JFK Leadership Training Institute