

# JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

## HOME OF THE CAVALIERS

### JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL PTSA MEETING MINUTES

April 26, 2022 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

#### AGENDA

6:00 - 6:10 pm	<b>Welcome</b>	Kristen Walker Painemilla
6:10 - 6:20 pm	<b>Principal Report</b>	Dr. Joe Rubens
6:20 - 6:35 pm	<b>Kennedy Spotlight</b>	TBD
6:35 - 6:50 pm	<b>PTSA Reports:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Approval of Previous Minutes</li><li>● Treasurer Report</li><li>● Membership Report</li><li>● MCCPTA Report</li><li>● Nominating Committee Slate of Officers for 2022-2023</li></ul>	PTSA Officers & Others
6:50 - 7:05 pm	<b>Post-Prom Discussion and Planning</b>	Joe Jenkins & Keir Lewis
7:05 - 7:20 pm	<b>Staff Appreciation</b>	Kristen Walker Painemilla
7:20 - 7:30 pm	<b>Any Other Business</b>	

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

#### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT by Dr. Joe Rubens

Dr. Rubens first wanted to address the severed gas line that occurred in the new wing of school under construction. He said he chose to do an evacuation by pulling the fire alarm. They got all-clear from PEPCO & fire marshal. Dr. Rubens apologized for any communication concerns and explained he usually has a designee to maintain communication with PTSA President. He stated that staff provided hard copy of what happened to car riders that afternoon at dismissal.

May 7: Family Market will stay on Saturday so that Seniors to get SSL hours for graduation.

Senior Banquet & Seniors Superlatives Awards was held at Sandy Spring Oak Ballroom.

Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Dyson was recently named Frederick County School Superintendent.

[AP/IB Testing window](#) opens this week and during the first week of May.

There are temporary changes to student parking lot, tennis courts, upper field and track.

Dr. McKnight's Community Engagement Nights are 4/27 at Walter Johnson HS and 5/7 at Paint Branch HS.

4/28: "Take Your Child to Work Day". Parent approval form ([English](#) and [Spanish](#))

JFK College & Career Readiness Week begins 5/3.

MCAP testing will be 5/16, 5/17, and 5/20.

5/18: Early Release Day for teacher planning.

5/27: Last Day of School for Seniors.

6/3: 8-11pm Senior Prom at Mayflower Hotel (ballroom) The ticket price includes an appetizer, full meal, desserts & soft drinks.

6/15: 10am Graduation at DAR Constitution Hall (no school for underclassmen).

6/28: Final Report Cards distributed.

TutorMe education & National Honor Society are still offering peer tutoring.

### **Construction/Equipment:**

Building expansion expected completion date is Summer 2022.

Turf field was completed March 2022.

New scoreboard with video screen & sound system by August 2022.

New lights in gymnasium Summer 2022.

### **Needs:**

Post-Prom volunteers.

15-20 parent volunteers to give feedback about MCPS Well-Being, Safety and Security initiative and new CEO (police officers) for students' mental health. Week of May 16.

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 2-6.

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

Bryan Benesch asked a question about MCAP and Seniors who didn't take it previously. Dr. Rubens confirmed they do not have to take it now.

**KENNEDY SPOTLIGHT:** by Diana Gomez-Sanchez and Akilah Lewis

Diana Gomez-Sanchez, Senior in Business Academy, in Leadership Lab within the Business Academy: she said she likes the ability to branch out into different courses like accounting and business management. She mentioned she has classes with some of the same students since freshman year. Speakers included business owners. She has also participated in Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy (educator monthly, but also meeting more frequently). In the academy, we research our favorite businesses and entrepreneurs. Prepared me for how the workforce works, financial literacy, budgeting, and organizing my finances as an adult. She is currently raising funds to donate to charity at a Carnival Night for family & friends on June 10. Chick-fil-A personnel are mentoring them, as well as Ms. Stover & Ms. Granados.

Ms. Granados wanted to share a bit more about JFK Leadership Lab Academy. Chick-fil-A on Montrose Road sponsors a group of students who decide to join the Leadership Lab. They provide opportunities for students to learn about business and implement projects.

Akilah Lewis, Junior, Broadcast Journalism: Last week, she applied & won the PBS Student Research Lab in Arizona State University (National Competition). As a result, she will be spending two weeks in AZ with PBS Coordinator Becky. 25 projects were chosen. Her presentation was global warming and how it could damage people's living spaces. Team is trying to go to CA competition.

Zolfa Valiani-Merchant asked whether she had to choose an AZ specific topic. Akilah stated the application required a topic that you want to do additional research about (share your topic with your group & BPS Coordinator).

Mr. Inches provided additional information about the ASU competition.

Thanks to Ms. Granados (Academy Coordinator) for getting our student speakers!

**REVIEW PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES** by Kirsten Murray

Kirsten Murray reviewed the March Meeting Minutes with the PTSA body. Bryan Benesch moved to approve the March Meeting Minutes, Kristen Walker Painemilla seconded the motion.

**FINANCIAL REPORT** by Betsy Alley-Strocher

Previous Accounts Balance on 3/14/2022 was \$7,453.45. Current Accounts Balance as of 4/26/2022 \$8,413.65. Donations \$1,010.20, Expenses for Staff Appreciation Week was \$50 gift card. Expected to have \$6000 to spend this year. The JFK Fund was supposed to be for specific activities. Our target was \$15K, which we did not meet.

Kristen Walker Painemilla will request an increase in the budget for Staff Appreciation Week. Currently \$1500 is allocated. Bryan Benesch proposed to raise the budget for Staff Appreciation

from \$1500 to \$2300, Joe Jenkins seconded the motion. At least 2/3 of the membership at the meeting voted to approve the change.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT** by Kirsten Murray

No new members joined in the last two months. We 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

Mentioned DCC Meeting on Thursday at 9pm. Strategic Planning Survey on MCPS website.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023** by Marilee Shelton-

Davenport, Kirsten Murray & Darrell Beutel

Ricky Ribeiro has offered to be a Vice-President. Kirsten Murray offered to remain as Secretary and Betsy Alley-Strocher has offered to remain as Treasurer. We still need a President. The membership will vote for the 2022-2023 officers at the May 17 meeting.

**POST-PROM DISCUSSION AND PLANNING** by Joe Jenkins and Keir Lewis

Kristen Walker Painemilla mentioned there will be a flyer requesting \$20.22 donation for Post-Prom. Anticipate 200-250 students for Post-Prom. She has created a special portion of MemberHub donation site for this Post-Prom donation.

Tanya Jenkins asked what the budget was. Original budget was \$3000. Don't have a venue yet. Also want to provide food & decorations. Hope Mr. Joseph is available to be DJ. White Oak Bowling Alley (a potential site) is temporarily closed due to flood.

[Rosensteel Hall](#) or JFK school are our "last resort" locations. Dr. Rubens emailed school administrator Higgins, but we have to budget for ICB worker(s) for building services & clean-up as well as 2 school security assistants if we have it in the school. Mont Co Police will work for free, but will have to share a video with students in advance.

Can use half of cafeteria plus restrooms. Dr. Rubens will see if the gym is available (new lights may be being installed). Some concern that students may not come if the Post-Prom is at the school. Ms. Lewis can do a quick Google survey ("what theme would they want") and have the Class President send it out to Seniors. Some schools are choosing to not have a Post-Prom. Tanya suggested if don't do Post-Prom, then use that money on something else at Prom. Bryan Benesch pointed out not everyone wants to go to prom and suggested maybe we use the money raised with \$20.22 for a little something for all seniors. Last year, the Senior Yard Signs were paid by JFK & MCPS. MCPS will not pay for it this year.

**STAFF APPRECIATION** by Kirsten Walker Painemilla

Staff Appreciation Week is May 2-6. Tuesday May 3: yard cards & breakfast for staff. May 4: Dr. Rubens/JFK will provide lunch. May 5: PTSA provided Cinco de Mayo lunch. May 5: ice cream & treats by Dr. Rubens/JFK and goodie bags by PTSA. Zolfa Valiani-Merchant suggested creating a SignUp Genius for parents to donate gift cards for raffles. Betsy Alley-Strocher pointed out gift cards are highly discouraged by MCCPTA. Ms. Lewis said staff love to be fed and little surprises in mailboxes are well received. Joe Jenkins agreed we should increase budget for staff because the staff are a big piece of supporting our children during COVID. Zolfa mentioned they are our most valuable resource, especially during current times of pandemic. Ms. Lewis suggested, to carry the momentum forward, to do something during pre-service week in August, maybe raffle off \$20 of classroom supplies.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS** by all

Darrell Beutel chatted to Kirsten Murray the following: “I have to go to another appointment. But I did want to follow up on the red light running from last month. All of our contacts to the County Council have been very positive, and they are pushing for more infrastructure at that intersection. Problem is that DoT is currently renegotiating the traffic camera contract, and while they have the intersection on this list, they must wait until negotiations are done. So good news, but patience necessary.”

Bryan Benesch moved to close the meeting, Ms. Lewis seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

**30 ATTENDEES:**

Dr. Joe Rubens, JFK principal  
Keir Lewis, JFK Assistant Principal  
Sam Levine, JFK Principal Intern  
Kristen Walker Painemilla  
Kirsten Murray  
Betsy Alley-Strocher  
Bryan Benesch  
Joe & Tanya Jenkins  
Ivyrose  
Darrell Beutel  
Takia  
Tmanley  
Bill & Lynn Hoffman  
Jaime Revelo  
Praveena Hetti  
Ricky Ribeiro  
Zolfa Valiani-Merchant

Edith Cerna

CNM

Jennifer Granados, JFK Academy Coordinator

Andrew Inches

Florence

Rolan Yupanqui

Pulkit

Martine

Diana Gomez-Sanchez

Selam

Akilah Lewis