

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE CAVALIERS

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL PTSA MEETING MINUTES

April 25, 2023 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm

In person (in the Media Center) and virtually via Zoom

AGENDA

7:00-7:05 pm	Welcome to April PTSA Meeting	Kristen Walker Painemilla, President
7:05-7:15 pm	Moment of Silence for Kofi Frempong Honoring Mr. Frempong	Rick Ribeiro and Kristen Walker Painemilla, Dr. Rubens
7:15-7:25 pm	Club Spotlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Healthcare Professions Club ● Gardening Club 	
7:25-7:35 pm	Principal's Report and Update on New Principal Selection	Dr. Joe Rubens, Principal
7:35-7:45 pm	School of Excellence Update	Kristen Walker Painemilla
7:45-8:15 pm	PTSA Business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March Meeting Minutes ● MCCPTA Update ● Nominating Committee Update ● Post-Prom Committee Update 	Kristen Walker Painemilla Sharon Atterbury, MCCPTA Rep Carol Christensen, Nominating Com Takia Wormley, Post-Prom Com Lead

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Appreciation Week 	Kristen Walker Painemilla
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Kristen Walker Painemilla brought the meeting to order at 7:03 pm by welcoming everyone.

HONORING KOFI FREMPONG by Rick Ribeiro, Kristen Walker Painemilla, and Dr. Joe Rubens
 The membership had a moment of reflection in honor of Mr. Frempong. The [presentation](#) has information on the services and a Zelle account to support his family. The LTI students are talking about organizing a scholarship in his name. A couple of other activities are in the planning stages. LTI students had a tribute to him the last night of Spring Break and some alumni returned for it. There are many cards and letters about him going to Mrs. Frempong.

On his birthday May 9, JFK is looking at doing a service activity like planting. May 10 at 6:00 pm they are planning to have a memorial service at school to honor his contributions to the school. More to come. Want his children to be able to visit JFK and see evidence of his impact.

MCPS YouTube channel has videos putting on record his contributions, and this is captured by MoCo360.

JFK SPOTLIGHT: ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB by Ethan Khoo, Leyla Lange, Carla Martinez, and Bruk Negash

The Environmental Club is working on a Butterfly Garden. Mr. Frempong was the club sponsor, enabling it to be created with his encouragement and even financial support. They plan to memorialize him by naming it the Frempong Garden and providing a plaque. Instagram / QR code is available in the [presentation](#) to follow the club.

JFK SPOTLIGHT: HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONS CLUB

The Healthcare Professions Club (HPC) is planning their Sports & Fitness Community Fair to promote fitness and encourage people to incorporate it into their everyday lives. This fundraiser will take place on the track and basketball court on 5/20, 10am-2pm. (There will be no entrance fee.) The HPC is requesting PTSA support for donations of Gatorade, snacks, and hula hoops to be dropped off at the school.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT by Dr. Joe Rubens

Events and Announcements:

- Ms. Granados has stepped in to handle Mr. Frempong's LTI class so the students have a familiar face. A student teacher with business background will teach her classes.
- Gold and green days will be on Tuesdays and Wednesdays abbreviated, to get the MCAP testing done. Questions can be sent to Dr. Rubens, Ms. Kirsten Jackson, or Ms. DeyJah Chappell.
- 4/24: Senior class meeting. Parent/Guardian meeting will be 5/1 to review the items. 5/26 is last day of school for seniors.
- 4/25: Family Life Unit Meeting for parents & guardians.
- 4/26: Art Extravaganza at 6:00pm.

- 4/27: Bring your child to work day. Submit form to Ms. Espinoza attendance secretary.
- 5/1: College and Career Readiness Week begins.
- 5/3: Senior Banquet with families, in Sandy Spring Fire Station. 6-9pm
- 5/17: LTI banquet. (Ms. Granados and Ms. Radebe are working on it)
- 5/19: Honor Roll assembly
- 5/25: Senior Awards Banquet.
- No student should have an old Chromebook; should have a Chromebook with a touch screen.

Good news:

- Congratulations to Ms. Claire Hanaee for being selected as a recipient of an Excellence in Teacher Leadership and Collaboration award by the MCPS Autism Unit.
- Congratulations to Ms. Radebe and our MESA students for winning 1st place in National Engineering Design and moving on to the State competition.
- Congratulations to Ms. Kia Davis and our Forensics students for winning 1st place in dramatic interpretation and 4th place for extemporaneous speaking last month at the Forensics Championship.
- Congratulations to Mr. Andrew Inches and our KCTV team. They won “Outstanding Achievement” as a Broadcast Excellence finalist at STN awards last month in California.

Construction Updates:

- New roof to be installed next summer (summer 2024), which will require shutdown next of summer.
- Parking garage optics to be installed, should be released to us soon and then we can number the parking spots, which will make it easier.
- Concrete is down for the tennis court, rafters and fencing are up, but have to wait for consistent 80-degree days to lay down the finish. Then tennis team will be able to play and practice here. Final walk through of the construction – hoping for June. This will give us a sense of how warm the tennis court is and need for shade.

Needs:

- Volunteers to assist with concession sales during sporting events.

UPDATE ON NEW PRINCIPAL SELECTION by Dr. Joe Rubens

Principalship was re-advertised. PTSA officers, students, and staff are part of the interview process. There is a finalist sent up the chain. They decided they wanted to see more candidates, which doesn't mean that the finalist(s) are out of the running, but it shows that they take it seriously and want to do a good job.

NATIONAL PTA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE UPDATE by Kristen Walker Painemilla

3-pronged approach:

1. Mental health and advocacy around issues like fentanyl, safety, security with MCCPTA, Board of Ed, etc.;

2. Supported opioid work through a grant for speaker Tony Hoffman to speak at JFK;
3. Kennedy Zen Den (place to decompress) is final thing that they are working to put in place. Will put that in place when can get agreement with the new principal, so it is established in agreement with him/her.

The PTSA will be sending out the School of Excellence Spring Survey related to the report back – the survey is about the pillars of excellence and how we're doing on rubric (e.g., how we respond on mental health).

Kristen will then send the report in to National PTA and get an update on whether we're a national School of Excellence.

There are a lot of opportunities for grant money, just need to put a proposal in. Have had a lot of new parents coming in and engaging, so that is a success.

MARCH MEETING MINUTES by Kristen Walker Painemilla

Kristen presented the draft [March Meeting Minutes](#) to the membership. Community spotlight, LTI program, school improvement plan, testing update, business update. Marilee Davenport moved to approve the minutes, Carol Christensen seconded, and they were approved by voice vote.

MCCPTA UPDATE by Sharon Atterbury

Please see the [presentation](#) for the complete update. MCPS contract to Catapult Learning to improve mentoring and coaching to MCPS staff to improve student math and literacy.

Equitable access, including equitable access to STEM courses in middle school, secondary ELA enrichment, English 9 and 10 curriculum changes.

Recordation Tax Bill, a portion of which goes to MCPS Capital Improvement Plan.

MCCPTA is concerned about lack of engagement in PTSA's. They reached out to JFK PTSA to host an event for our Hispanic families. One lesson learned is doing things on Saturdays, as attendance was low on the MCPS Fentanyl Family Forum at JFK. Dr. Rubens talked to a feeder school about working to increase turnout with our feeder schools.

CLUBS COORDINATOR by Carol Christensen

PTSA distributed some funds to STEM and It's Academic! and Broadcast Journalism Clubs. They would like to continue mini-grants for clubs next year. Staples will make an in-kind donation of publicity materials as requested by the clubs in survey. Carol would like to do another survey to students and coordinators to figure out what went well.

PTSA NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE by Carol Christensen

Nominating Committee consists of Carol, Bonnie Bender, and Kirsten Murray. On slate of officer nominees: Marilee Davenport for VP. Committee chairs include Sharon as well as Rebecca Pikofsky for MCCPTA Reps, Allyn Raphael for NAACP Parents' Council Rep, and Yancy Murillo as Senior Parent

Rep. They are still in search for a President. Please get in touch with her or others in the leadership group to find out more. Will officially vote in new officers in next PTSA meeting.

POST-PROM COMMITTEE UPDATE by Takia Wormley

There wasn't a great interest in a PTSA-sponsored post-prom with this year's seniors. The purpose of post-prom is to keep the students off the streets. The officers suggested an early morning trip the next day, forcing everyone to go home early. The Senior Sponsors are proposing amusement park, but the cost of busses is higher, so JFK will send out a survey showing the costs for the students. Dr. Rubens will share results with PTSA to determine what might be supported by PTSA funding. Another idea might be a cookout.

STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK by Kristen Walker Painemilla

Kirsten Murray composed the [SignUp Genius](#) for the 5/3 Staff Appreciation Lunch; Dr. Rubens shared via ConnectEd. Need volunteers. Must be up and ready to go at 11:00 am, so Kristen will be there at 9:15am. Some catering to supplement the donations and putting together goody bags. *Remember to send a note to staff and teachers to appreciate them. Similarly, tomorrow is Admin Appreciation Day if anyone would like to drop a name.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS by all

5/3 is MCCPTA DCC Cluster Meeting with Board of Ed. Need help representing JFK Cluster. Need things like school highlights (pictures, etc.), swag, etc. It's a good opportunity to get the school the attention and recognition it needs. Send photos and other things to jfjhsmdpts@gmail.com. The intent is to showcase our students. Dr. Rubens and others are working to coordinate student ambassador.

Marilee Davenport moved to adjourn the meeting, Carol Christenson seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

7 ATTENDEES (PLUS 14 OF VIRTUAL ATTENDEES):

In person:

Kristen Walker Painemilla, parent/guardian
Ricky Ribeiro, parent/guardian
Sharon Atterbury, parent/guardian
Carol Christensen, parent/guardian
Marilee Davenport, parent/guardian
Dr. Joe Rubens, JFK Principal
Monica Lee, English Learner Teacher

PTSA website: <https://kennedyhspts.memberhub.com>

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