Johns Creek PTSA Board Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2015

Attendees:

Kathy Meyers Karen Anderson Anna Seljan

Mona Krug Patti Schultz Patty Buchanan

Ann Marie Cassidy Kimberly McDonald Robin Spiegel

Lisa Shanklin Shikha Gupta Denise Abramow

Beth Seiden Cindy Tromer Beverly Henson

Stephanie Mitra Jimmy Zoll

1. Principal’s Report by Dr. Zoll

Fulton County graduation rate went up to 85%, with JCHS up to 97.6%. Interim Superintendent Zeff sent out letter regarding Milestones results. There are four levels on the new test vs. 3 on the old test. Preliminary scores look pretty good.

Work is underway on revising the school website. Commander Schenk’s class held a competition to redesign the website. The winner is a hybrid of three different designs. They also have people working on redesigning the Guidance website.

Request For Flexibility has been submitted asking for extra two days to align with feeder schools.

Dr. Zoll said he is working hard to develop a positive image for JCHS both in the school and the community. He also reported that a small group of parents met with the counselors. As a result of the meeting, we now have a liaison (Kimberly McDonald) from our group to the counselors.

Ann Marie asked about any news about moving from 6A to 7A. Dr. Zoll reported that our enrollment puts us on the cusp of being major school. There is a good chance we are going to the new 7A district but we are waiting to see.

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept the Oct. 13th minutes was made by Ann Marie Cassidy. The motion was seconded and approved.

1. Treasurer’s Report – Stephanie Mitra

Stephanie explained that the bank adjustment noted on the budget report reflects fraudulent activity and is being investigated by PNC. PNC is confident we will get the money back at the end of the investigation.

1. President’s Report – Cindy Tromer & Beverly Henson

Guidance Meeting Update:

Cindy Tromer, Beverly Henson, Patty Buchanan, Kimberly McDonald, and Jen Freyer met with Dr. Zoll, Mr. Mercer, Ms. Hudson, Ms. Debrody, and Ms. Wiley to discuss agenda items. The PTSA reps stressed that we want to support the counselors. The counselors clarified that their role is to get students through to graduation, not to help them get into college. They want a personal relationship with the students but the students are expected to be the initiators. Parents need to encourage students to reach out to counselors. The counselors pointed out that they have class meetings periodically. They are also working on redo of the website. PTSA Board members suggested the website should include FAQs for every section and also grade specific tabs. They are working on AP videos by AP teachers regarding class descriptions and qualifications.

Kim McDonald will be liaison with Counselors. There will be a Counselors Corner on our eblast each week with an “Ask the counselor” section. Regarding college information for students, GCIS (Georgia Career Information System) website has a lot of information about colleges. All students have access to the website. Beverly suggested talking to parents at parent nights about the roles of parents, students, and counselors.

Patty Buchanan said she thinks the counselors have a PR problem and we can help. Dr. Zoll pointed out that parents need to be involved but only after the student has tried to resolve the problem. Counselors have many jobs but college advisement is not primary.

Denise talked about SGC and how the liaison role fits into strategic plan efforts.

1. Officer Reports
   1. Legislation - Patty Buchanan & Shikha Gupta

The Candidate Forum was held on October 15th. Needed to improve publicity but was a good service to the community. Thank you’s to Dr. Zoll, Denise Abramow and Ms. Atkins for their contributions.

* 1. Communications – Jen Freyer (absent) & Liliana Brenner (absent)

School profiles have been put online now. We are buying a new piece to make it more user friendly.

If anything is coming up, send to Liliana so she can update the website.

* 1. Membership – Ann Marie Cassidy & Mary Margaret Sipling (absent)

Stephanie asked Membership to audit the teacher forms to make sure all have been entered. Teacher number continues to lag behind last year with 113 teachers and staff as members. Dr. Zoll agreed to send out a reminder asking teachers to join. Karen suggested having forms at the Korean lunch. Beverly asked to make sure we have forms available at all school events.

Cindy asked Membership to have student only membership forms available in the office and make one last push prior to scholarship deadlines. We also want to have Mr. Martin send out email to senior parents regarding scholarships.

* 1. Administrative Support – Mona Krug (absent) & Patti Schultz

Heather Smith provided an extensive update regarding landscaping in the consolidated report.

Patty Buchanan has ideas about bare spot on the hill (spell out JCHS in boxwoods).

Jenny Poulos will have open houses in college and career center. Anyone can make an appointment to go see her. She can give college advice, review essays etc. Karen Anderson said personality tests are available online to help students select majors. Every student has taken the test at school but we don’t know what happened with the results.

* 1. Academic Enrichment –Anna Seljan & Alissa Glatter (absent)

24 of 28 Reflections entries moved on.

Honor Roll recognition went well – good response.

* 1. Student Activities – Leslie Fox (absent) & Denise Abramow

We are continuing to encourage seniors to join. We have met with vendor – there is going to be a real carnival this year.

Baby photo contest entries due December 1st.

Stephanie pointed out a PayPal “disputed” item. Kathy Meyers will follow up with the parent to resolve.

Denise asked for better notice of publication date for quarterly newsletter.

Patty suggested getting senior class officers to help getting students to signup for Senior Activities.

Dr. Zoll pointed out that dynamics are changing; he wants to look at a different pay structure next year that would allow students to pay for only the “carnival” at a later date. The PTSA Board continues to have strong reservations regarding such a change due to its impact on pre-planning.

* 1. Health Services – Lisa Shanklin & Beth Seiden

HUB – Work Life Balance – The HUB community center will look at best practices to reduce parent stress and student stress.

Red Ribbon Week – Due to the rainy week, we cut back on decorations. Red bands were supposed to be here Monday but were not delivered until late Friday. Lisa & Beth will schedule a one day event to give out bands and gift cards.

* 1. Staff Support – Robin Spiegel (absent) & Kim McDonald

The teacher breakfast was a great success.

Korean lunch coming up December 10th. Our help is not needed but we will be present at the lunch.

* 1. Student Ambassadors

The Powder Puff event was cancelled due to poor weather. The group is looking at an upcoming event, possible a movie. The club is now a year old and is still showing good interest from the students.

* 1. School Governance Council

At the December 9th meeting they will be seeking public comment. Visitors are welcome. They submitted a seed money request for an outdoor classroom and are waiting for feedback from the county. Seed money will not be as readily available as there are more schools competing for the funds.

Upcoming Dates:

November 17 Apply to College Day

November 18 Dual Enrollment Night with College Career Center Open House

December 2 Financial Aid (FAFSA) Night with CCC Open House

December 8 Holiday Brunch Celebration location to be determined

December 10 Korean Lunch for Teachers