Johns Creek PTSA Board Meeting Minutes

October 13th, 2015

Attendees:

Kathy Meyers Beverly Henson Beth Seiden Denise Abramow

Cindy Tromer Liliana Brenner Anna Seljan Alissa Glatter

Patty Buchanan Lisa Shanklin Ann Marie Cassidy Susanne Warren

Mary Margaret Sipling Kim McDonald Stephanie Mitra

Patti Schultz Dr. Zoll

1. Principal’s Report by Dr. Zoll

Dr. Zoll gave a recap of the past week: Gladiator football team won again! Football team was featured on CBS news and Fox 5. Debate tournament held at JCHS prior weekend. Homecoming week is coming up.

Beverly Henson asked about a problem getting a list of Honor Roll students with their 1st period class. This report has been provided by the front office in prior years and is used to distribute Honor Roll Recognition invitations. Dr. Zoll indicated he was unaware of problem and asked for an email about it.

Discussion ensued regarding concerns with the Guidance Office. Specific concerns raised included the need for more information on scholarships, Move on When Ready, and dual enrollment, as well as the use of Remind and problems with the Guidance website.

Dr. Zoll acknowledged problems with the website and said it is being updated. He also indicated the new College Counselor is working on updated scholarship links to search engines.

The content and timing of parent nights was discussed. Suggestions included scheduling the meetings earlier in the year, providing more basic information, and posting agendas for the meetings. Denise Abramow suggested having a parent liaison to work with counselors regarding parent night content.

Board members also expressed concerns about their students’ ability to meet with their counselors. Meetings with counselors seemed to be inconsistent; some students had not met with their counselors at all while others had. It was pointed out that at Chattahoochee, students meet with counselors twice a year. Leslie Fox pointed out that the counselors have a tough job with a heavy load of students and lots of paperwork to process. A question was raised about how many families use private counselors for the college application process. Dr. Zoll stated he did not think this was necessary; parents choose to pay because they are affluent.

Given the number of concerns about counseling related issues, Dr. Zoll suggested PTSA meet with Ms. Wiley to discuss.

Beverly Henson raised an issue for virtual school and dual enrollment students. On days when the school has fire drills or pep rallys, these students are not alerted to schedule change and are late for their scheduled class. Dr. Zoll indicated they can probably not send out announcements of schedule changes – the attendance office is aware of situation and it should not be a problem for those students.

1. Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept the Sept. 8th minutes was made by Mary Margaret Sipling, Patty Buchanan seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Motion to accept the September 9th minutes was made by Beth Seiden, Alissa Glatter seconded. Motion approved.

1. Treasurer’s Report – Stephanie Mitra

The audit has been completed on last year’s books and the tax return has been filed and submitted to Georgia PTA. All financial documents are available for review.

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

Cindy & Beverly gave overview of the Parent University meeting.

Guidance – discussed in Principal’s Report

1. Officer Reports
   1. Academic Enrichment –Anna Seljan & Alissa Glatter

New project – Apply to College Day. The event is scheduled for November 17th and has a $2000 budget. School reps will come to work with students on getting started with college applications. Students will come with their essays already written. They need volunteers (2 shifts over 5 hours). They will need help with decorating and answering basic questions.

National Merit breakfast was this morning and PTSA provided the food.

Reflections entries are due tomorrow. Regarding Honor Roll recognition, they cannot get report they need from the office. Students will be directed to pick up invitations in the front office per Robin & Barbara’s suggestion. There will be 800+ students involved. Suzanne Warren pointed out that Freshman will not be on the list because it honors Spring 2015 Honor Roll. Honor Roll recognition has been in announcements all week. PTSA will continue to try and get necessary reports from front office to avoid this cumbersome process.

* 1. Health Services – Lisa Shanklin & Beth Seiden

Lisa Shanklin sent out an email this morning with the themes for Red Ribbon Week. They will have wristbands “I Tune Out Drugs) and will have giveaways every day. They will need volunteers for lunch periods – will use Sign Up Genius. They are also looking for student ambassadors to help hang up flyers, etc.

Lisa urged everyone to “Like” our Facebook site.

Accident Avoidance Workshop

* 1. Legislation –Patty Buchanan & Shikha Gupta (absent)

The Candidate Forum is this week (October 15th). Volunteers from Student Ambassadors, BETA, and others will help and keep time. Dr. Zoll will welcome the community and Ms. Atkins will moderate. Plans are to reduce food provided – will have mints and water only. There will be 10 candidates and they have been provided with the rules. Setup will be from 5:00 to 5:30. Patty also raised these issues:

Needs help promoting the event. Ms. Atkins is providing extra credit for her students who attend. Ms. Smiley is aware of the forum and will promote as well.

The AV person cannot do the event so Patty is looking for help. Denise Abramow suggested approaching Rhonda Fossum directly and also asking the Drama teacher. Last year some microphones disappeared after the event. Patty suggested using some money budgeted for food to buy them a microphone.

Voter registration event was very successful. Another event will be held in the Spring.

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

Beverly went to Powder Puff game – lots of interest before called due to rain. Enjoyed socializing. May do another in the spring.

Grab & Go breakfast scheduled for next week. Korean lunch is in the works. They don’t need much help but we will be there.

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

Numbers are ahead of last year. Continue to see memberships trickle in online. Also had some new members from Parent nights. They have updated Jen Freyer with new emails. Liliana Brenner will send email to new members with instructions for accessing online directory.

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

Meeting with Jenny Poulos (College & Career Center) – try to put college update forms online. Will look at making it searchable. Jen will be putting out the “Inside the Coliseum” newsletter in October and needs information by October 15th.

Website – please send updates to Liliana Brenner.

* 1. Student Activities – Leslie Fox & Denise Abramow

The first treat day (ice cream) was very successful and the students loved it! The next treat day is scheduled for October 27th. Leslie stressed that they want more people to sign up.

The Senior Carnival is scheduled for May 18th – they will meet with the vendor soon.

Homecoming Coat Check – finally got seven volunteers.

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

Everything is good. Beverly Henson suggested we ask Jenny Poulos if she needs any of our help. The furniture for the College & Career center is here and looks good.

Upcoming Dates:

October 14 Reflections Deadline

October 15 Candidate Forum

October 17 Homecoming

October 21 Honor Roll Recognition

October 26 – 30 Red Ribbon Week

October 27 Next Senior Treat Day

November 10 Next Board Meeting

November 17 Apply to College Event