Johns Creek PTSA Board Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2016

Attendees:

Kathy Meyers Karen Anderson Robin Spiegel

Mona Krug Leslie Fox Stephanie Mitra

Patty Buchanan Denise Abramow Kimberly McDonald

Lisa Shanklin Beverly Henson Ann Marie Cassidy

Cindy Tromer Jimmy Zoll Susanne Warren

1. Principal’s Report by Dr. Zoll

Dr. Zoll showed a presentation regarding SPLOST and plans for capital improvements (see handout). The vote will be held May 24th – Dr. Zoll cannot give advice on how to vote but is here to answer questions. If SPLOST fails, the alternative is to fund the projects with bond referendums. Although JCHS will not receive funds directly, we will benefit from a district standpoint. Plans include a new STEM school which will be located at the old Milton HS campus. Dr. Zoll urged us to talk to our friends and neighbors about SPLOST and encourage them to vote. The website is full of information if they have questions.

Regarding the upcoming schedule, Dr. Zoll said they are getting ready for testing to begin. They are also looking forward to plans for next year, hiring, etc. Teacher contracts are due “now”. He is not seeing too much turnover yet but it is a competitive market for teachers, especially in Forsyth county.

Prom is scheduled for this coming weekend.

Kim McDonald asked how the school is dealing with drug issues. Dr. Zoll indicated students involved are given the strictest punishment possible. There are very few situations but they are dealt with. He can only deal with what happens here in the building, not with what students do away from the campus. Leslie Fox pointed out that if drug situations involve heroin, all parents should be informed given the concern over the serious and dangerous threat it bears for our students.

Ann Marie Cassidy asked about National Merit Finalists at JCHS and why more is not done to honor them. Dr. Zoll indicated they would be recognized at Honors Night.

Beverly Henson then introduced Andrea Wheeler (transitions specialist from Centennial HS) and JCHS parent Zoila Martinez to discuss the subject of Community Based Learning. This subject concerns the developmentally disabled students who will be transitioning to JCHS next year. Ms. Wheeler talked about the benefits of having the students in JCHS and discussed some of the logistics. There will be three classes of “dd” students (12 to 20 students in total) next year, with at least six teachers/parapros. They will use a curriculum called Unique Learning. In addition to the standard curriculum, they add in ways to push for independence in a “vocational” part of the day. On Fridays, the students go out into the community to practice what they’ve learned. Additionally, older students (students typically stay in school until age 22) will leave campus for jobs. Ms. Wheeler will be seeking opportunities for internships in local businesses for these students. Older students move on to the LIFE program where they work at internships with corporations. Beverly Henson suggested we put a notice in our eblast soliciting community help – she would like input from Ms. Wheeler on the wording for the eblast.

* Ms. Wheeler and Mrs. Martinez are asking for help from PTSA in the following ways:
* Welcome the parents to our school and make them feel like part of school.
* Look for ways students can be incorporated into school activities.
* Celebrate exceptional children’s week.
* Include these children in PTSA scholarship program.
* Provide stipends for students to practice skills.

Leslie Fox suggested establishing a parent liaison from the “dd” parents to PTSA. Another idea was to recruit one of the parents for a position either on the PTSA board or as a chair. There was also discussion of using the mini-grant program to fund some special needs for the students.

1. Approval of Minutes

Karen Anderson made a motion to accept the March 16th minutes. The motion was seconded by Stephanie Mitra and was approved.

1. Treasurer’s Report – Stephanie Mitra

Stephanie passed out a revised budget that will be voted on at the upcoming Honors Night. Robin Spiegel indicated Staff Support may need some additional funding. Kathy Meyers indicated more may be needed in Mini-Grants as well.

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

Beverly Henson reported on the Chattahoochee College Fair. Chattahoochee HS has two fairs held at their school, one in the fall and one in the spring. Vicki Levine got the names of the colleges who were there. The Probe College Fair is scheduled at North Point Mall on August 29th. We are planning to schedule a fair here in the gym the same week and invite the colleges at the Probe Fair to attend. This will allow our students to visit the fair during lunch time and will be the kickoff to “College Week”. It will be open to everyone, Freshman through Seniors. We are hoping the Guidance office will have meetings at night that week covering different college related topics. We hope to schedule lunchtime presentations and will also have a career and technical day.

We are looking for ways to deal with the logistics of the gym being so far from the cafeteria. Susanne Warren asked about having the fair at night instead. The general feeling is that having it during the day is good as long as students are allowed out of class to go.

1. Officer Reports
   1. Legislation –

Voter registration is scheduled for April 20th during lunch times.

* 1. Communication

No report.

* 1. Membership – Ann Marie Cassidy

The spreadsheet was updated today with a total of $83,840 in membership dues, up considerably from prior year. There was a general discussion regarding teacher memberships and how to require all teachers to join. This will be further addressed at another meeting for next year.

* 1. Administrative Support – Mona Krug

They are working on getting the college commitment board updated. Stephanie Mitra pointed out that the current online submission form won’t take foreign colleges. Mona will get it fixed. Mona handed out an example of Chattahoochee’s map with college emblems and a list by name and suggested that we add this to our map.

* 1. Academic Enrichment

Honors Night is scheduled for next Thursday with a reception beforehand.

* 1. Student Activities - Leslie Fox & Denise Abramow

Carnival plans are going well and they are starting to work on Senior lunch. Cindy Tromer suggested they contact Chris Baum to find out how many volunteers were needed last year.

To date, 366 seniors are registered to attend the carnival and they are still estimating 400 students will attend. Leslie has the 650 Coke bottles ready for distribution at graduation rehearsal. Kathy Meyers mentioned there has been some pushback from the front office regarding having to tell seniors who have not paid that they cannot attend the carnival. Leslie said she would talk to the front office personnel and offer to have a PTSA representative in the office to deal with it the day of the carnival. Cindy Tromer would like to have Leslie Fox, Denise Abramow, and Ann Marie Cassidy to meet with Dr. Zoll prior to the end of school regarding plans for next year.

* 1. Health Services – Lisa Shanklin

Lisa Shanklin reported that Wellness week went well. She distributed a handout about a seminar being given by Malenka Warner regarding digital citizenship. She also talked about changes with the HUB and that she will be communicating with reps from other area schools regarding health and wellness issues. Lisa also mentioned that the residue from double-sided tape left on lockers during Wellness week needs to be cleaned off. She will approach BETA club to see if they can help.

There was a discussion that next year’s Wellness week can focus more on drugs if we want. Karen Anderson suggested having Tom Morgan come back to make a presentation on the consequences of actions.

* 1. Staff Support – Robin Spiegel

Teacher appreciation week is coming up and the chairs have it under control. The next teacher lunch is scheduled for the 29th. We will honor the custodial staff, bus drivers, and admin that week as well.

The end of year lunch is scheduled for Friday, May 27th. Sign up genius for volunteers went out yesterday.

* 1. Student Ambassadors

They have elected a new board and Robin Spiegel offered to transition her role with a new person. They are currently having a used sneaker drive which may help to maintain a sustainable garden. JCHS will also get some money depending on how many shoes are turned in. Robin asked that we put a notice in our eblast.

Additional Discussion:

Denise Abramow spoke about the seed fund request for an outdoor classroom ($54k) that was approved through the School Governance Council. Denise is looking for volunteers for an outdoor classroom committee. If there is any interest, talk to Denise. Ann Marie Cassidy suggested talking to Kathy Towers about working on this project.

Beverly Henson indicated Megan Ford had asked for volunteers to help pack up the media center. Beverly also spoke about business partners. Mr. Martin would like parents to work with him next year on the business partner program. This should be a goal for next year.

Ann Marie Cassidy mentioned that JCHS was nominated for several Schuler Awards for the production of The Addams Family and that this should be better publicized.

Upcoming Dates:

April 13th Real Estate Lunch and Learn thru CCC

April 16th Prom

April 19th Careers in the Arts Lunch and Learn thru CCC

April 20th Voter Registration

April 21st Honors Night

April 25th Teacher Appreciation Week

May 10th End of Year Brunch Meeting

May 18th Senior Carnival