Johns Creek PTSA Board Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2016

Attendees:

Kathy Meyers Karen Anderson Mary Margaret Sipling

Mona Krug Shika Gupta Heather Smith

Patty Buchanan Alissa Glatter Anna Seljan

Lisa Shanklin Beverly Henson Beth Seiden

Cindy Tromer Jimmy Zoll Ann Marie Cassidy

Suzanne Warren Stephanie Mitra Leslie Fox

Denise Abramow Liliana Brenner

1. Principal’s Report by Dr. Zoll

Dr.Zoll reported that the SGC defended our request for seed funding for an outdoor classroom yesterday and the response was positive. We should hear Friday if the request is approved.

The Administration has begun looking at planning for next year and are struggling with the “on-line” classes world. We are hearing that the county will slow down with implementing policy of capping county payments for on-line classes but JCHS will still be impacted next year. It was pointed out that Chattahoochee HS has a computer room designated for their Fulton Virtual students. Dr. Zoll said that we also have a “virtual” computer room but it is already very full. Dr. Zoll indicated that we must improve communication with parents on several fronts:

* Difference between Fulton Virtual & Georgia Virtual – Fulton Virtual is more rigorous but there are not as many class choices available. For example, the Personal Fitness class offered by Fulton Virtual requires the use of a heart monitor to validate exercise log while Georgia Virtual requires only the exercise log. We anticipate that some current JCHS teachers can also teach Fulton Virtual classes which would limit the impact on school funding.
* Stress that the best choice for students is to take classes at JCHS, next best choice is Fulton Virtual, and third choice is Georgia Virtual. Studies are showing that AP test scores for students taking online classes are not as good as for those taking traditional classes.

Other curriculum changes for next year are that AP Government will once again be offered for 9th grade students. AP Biology will no longer be offered for 9th grade students. AP Geography will be open for all students next year. There will be a World Lit Honors course next year and we are hoping to have a U.S. History Honors course offering as well. Leslie Fox pointed out that there is a need for more one semester classes.

Regarding next year’s schedules, teachers are looking at recommendation requirements for next year. We will have written information available for parents to help guide them in their students’ choices. This year’s class requirements documents will include minimum grade requirements as prerequisites for some classes. Parents will still be able to override teacher recommendations but the school will push back as much as possible.

There was also some discussion regarding dismissing problem teachers. Dr. Zoll stressed that it is a difficult and time-consuming process. In cases of general staff reduction, he does not have a choice of teacher to be dismissed. The last teacher hired is the first to be dismissed

1. Approval of Minutes

Heather Smith made a motion to accept the January 12th minutes. The motion was seconded by Ann Marie Cassiday and was approved.

1. Treasurer’s Report – Stephanie Mitra

Stephanie Mitra clarified that money for the personalized bricks comes directly from the Membership Income budget.

Leslie Fox brought up the Laurel Schmitt Scholarship Fund. Mr. Schmitt indicated he will match our contribution to the fund. Leslie will talk to Kim Sherman about communicating with Mr. Schmitt. Leslie Fox questioned whether the Schmitt daughter (Senior) is eligible to apply for the scholarship. A suggestion was made to give the Schmitt daughter an honorary scholarship. The consensus was that the daughter would be eligible for the scholarship as we use a blind award process. No decision was made regarding an honorary scholarship. We agreed that we should allocate a minimum of $3000 for the Laurel Schmitt Scholarship and $4000 in the other PTSA scholarships fund. There was a discussion over the amount vs. the number of scholarships the PTSA will award. It was decided to leave that up to the Scholarship committee to decide based on the applications they receive.

There was also a discussion regarding budget reallocation. Stephanie Mitra will send out the changes for response. Monies available were: $1000 in teacher stipends, $500 in membership supplies, and $100 in Homecoming budget. There should also be additional money left it Membership income. We will allocate an additional $3000 for the Spring Mini-grants.

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

An update on Principal wish list items from last year and this year was given:

* Last year’s item – The water fountains are here and ready to be installed. Of the $2500 installation cost, we will fund $1500. Money was spent from the facilities budget this year to purchase the water fountains. Karen Anderson made a motion to allocate $1500 for the water fountain installation. Alissa Glatter seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
* Current year item – We are waiting to order the picnic tables because Dr. Zoll wants to make sure the order includes handicapped accessible tables for the new special needs students. The money will come from the facilities budget.

Leslie Fox reported that the plaques for last year’s principal’s wish list items should be here soon.

1. Officer Reports
   1. Membership – Mary Margaret Sipling & Ann Marie Cassidy

Membership - A few memberships continue to come in. Mary Margaret will send out an updated membership report.

Personalized Bricks – Heather Smith gave a report about an online option offered by the brick company whereby a family can enter their personalization information themselves. This would eliminate a lot of work on our part and provide more accurate information. We could have the families enter the information themselves with a dummy check number so PTSA could pay for the bricks. We should be able to review the information for appropriateness before the order is completed. Our goal would be to start this next year. Regarding installation of this year’s bricks, Heather said that Elynn Carbone advised against using the same installer we used last year. Heather will look at other installers and asked for any recommendations.

Heather also reported on the islands in the parking lots that have been filled with sand. Apparently there is an ongoing lawsuit by Fulton County against the parking lot installer. Mistakes were made, the islands had begun to sink, and the pavement began to sink. After no consultation with or notice given to Dr. Zoll or Sue (head custodian), the county had the sand put in to mitigate damage. This has killed the sod we had installed at a cost of $10k. We have a contract for weed control services for this area. Heather will redirect these services to the rear of the school. Beverly Henson asked if pictures have been taken.

* 1. Legislation –

Another voter registration event will be held in the spring semester.

PTA Day at the Capital is scheduled for March 1st.

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

There are currently two databases of members (one from beginning of the year and another for subsequent members). We are buying another system for the College and Career center that also creates a directory. The new system has just one password. My School Anywhere has individual passwords for each person. Discussion will continue later as to whether we can use the new system instead of My School Anywhere or whether we should go back to a hard copy directory.

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

Questions continue to arise about the future of the College & Career Center after Jenny Poulos leaves, including the role of Vicki. Next year Vicki will enter college visit updates directly into system. We will also look to have parent volunteers sit in the center. Jenny wants some of us to tour the college centers at Milton and Chattahoochee. Leslie questioned whether the Center is needed.

They have a group scheduled to go on a college visit, another event on interviewing, summer jobs, etc. We are also still looking at ways to make the center more accessible. Patty suggested using a committee to look at the center and how it can be used.

Leslie pointed out that Mr. Mercer takes kids of college trips – Univ. of KY. There was some question as to whether these trips are open and communicated to all students.

* 1. Academic Enrichment –Anna Seljan & Alissa Glatter

Spring mini-grants applications and guidelines will be distributed at today’s teacher luncheon. The deadline for submission is Tuesday, March 1st with notification scheduled for Friday, March 18th.

Alissa Glatter reported that we should have Reflections results by Friday.

The next Honor Role Recognition is scheduled for March 16th.

* 1. Student Activities – Leslie Fox & Denise Abramow

We sent out another email and had a decent response. Our target remains 400 students. Leslie & Denise are meeting tomorrow with vendors.

The Main Event can accommodate us with a few days notice and will be our alternative in case of bad weather. We need to get presigned field trip forms in the event we have to use Main Event.

Senior treats have been great! Need two new people for senior treats next year.

Chris Baum did Senior Lunch last year. Leslie and Denise will follow up with Chris regarding plans for this year.

* 1. Health Services – Lisa Shanklin

Wellness Week is scheduled for March 21-25. Some ideas for the daily themes are:

Meditation music – will cost $200

Yoga – location undetermined

Looking at massage chairs

Good deed – want student ambassadors to do posters

Coloring day

Herbal Tea Day – Rachel wants to buy glass teapots. Beverly suggested asking Jason’s business partner to help with tea.

Leslie Fox will follow up with Dr. Zoll about no homework night.

Digital parenting nights will be done in the community two times in April through the HUB so we will not schedule these separately at JCHS.

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

Mardi Gras Teacher Luncheon being held this morning.

* 1. Student Ambassadors
  2. School Governance Council

Two positions will be open for next year. The nominating period is February 15th through March 1st.

Other Discussion:

Nominating Committee:

Patty Buchanan will send out an email regarding open positions. Leslie Fox offered to consult with the new committee to develop a game plan. Ann Marie Cassidy (will ask Kim Rutledge to help) offered to help find names of potential board members. Leslie Fox asked Mona Krug to give the volunteer spreadsheet to the nominating committee so they can contact volunteers about interest in board positions. There was also a suggestion to put a notice in the Autry Mill MS and Perimeter School newsletters. The new proposed board needs to be in place by Honors Night on April 21st.

TSA students won the Verizon App challenge and are being honored by the school board tonight.

Baccalaureate – weekend before graduation. PTSA tries to help find someone to plan (usually Senior parents). Last year Mary Ann Tuggle and Monica Dubois did this. Held at Johns Creek Baptist Church. Kathy Meyers will contact FCA to find someone to take this over.

Upcoming Dates:

February 11th Parent College Workshop

February 12-15th Midwinter Break

March 1st Georgia PTA Day at the Capitol

March 8th Next PTSA board meeting