Johns Creek PTSA Board Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2016

Attendees:

Kathy Meyers Karen Anderson Alissa Glatter

Mona Krug Shika Gupta Patty Buchanan

Stephanie Mitra Kimberly McDonald Robin Spiegel

Lisa Shanklin Beverly Henson Denise Abramow

Cindy Tromer Jimmy Zoll Ann Marie Cassidy

1. Principal’s Report by Dr. Zoll

Dr. Zoll briefly mentioned the Latin teacher who resigned after making posting inappropriate entries on Facebook regarding a student. Dr. Zoll indicated he is 90% sure we have another Latin teacher lined up.

AP night is Thursday, January 14th.

JCHS will remain in class 6A for sports, not the new 7A region. Linda McCain’s next meeting will be at Autrey Mill Middle School on January 19th.

The CVI program forseverely handicapped students will begin here next school year. Renovations of the scholars lounge and two adjoining classrooms is to begin soon. This will only exacerbate our current space issues.

The Media Center is in planning stages for renovation and they hope to begin construction this summer.

Budgeting and scheduling discussions have begun. Fulton County will no longer pay for all virtual classes. Schools will have to pay what the county won’t; based on current levels, JCHS would be responsible for approximately $300,000 next year. Dr. Zoll indicated they are looking for ways to limit students’ use of GAVS. They hope to push student to Fulton Virtual rather than GAVS. Using Fulton Virtual would allow some of our current teachers to also teach Fulton Virtual classes. Another change would be to require students to sign up for virtual classes ahead of time (i.e. during normal scheduling process). Students would not be allowed to switch to virtual classes at last minute after they receive their class schedules. The administration is also looking at options (including more Honors courses) as a way of encouraging students to take classes at school rather than online.

1. Approval of Minutes

Karen Anderson made a motion to accept the Nov. 10th minutes. The motion was seconded by Denise Abramow and approved.

1. Treasurer’s Report – Stephanie Mitra

The bank has reimbursed us for the money lost in fraud issue.

Outstanding minigrants are the paint cabinet for the Drama club, the Latin club chariot, and the conference for Special Ed.

Cindy asked for everyone to evaluate budget so we can reallocate funds at the next meeting.

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

A meeting was held with Jenny Poulos to brainstorm about increasing visibility of the College and Career Center. We agreed to try to promote her services. Ms. Poulos is planning to have a workshop in August about what students should expect in their Senior year regarding the college application process. Ms. Poulos also has used a bus to take students on college visits.

We discussed some ideas for increasing visibility of the center:

* Hand out passes in the lunchroom for students to go to the center.
* Have Ms. Poulos talk to Juniors during literature classes to make sure they are aware of how she can help them.
* Encourage students to meet Ms. Poulos after their Junior counselor meeting. There was a question regarding why parents are no longer invited to attend Junior meetings with counselors.

Problems continue with the guidance office. There was some discussion regarding why the financial aid meeting was scheduled at 10:00 a.m. and not after school. Beverly Henson & Cindy Tromer will follow up with Dr. Zoll and Kim McDonald will readdress with the counselors.

Denise Abramow discussed the seed money request that led to the hiring of Ms. Poulos. She pointed out that costs were underestimated and we were unable to hire a full time employee. Ms. Poulos will leave behind checklists for parents to use in manning the center next year. She also expressed concern that the life skills part of job has not happened. Susanne suggested using business partners who provide college consulting services as helpers rather than having them donate money to the school.

The Principal’s Wish List item is for more picnic tables for courtyard ($775 each). The tables will have to be put together after delivery. Kathy Meyers suggested we ask the Robotics Club to help with the construction.

Cindy & Beverly asked for volunteers to serve on the Nominating Committee for next year’s board. Three people are needed to serve, plus one alternate. At least one volunteer needs to be a current board member.

Patricia Buchanan & Shikha Gupta offered to serve on the committee. Ann Marie and Kim McDonald will provide names but did not want to be official committee members. The proposed slate of officers must be posted ten days before vote. We are planning to vote in the new Board at Honors Night in April.

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

Attended PTA Advocacy Day.

March 1st is Georgia PTA day at the Capitol

Student Day at the Capitol is posted as February 20th – this is a Saturday so they will confirm the correct date and send news to Jen Freyer for the eblast.

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

Question about online directory vs. hard copy. Are people actually using it?

Inside the Colliseum – April deadline

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

They are completing the process of confirming members’ choices regarding personalized bricks or club donation. A list of brick personalizations will be sent to Heather Smith.

Drawings for other membership perks were held last month. Karen Anderson won the reserved seats for graduation.

Ann Marie will get a list of teachers from Barbara and identify those who have not joined.

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

A few additional volunteer sheets were received and added to the volunteer list.

* 1. Academic Enrichment –Anna Seljan & Alissa Glatter (absent)
  2. Student Activities – Leslie Fox (absent) & Denise Abramow

Currently, 341 students have signed up and our goal is 400. They have a list of those who haven’t joined and will send a letter home for these students. They are finalizing contracts with vendors.

The baby picture contest is done.

Senior carnival date is May 18th (rain dates before and after).

* 1. Health Services – Lisa Shanklin

Will have a meeting with Rachel Kitchen-Coles next week to plan March’s Wellness Week. It will be similar to last week – meditation, coloring, herbal tea, yoga, gratitude day

Kim McDonald has a yoga contact if needed.

The former community group has disbanded.

JC Health and Safety Forum is a new group that will meet in April at Emory Hospital. They will combine health and safety efforts across schools in the area. Lisa Shanklin will serve on the Executive Committee.

Lisa wants to organize a digital parenting night.

* 1. Staff Support – Robin Spiegel & Kim McDonald

The next event is tomorrow’s snack bags for a healthy new year.

The Mardi Gras luncheon will be scheduled for February 9th with an alternate date of February 8th.

It was pointed out that quite a few teachers and staff have not joined PTSA. Susanne suggested that we ask Dr. Zoll to send an email to teachers who haven’t joined.

Teacher Appreciation Week - April

* 1. Student Ambassadors

There is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow afternoon. Elections are planned to be held February 19th. They are currently looking at how to handle elections. Members will be asked via email if they are interested in running for office. Current officers will interview interested students to make sure they are truly willing to serve. They will also need a new parent representative.

New events coming up:

* March 19th - Screen on the Green on the football field– Johns Creek Newtown Park (cost $2000 rental). They plan to charge a $5 fee. They need to check about weather contingency (aux gym).
* Trying to schedule PowderPuff game again.
  1. School Governance Council

Upcoming Dates:

January 14th Financial Aid Seminar 10:00 am

January 14th AP Night 6:15 pm

January 18th No school – Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

January 20th Parent University 11:30 am

February 9th February PTSA Board Meeting

February 9th Mardi Gras Teacher Luncheon

March 1st Georgia PTA Day at the Capitol