Johns Creek High School PTSA Board Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Attendees:

Denise Abramow Beverly Henson Susanne Coleman Sandy Garrett

Lisa Shanklin Emily Hackworth Liz Hayde Kim McDonald

Nicole Adams Kim Rutledge Radhika Tulpule Diane Kolosna

Patrick Martin Ann Marie Cassidy Jen Zubler

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 am.

1. Principal’s Report- Mr. Patrick Martin
   1. Thursday’s professional day for Johns Creek High School was focused on personalized learning using Microsoft. Teachers received specific support on utilizing Microsoft suite applications. Migrating to Microsoft One Note from Google. Teachers can set up class notebook and see student access. Teachers are utilizing tablets more.
   2. Mr. Martin answered questions about use of tablets. There was concern about the roll out delay and that it crashes a lot.
   3. Looking at providing a virtual tour. Curriculum night will provide info next year.
2. Approval of Minutes- Nicole Adams
   1. A motion to approve the September 19, 2017 minutes was made by Diane Kolosna. Liz Hyde seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the minutes were approved.
3. Treasurer’s Report- Denise Abramow
   1. Denise read resignation letter from Lisa Burton.
   2. Denise presented Cindy Tromer (past PTSA treasurer and present) to serve as interim bookkeeper. She will reconcile QuickBooks beginning this week to provide an updated report by November. There were no objections.
   3. Per PTA guidelines which recommend that secretary serve as a co-signer for banking accounts, Nicole Adams will be an emergency co-signer.
   4. Open to nominations for treasurer this week. Goal is to have new treasurer nominated this week to transition this month and officially be voted at November meeting.
   5. We have implemented reimbursement, check request, and money handling procedures. Please use them.
4. Secretary’s Report- Nicole Adams
   1. Ga PTA membership update- three board members/chairs need to join Ga PTA
5. Parliamentarian- Beverly Hanson
   1. Emails for events need to be sent to everyone on the board.
   2. Board members need to try to attempt to attend events.
6. Co-Presidents’ Report- Denise Abramow and Lisa Shanklin
   1. Freshman night- requested feedback regarding PTA reception prior to or after meeting. Suggest getting with counseling team.
   2. Mini grant applications are on top of the mailbox. Please read so you are informed.
   3. Copies of information about Wellness Wednesday information about stress were disbursed.
   4. Flyer about student leadership and candidate forums. Might consider doing a candidate forum next year.
   5. PTSA google for nonprofits is free. Lisa will set this up to share documents and for collaborative projects.
   6. Be aware of email hackers. Lisa Burton received a hacker email with Denise’s name. Be alert and verify any requests with a phone call before taking action.
   7. Presented information about financial literacy program for high school students called Financially Astute.. Past comments from parents via college and career fair said that we don’t have enough life skills learning opportunities. Are we interested in implementing this program?
      1. Feedback:
         1. We might be able to get banks and business partners to do this for free.
         2. Could we get a club to sponsor this?
         3. There is a personal finance section in economics
         4. How do we get the students to attend? Mr. Martin will talk to economic teachers as well as business partners about this. Possibly hold program after hours to get parents to bring their children.
         5. Parent university to teach parents how to teach skills to their children.
   8. Need a volunteer to attend North Fulton council meeting on October 17 at Johns Creek Environmental Center. They are voting so bring membership card.
   9. School of Information will be held at 9-11:30 on Saturday October 21.
   10. District 10 conference- Wesley international academy. need a rep
   11. 2017-2019 we are a school of excellence from 2017-2019. Lisa shared a thank you letter from National PTA.
   12. At Ga PTA conference, North Fulton council said that they are in favor to adopt a rule that anyone with a criminal record can’t serve on a state level board. Also discussed issue of changing number of vice-presidents from 11 back to 16. By-law changes were improperly done but state has to overrule it officially.
   13. National Honor Society- Denise and Lisa had a conversation with Dr Zoll about standards and procedures. The GPA requirement is 85, however, each school can set their own standards. The JCHS requirement is a minimum GPA of 92 and committee evaluates character, leadership and service. There is concern that the process is too subjective, and the standards seem to be arbitrary. There was a change in sponsorship in club. 190 applied this year, and about half were accepted. Denial letters were general. Students can write an appeal due this Friday to Ms. Albright or Ms. Cook with a new essay.

Standards for admission should be addressed this year. The board felt strongly that we should draft a communication for the NHS sponsor to address parent concerns with admission. Kim Rutledge with help of Ann Marie will spearhead effort.

1. Officer Reports
   1. Health Services- Jen Zubler
      1. Next month is Red Ribbon Week which is shortened to three days.
      2. Thanks to Rachel Kitchens-Coles, Brittany Glasser, and Robin Cunningham, and PTSA ambassadors for all of their work.
   2. Membership- Sandy Garrett
      1. 583 members- 33 basic, 10 diamond, 5 gladiator, 48 gold, 137 platinum, 192 silver. 24 student and 134 teacher members.
      2. Total money brought by memberships is higher than at this time last year.
         1. Discussion regarding how we get new families to join. Suggestions included: a checklist for new families with information about where they need to go and what they need to do for next year at Open house (model from AMMS).
         2. Packet at counseling center- use 9th grade info sheet and alter for new students- Lisa will talk to Dr Zoll about this.
      3. Held drawings for perks of membership. Suggestion to use gift certificate and email to keep in their records to present when used.

Drawing was done via number call corresponding to the member number on the master membership spreadsheet.

* + - 1. Numbers 1-200- 77 was called for yearbook ad- Lee Ann Boyd
      2. Numbers 1-20- 12 was called for free student parking space- Kathy Gaccione
      3. Numbers 1-15- 6 was called for 5 reserved seats for graduation in leui of 4 general seats- Shikha Gupta
    1. Email went to platinum, diamond, and gladiator members about yearbook. Information is needed by Nov 1.
    2. Diane received an email requesting a receipt for $125 receipt from last year.
  1. Administrative Support- Diane Kolosna and Liz Hayde

Have met with Ms. Garcia, new head of counseling

* + 1. Going forward with Sign-up Genius for college visits on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays beginning in January.
    2. Ideas for using college and career center were discussed including populating bulletin board with checklists.
    3. Counselling Website has been changed.
    4. Scholarship list to be generated so parents will know what is available for students to apply for scholarships.
    5. Goody bags will be given to college representatives to thank them for their time.
    6. Publicize at parents nights that center is available.
    7. Students need pre-approved excused absence for taking days to visit colleges as well as leaving classes for visiting college representatives.
  1. Staff Support- Emily Hackworth and Issure Chen (absent)
     1. Fall breakfast on was held on Thursday. Feedback- teachers liked hot foods.
     2. Next event is Korean lunch in December. Suggestion that PTSA name should be on invitation, and PTSA needs to have a table and representatives there. Sandy Shin does lunch, and we give her a check.
     3. Grab and go in January- goody bags in mailroom first week back from break.
  2. Student Activities- Kim Rutledge and Ann Marie Cassidy
     1. Senior Fees were raised from $85 to $100 starting October 2nd and the PTSA website has been updated with new fee.
     2. Drawing was held last week for all parents who paid their Senior Activity Fee by Oct. 1st.  Patrick Martin gave us 8 random numbers ranging from 1-528.  We used those numbers to try and match up with a "paid" family.  The winners were:
        1. 18- Asbell, Shelby
        2. 526- Zhang, Stephanie
        3. 72- Chan, Vienna
     3. We currently have, roughly 350 students who have paid out the Senior Activity Fee out of 528 total students.  Also from that total, we have 85 MOWR paid out of a total of 128 MOWR students.
     4. October's Senior Treat Day will occur on Tuesday the 24th during lunch.  This month's theme is a make your own candy bag from an assorted Candy Bar selection.  Our volunteers are still working within their monthly budget.
     5. Kim has been working with the Senior Carnival committee (Jen Freyer) with their budget and new ideas which include nixing the DJ and using the announcer booth instead so whole stadium can hear music.  Also looking at different ideas for food trucks, including a ferris wheel, pie in the face vs. dunk tank, and bracelets with tags attached instead of using bags with coupon vouchers.  Kim can explain more in detail if needed.
     6. Todd Hedden, teacher in charge of Homecoming, asked if we would help solicit volunteers to work the check in table during homecoming on Saturday, Oct. 28th.  Kim and I submitted an article for the PTSA e-blast.  We will also try and send an email out to our list of parents who actively signed up to volunteer at school activities and events.
  3. Legislation- Karen Blake (absent- report via email)

On 10/2/17 we held a successful voter registration drive. We registered 47 students via paper applications and we forwarded the electronic link to at least 20 more potential applicants. I was assisted by Lisa Chasin, Belinda Edwards, and 4 student ambassadors. Unfortunately, Fulton county was not able to provide us with a voting computer with a dummy ballot.

* 1. Communications- Anna Seljan (absent)

E-blast will be a day late.

* 1. Academic Enrichment- Kim McDonald
     1. Mini grant application grants are due 10/11. Selection will be held on 10/18.
     2. Student ambassadors want graduation cords which cost $8-10. They have funds in their budget. There are 20 seniors. They asked if we would pay for cords, or if they should pay using money in budget. Budgeted items include t-shirts and water/snacks. Consensus is that we should not increase the budget to pay for cords. Student ambassadors can work within their budget or pay for the cords on their own as I‎t is done with other clubs.
     3. There are no formal requirements to be a Student Ambassador other than student membership in PTSA. Discussed possible minimum requirements for membership in club (attendance, hours). Committee will evaluate and discuss. Leadership needs to keep in contact with board to see what the needs are.
     4. Conversation with Lisa Chasin, counseling liaison and communicator. Discussed if position should fall under administrative support.
     5. Reflections program is going well.
     6. Honor roll students will receive Auntie Annie’s pretzels. There are 800 students on Honor Roll.
     7. Wall of Excellence being updated by Alyssa Glatter.

Other business:

Consider adopting families around holidays. School counselor used to do this.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:18 am.

**NEXT PTSA MEETING NOVEMBER 14TH AT 6:30 PM**

Upcoming Dates

October 10 Chorus Concert

October 11 PSAT

October 11 School Governance Council Meeting 4:00 pm

October 17 NFC PTA School of Information 9:00 am

October 17 Linda McCain Community Meeting at JCHS 6:30 pm

October 21 District 10 PTA Fall Conference 9:00 am

October 23 Parent night for sophomores and juniors 6:30 pm

October 28Homecoming Dance 7:30 – 11 pm