Johns Creek PTSA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2017

Attendees:

Denise Abramow, Lisa Shanklin, Nicole Adams, Lisa Burton, Marcia Grimsley, Sandy Garrett, Kim McDonald, Karen Blake, Suzanne Coleman, Kim Rutledge, Belinda Edwards, Radhika Tulpule

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes – Nicole Adams

* Agenda- Kim McDonald motioned to approve the agenda. Lisa Burton seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon and the agenda was approved.
* August 7, 2017 minutes- Lisa Burton motioned to approve the minutes. Karen Blake seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon, and the minutes were approved.
* Sept 6, 2017 minutes of General Membership Meeting- Belinda Edwards motioned to approve the minutes. Karen Blake seconded the motion. The motion was voted upon, and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Lisa Burton

* Discussed a procedure for funds that come into the school office and securing cash. Lisa checks her mailbox on Tuesday and Friday. Cash needs to be placed in black lockbox. Checks can be placed in Lisa’s mailbox. She needs to be informed when cash or checks are left. Membership VP, treasurer, and senior activities VP need keys to lockbox. Two more keys are needed.
* Lisa needs 7 days notice for check requests. Within 7 days, you might need to front money and be reimbursed. For petty cash, treasurer will issue a check and recipient will be responsible for cashing check to make cash.
* Teacher stipend forms need to go to membership VP before treasurer so membership VP can confirm PTSA membership.
* Request was made for W-9 form. Form will be available online.
* Reviewed profit and loss statement for period ending August 31, 2017. Items of note:
  1. Approximately 25,000 beginning balance
  2. Income for Laurel Schmitt scholarship isn’t reflected because money is given later in year.
  3. Statement doesn’t reflect membership dues from curriculum and freshman nights.
  4. Funds allocated to ground for school gift of landscape stairs will come out of facilities budget.
  5. Funds for installation and repair of bricks that were ordered in 2016-2017 was taken out of this year’s budget due to delays over the summer in installation. Increased 2017-2018 budget to compensate for those plus this year’s bricks.
* Membership would like to do a cost analysis regarding membership levels.

Secretary’s Report- Nicole Adams

* Several committee chairs have not joined GA PTA. Nicole will contact as membership is mandatory. If not response, Co-Presidents will follow up.

President’s Report – Denise Abramow & Lisa Shanklin

* Met briefly with Dr. Zoll. Latin teacher left so students are taking Latin online.
* Curriculum Night went well except video glitched in a few classrooms. Student ambassadors were included. There was request for video on e-blast or website. Lisa S. will follow up on that request.
* All VP’s and Committee Chairs should remember to take photos at events for PTA applications for awards. Please upload photos to Google Drive and send to Anna Seljan (include her email).
* Lisa went to Linda McCain community meeting. In attendance were area principals and one VP of legislation from Chattahoochee High School.

1. Linda met with area representatives. There is interest in a senior citizen property tax exemption in our county. This would impact schools’ budgets. Cobb, Forsyth, and several others have this exemption.
2. Assistant Superintendent Rob Andersen spoke about the strategic plan. With the exception of the 4 failing schools in North Fulton, every school will get $75,000 given to schools’ governance councils instead of having to aplly for grants.
3. Discussed Opportunity School district. Since it did not pass, the government is looking at other measures to help failing schools.
4. Next meeting is October 17 here at JCHS.

* Fight the new drug (pornography) will be at Paulding High School on October 21 at 6:30pm.
* 1800 students received devices during roll-out.

Officer Reports

* 1. Membership – Marcia Grimsley and Sandy Garrett
     + Higher membership benefits include $50 to allot to a club. Members have until 9/30 to decide where to place money. Discussion- club donations were not meant to include donations to sports team; one family wants to donate to a sport. Decided to allow donations to sports this year then revisit policy change for next year.
     + Send reminder to teachers that 9/30 is the deadline to join to receive stipends.
     + Freshman night is 9/27. There will be a membership table; will need volunteers and 1 PTSA representative. VP of membership needs two minutes at beginning of program to welcome parents, ask for support, and to sign up for e-blast. Freshman tip sheet has been revised and is available on website.
     + Radhika has record of 5 matching donations and has contacted them. Sandy has record of 12 matching donations.
     + Sandy has GaPTA membership cards; please pick yours up.
  2. Health Services- Jen Zubler (absent- report sent via email)
     + Wellness Wednesday will be held Sept 27th with information on Stress vs anxiety. At lunch there will be handouts available to educate students about stress being a normal part of life and healthy ways to manage stress so it does not turn into anxiety. This handout was thoughtfully prepared by our school social worker Rachel Kitchens-Cole and our onsite Summit Counselor Brittany Glaser who have a lot of experience working with teens in managing stress. Mindfulness meditation apps will be advertised at the lunch table. The handout and information will be shared with families through the PTSA newsletter and webpage. There will be a raffle of donated gift certificates to encourage students to come visit the table along with stress balls donated from Summit counseling services. We are recruiting the PTSA ambassadors to volunteer to help man the table and to encourage students to come find out more about stress management.
     + October 24-26 we will be hosting a table at lunch for “Red Ribbon” week. This is the week of Home coming so students will be dressing up for homecoming themed days. We will have a banner for students to sign to be drug free, there will be daily raffles, red ribbon bracelets, a “picture booth” with “drug Free” phrases for student to take and post pictures to raise awareness of Red Ribbon week and its mission. We will update parent information on JCHS on resources for substance abuse and will advertise the National Prescription Drug take back day Oct 28th (homecoming).
       - November’s Theme will be suicide prevention and cyberbullying month. PTSA and JCHS Student Council will be funding a guest speaker Emily Torchiana, a young woman who was cyber bullied and considered suicide. She is now a motivational speaker, you can check out her website at [emilytorchiana.com](http://www.emilytorchiana.com) This will correspond with students receiving the annual suicide prevention program within the school called SOS. The school counselors, social worker, and school nurse are all involved with coordinating this event to best handle and students who may bring up concerns for themselves or fellow students. There will be information prepared for the newsletter and website to help families find resources if they have any concerns.
     + We are working on other months and themes and will keep you updated as we finalize more. We will continue to ask PTSA ambassadors to volunteer but are also looking for other clubs to pick a Wednesday theme to help us. If your student is in the leadership of a club that would be interested please have them contact Jen Zubler at [schzub@gmail.com](mailto:schzub@gmail.com) to discuss.
  3. Communications – Anna Seljan (absent)

Receiving a lot of info from counseling

* 1. Administrative Support – Diane Kolosna & Liz Hayde (absent)
     + Sign up genius for college representative visits will begin in January
  2. Academic Enrichment – Kim McDonald
     + Kathy Ortwerth and Kim Lemoine have been heading up Student Ambassadors and sending in reports.
     + Auntie Anne’s for Honor Roll recognition will be held 10/13
     + Entry forms are coming in for Reflections
     + Mini grants applications are due 10/16
     + Decca is helping with powder puff game on the same weekend as spring football game
     + Student ambassadors are working on graduation cords
     + Discussion and reminder that any expenditures that have not been included in current budget must be approved *in advance*
  3. Student Activities – Kim Rutledge
     + 275 students have paid for senior activities. Engaging move on when ready kids is challenging. There are 60 seniors in first lunch, 140 in second lunch.
     + Candy bar is next senior treat on 10/24.
  4. Staff Support – Issure Chen & Emily Hackworth (absent)
     + Fall teacher breakfast will be held on 10/5. Kim McDonald has been working with Emily.
  5. Legislation- Karen Blake
     + Karen had training and is now a deputy registrar; she can register people to vote. Plan to hold voter registration on 10/2 during lunches. The event has been cleared by county. Waiting on school’s approval. Will ask for student ambassadors’ assistance to get students to register. Students can be 17 ½. Karen has requested a computer so students can have the experience of doing a dummy vote. Will contact parent volunteers for assistance.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Karen Blake and seconded by Kim McDonald. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Upcoming Dates:

September 27 Wellness Wednesday

September 27 , 6:30pm Freshman Parent Night

October 11, 4 pm School Governance Meeting

October 17, 9-11:30 am School of Information at Johns Creek Environmental Center

October 17, 6:30pm Linda McCain Community meeting at JCHS

October 21, 9:30-11:30 am District 10 Fall Conference (location TBD)

October 24-26 Red Ribbon Week