Johns Creek PTSA Executive Board Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2018

Attendees:

Denise Abramow, Lisa Shanklin, Nicole Adams, Nikki Schreck, Ron Tesch, Sandy Garrett, Diane Kolosna, Liz Hayde, Kim Rutledge, Ann Marie Cassidy, Jennifer Zubler, Karen Blake, Suzanne Coleman, Kim McDonald

Meeting was called to order at 9:35 am.

1. Principal’s Report- Ron Tesch
   1. Mr. Tesch, the interim principal, introduced himself. He served as principal in Michigan, Illinois, and then Minnesota. From there, he was recruited to Fulton County and served as principal at Milton for 12 years. He is currently retired.
   2. Dealing with flu at school. News is reporting that 10 % of students in district have flu. Monitoring clinic and attendance. 7-8 % absentee rate. Concern that seniors are coming to school sick because they don’t want to lose senior exemption for exams. Sent email to teachers regarding absences, asking them to extend flexibility on senior exemptions if students have medical excuse for absences. Also asked teachers to refer students to clinic if they demonstrate flu-like symptoms.
   3. Praised production of 42nd street.
   4. Successes in athletics: girls basketball is in state tournament for first time; they are headed to Winder MD for first game. Swim dive team won 2nd in state with many individual champions. Spring sports are underway.
   5. New this year: Looked at End of Course exam schedule, how it interferes with regular classes, and how they can condense schedule. Created a new schedule and will go over it with department heads. Testing used to span 6 days. New schedule allows for all testing to be done for 3-4 days in morning in one building and there will be options for students who are not testing. Students who aren’t testing will engage in speakers, remediations, “gladiator games”. Possibly arranging for seniors to go see movies a few mornings- something fun for them but with educational value. Will also have practice AP tests. Details will be developed at meeting tomorrow. Credit to Ashley Agans and other assistant principals for plan.
   6. Building schedule for next year. Had budget meetings past few weeks. Less personnel allocated for Johns Creek; reduced a tag teacher. Have 3-4 teachers losses- little attrition here. Will need to do some shifting so that students can begin registering for classes next year. Want to do hiring as quickly as possible; getting 6-7 emails a day from applicants and is forwarding these to department chairs.
   7. Spoke with Cliff Jones (area superintendent). He plans to have a candidate for principal March 8 to present to school board. If approved, the new principal will be introduced the next day.
2. Approval of Minutes – Nicole Adams
   1. Reviewed minutes.
   2. Jen Zubler made a motion to approve the January minutes. The motion was seconded by Karen Blake, and the motion carried.
3. Treasurer’s Report – Nikki Schreck
   1. Need to realign budget; Nikki has heard from almost everyone. Most said they will use all of their budgeted funds. Will meet with Denise and Lisa next week. Money needs to be allocated to the Laurent Schmidt scholarship, spring mini grants, and school gift.
   2. Student agendas (Denise): We have traditionally paid for them at a cost of $6500. Lisa and Denise spoke with Denise Cessna about agendas; they need to be ordered soon- the deadline is in March. Discussion: Is there an alternative? Is it prudent to spend that money? Ms. Cessna and Dr. Zoll support use of agenda apps on Surfaces. Suggestion was made to survey department chairs and students about use. Will gather info and address again before ordering deadline.
4. President’s Report – Denise Abramow & Lisa Shanklin
   1. Nominating committee: 3 members and 1 alternate- Kim Rutledge, Nicole Adams, and Paromita Ghosh with Jen Zubler as alternate. Motion made by Diane Kolosna to approve nominations. Motion was seconded by Sandy Garrett. Motion carried. Will present names to general membership meeting during Mardi Gras lunch for approval.
   2. Update on by-laws: There is a change from last year. North Fulton Council announced that there are no restrictions on Co-VPs; however, that has not been presented in writing. Nominating committee will update number of VPs to 16. All VP positions are a 2 year commitment.
   3. AP exams: AP night was held last week. A parent and 15 students requested the Chinese AP exam. Our testing coordinator told parents that we don’t offer that exam and that the parents should call the College Board. The College Board told the parents to call other schools. Other schools said that they would be on a wait list- no guarantee. In North Fulton Schools, spots for tests are usually available to the school’s students only. Test scores impact teachers’ evaluations, so schools don’t want to test students who they don’t teach. Outcome- Chattahoochee is allowing students to take AP test there.
   4. Focus group for principal met last week: 4 PTSA members, 8 parents, and Cliff Jones participated. Mr. Jones presented survey results: 260 surveys completed- 77 % from parents, 17% teachers, 7% from support staff. Eight questions were addressed including strategic directions, leadership qualities, piece of advice for principals. Teachers met after.
   5. Registrar is a principal’s decision. Registrar’s function can be distributed to counselors. We currently have the data clerk as a temporary registrar.
   6. “Keeping People Safe” on North Fulton Council website is about mental health. AMMS aired Screamagers. Candace Ford wants to host a viewing of “Angst” once new principal comes.
   7. Linda McCain Community meeting gives attendees an opportunity to speak to principals of other schools. Denise and Lisa would like to compile info about what is going on at other schools to make it available as community resources available in our newsletter.
   8. Discussed digital learning day on March 9. There is no specific plan in place. With 90,000 students, Wi-Fi is an issue district wide.
   9. Discussed what goes on at school board meetings and recommended that PTSA board members attend. Jeff Rose and Cliff Jones often attend these meetings.
   10. Beverly purchased $250 worth of wipes and hand sanitizer for teachers to help prevent the spread of flu. Will announce in e-blast that parents can donate.
   11. Denise was asked to sit on teacher of the year committee. There are 5 candidates.
5. Officer Reports
   1. Membership – Marcia Grimsley and Sandy Garrett
      * Four new memberships: two gold memberships- one joined GaPTA and two students.
      * Dues to GaPTA need to be paid monthly.
   2. Legislation – Karen Blake
      * Tomorrow is Student PTA Day at the Capital; Rishi Gowda is going to represent JCHS. Only one student per high school is allowed to attend; government teachers recommend a student. North Fulton Council is busing students from Centennial High School.
      * March 1 is also PTA Day at Capital. Karen is attending with two other parents. Students are invited to this; there is no limit.
      * Karen is partnering with Chattahoochee High School VP of Legislation to take reps to lunch after PTA Day at the Capital. Will reimburse parents attending.
      * Voter registration for seniors will be held in late April.
      * GaPTA House Bill 788 was pulled.

* 1. Communications – Anna Seljan
     + No report
  2. Administrative Support – Diane Kolosna & Liz Hayde
     + PTSA scholarship: 5 applications received. Suzanne Coleman said that a concern of seniors is that they think that the students who win it are the ones who win everything, so why bother. Scholarship was originally created for the “behind the scenes” kid who does not have the highest SAT, lead in the play, etc. Discussed how we convey that this is an award for the unsung hero. Will communicate with Cindy Apgar about publicity and will also ask Mr. Martin to communicate to senior parents about the scholarships offered by PTSA. Can also be publicized on morning announcements via Mr. Chuven.
     + College and career center bulletin board has been updated. Documents and checklists are available by grade level.
     + PROBE college fair is March 28 from 6-8 in the cafeteria. Beverly is meeting with Ms. Garcia on March 6 to prepare and will get a list of represented colleges. Finances: PROBE gives $50. Plan to work with business partners to provide a meal for college reps. Beverly will check with Mr. Martin about partnership with Chick-fil-a. Need help preparing; will reach out to student ambassadors. Will have students assist with set-up. We have a map of Cambridge’s set -up which we will copy. Also inviting other high schools in area.
     + Sign up genius that they are testing for college rep visits is working well. Running reports on Sign up genius is a challenge because it is constantly changing.
     + QR code will be used for college commitment board.
  3. Academic Enrichment – Kim McDonald
     + Mini grants are coming to a close.
     + Students ambassadors are helping with powder puff game and college fair.
  4. Student Activities – Ann Marie Cassidy/ Kim Rutledge
     + Senior baby sales was half of last year; snow days were likely a factor.
     + Senior treats tomorrow
  5. Health Services – Jennifer Zubler
     + Tomorrow FCA and Hossa and MD are putting sticky notes with positive phrases on lockers. Flood is also planning to do it; Kim McDonald will change Flood’s date to next week. At lunch there will be a program called “Love Yourself” to promote self-affirmation; students will write something on heart and put on banner. Giving students strawberries from cafeteria and Hershey’s Kisses. Teachers and students are encouraged to wear green. Jennifer is working on collaboration with teachers.
     + On 2/28 information about domestic violence will be presented by Alma Davis in the media center. Ms. Davis works in family/domestic violence. Information will include teen relationship violence, healthy relationships, and where to go for help. 1 of 7 teens experience relationship violence. No waivers needed since its optional. Ms. Cunningham will advertise tomorrow and 2/28.
     + March: yoga
     + April- May-stress and anxiety- possible therapy dog
  6. Staff Support – Issure Chen & Emily Hackworth- no report

Upcoming Dates:

February 13 Dual Enrollment Night 6:00 pm

February 14 PTSA Health Services Wellness Wednesday

February 14 School Governance Council meeting 4:00 pm

February 19 No School – President’s Day Observed

February 20 Linda McCain Community Meeting, Medlock Bridge Elementary 9:30 am February 23 Deadline to declare candidacy for School Governance Council

February 24 Deadline for seniors to apply for JCHS PTSA scholarships

February 28 Deadline for seniors to apply for North Fulton Council PTA Sally Fitzgerald Scholarship

March 1 PTA Day at the Capitol

March 8 No School (Professional development day)

March 9 Digital Learning Day – Students work from home

March 12 Snow Make Up day

March 28 JCHS College Fair in partnership with PROBE 6:00 pm – 8:00

May 18 JCHS PTSA Student Ambassador Powder Puff Game

May 20 JCHS Baccalaureate for Seniors