

Johns Creek PTSA Board Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2018

Attendees: Kimberly McDonald, Julia Moravec, Kim Rudledge, Ann Marie Cassidy, Karen Blake, Beth Gaan, Kim Hochman, Sarika Bhatia, Mary Wenmin He, Jen Zubler, Nicole Adams, Chris Shearer, Joni Murphy, Rebecca Jue Wang, Shawn Xu, Susanne Coleman, Roya Schweinbeck, and Sandy Garrett.

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m. It was determined that a quorum was established.

International Seal of Diplomacy – Roya Schweinbeck

The World Language department is asking for an additional \$1,000 grant from the PTSA. Currently, the French department has an essay contest and Ms. Schweinbeck would like to add a similar contest for the Spanish department. They are asking for \$1,000 (\$250 for freshmen, \$250 for sophomores, \$250 for juniors, and \$250 for seniors). Kimberly McDonald suggested that Ms. Schweinbeck write up her request and submit it to the PTSA. We let Ms. Schweinbeck know that the grants have already been paid this year out of the budget that was approved. We also explained that we are currently over \$7,000 short of our budget income, and that we weren't optimistic this grant could be funded this year. We will discuss at a future date.

Principal's Report - Mr. Shearer

1. CCRPI scores were released. JCHS did very well as expected. For example, our SAT and ACT scores continue to be very high, graduating rates continue to be high, etc. One area where we have a lot of room to improve is our "closing the gap" score. This score measures demographic groups (i.e., black, Hispanic, EASL, economically disadvantaged, special needs, etc.) being compared to each other from year to year within our school. Our score was an 80%. Walton HS received a 97% and is demographically similar to JCHS. Also, N. Gwinnett HS scored in the 90s. Mr. Shearer will reach out to the principal of Walton HS to try to figure out what their HS is doing that Mr. Shearer may be able to use at JCHS to improve our scores.
2. JCHS won regional championships in the following areas this fall:
 - One Acts (placed 4th in states)
 - Cheer (placed 6th in states)
 - Football
3. Georgia Governors Honors – JCHS had the most semi-finalists in the county. 33 students will move on to the state competition.
4. School spirit - Mr. Shearer is concerned of the lack of spirit throughout the school for both students and parents. For example, on a typical Friday night, the football

stadium is very empty. (As a reference, West Forsyth HS's stadium is packed every Friday night. Also as a reference, their football team is not nearly as highly regarded as JCHS's team.) Also, the students had a pep rally on the Friday before the playoff game and the students were not the least bit fired up. Mr. Shearer wishes the HS was center of the community for athletics, concerts, musicals, plays, and other events. This will not be resolved today, but he would like the PTSA to think about what the PTSA can do to help school spirit.

5. JCHS is looking at adding a "Flex period" in the middle of the day for next year's master schedule. This would be approximately 25-30 minutes and would be used for multiple things, but mainly to provide federally mandated RTI services (students who are struggling).

President's Report

1. PTSA shirts are now available. All board members should take one. They are sized S, M, L, and XL.
2. Next month's PTSA meeting will include a "holiday party" at Egg Harbour Café at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, December 11th. Bring a wrapped gift approximately \$15. We will have a brief meeting.
3. For a few days, the JCHS PTSA had a credit card. However, we then learned that we are not authorized to have one. Nikki took the credit card back to the bank. We are now in national PTA compliance.
4. We used to have grounds/facilities as a board position, but we no longer do. In prior years, we used to pay for pine straw and mulch and chemicals for the grass. Now the school pays for these items. We need to pay to have someone install the bricks. Our current budget has \$3,500 budgeted for facilities and \$1,000 budgeted for grounds.
5. The PTSA School of Excellence award is completed every other year. It is still unknown whether we need to complete an application at this time.
6. Dates:
November 12 - Senior treats
December 6 - 11:30 a.m. Korean Lunch
December 11 - PTSA holiday party
January 4 – "Grab and Go" for the staff (teacher appreciation)

Treasurer's Report

If any check requests are needed, please turn them in to Nikki Schreck today. Otherwise all checks will have to wait until after the Thanksgiving holiday.

Secretary's Report

Jen Zubler made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2018 board meeting. Sandy Garrett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Officer Reports:

Health Services – Jen Zubler

1. We will have a “Wellness Wednesday” lunch table for the three weeks before midterms/finals. Please contact Jen Zubler if you are interested in volunteering.
2. November 28th - Handouts on study skills, time management, sleep, and mindfulness. Newsletter article with information for students and parents on managing stress and Summit On Site services. Summit on Site will be donating some stress balls.
3. On November 30th, there will be a Parent University program to discuss logging in and using Inner Explorer and to answer questions on mindfulness. This program will take place in the college visit conference room in the counseling center from 8:30-9:00 a.m.
4. Wellness Teacher T-shirts have arrived, and the Community Based Instruction students and Ms. DeBuys will be coordinating their distribution. They will be distributed after Thanksgiving.
5. The wall mural in the cafeteria is currently underway. Once completed, we will arrange to bring Rachel Kitchen-Coles back for a “Thank You” dedication and give her a t-shirt and gift card.
6. Student council may be working on some stress relieving activities before finals. We reached out to them to see if we can collaborate.

Communications – Sarika Bhatia

The communications team isn't currently getting information from any board members to include in e-blasts. This week she currently has nothing new.

Legislation - Beth Gaan

Fulton County Schools has a new app – “Quick Tip!” This app’s data goes to Safety and Security for the specific school and should be used by individuals to quickly and anonymously report situations and issues that may have occurred within schools. If a person sees something questionable, they can report it anonymously. The goal is to keep schools safe.

This app is separate from the “Text 4 Help” program. Text 4 Help is an anonymous crisis texting line for teens reaching out for advice on issues that are troubling them. Text 4 Help allows teens to reach a licensed clinician who will respond within 3 minutes 24/7. This program is available to JCHS students.

Administrative Support – Mary Wenmin He

College visits are currently being set up for next semester. Everything is currently on target.

Academic Enrichment – Rebecca Jue Wang

Last month JCHS recognized honor roll students. 1,100 students were eligible to receive Auntie Anne’s pretzels funded by the PTSA. Note that the number of students increased because freshmen were recognized for last year’s achievements at the middle school.

Approximately \$15,000 in Mini grants were approved:

Robotics - \$4,000

Science - \$3,685

Foreign language - \$2,095

Forensics & Environmental Science - \$1,400

Computer Science - \$1,350

Additional other smaller various grants

Staff Support - Kim Hochman

The Korean lunch will be held on 12/6.

Senior Activities - Kim Rutledge

345 students (out of 523) paid.

We are currently \$2,100 under budget.

Membership - Sandy Garrett

An email was sent from Patrick Martin to JCHS parents requesting parents join the PTSA. From that email, the PTSA received 13 new memberships (\$3,750). This is an excellent response, especially considering the email just went out. We are now \$4,000 under budget. We plan to send these emails out every few weeks until we meet our budget goals.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Moravec
JCHS PTSA Secretary