

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE CAVALIERS

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL PTSA MEETING NOTES

November 17, 2020 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

AGENDA

6:00 - 6:05 pm	Welcome	Kristen Walker Painemilla
6:05 - 6:20 pm	PTA Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval of October Minutes• Update on membership• Finance	PTSA Officers
6:20 - 6:35 pm	Principal's Report	Dr. Joe Rubens
6:35 - 6:55 pm	LTI Senior Project Presentations	Kofi Frempong & LTI Students
6:55-7:05 pm	MCCPTA Report	Meg Morrow & Bryan Benesch
7:05-7:15 pm	PTSA By-Laws Review Process	Joe Jenkins
7:15-7:30 pm	Any other business	Open
7:30 pm	Adjourn	

Meeting started @ 6:05 pm

October 20, 2020 Meeting Minutes were approved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Kirsten Murray

56 have paid PTSA membership, 74 have created MemberHub account

TREASURER REPORT by Michelle Bonner

\$2,214.70 balance as of 10/30

Michelle will work to prepare a budget to be approved at the December PTSA meeting.

Bryan suggested that the \$4.25/person PTSA membership fee that should be paid to MD PTA should be put it on hold because of court issues.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT by Dr. Joe Rubens

See complete [Principal's Report](#)

Still no idea when students will be able to return to school.

Grade 9 SGA & Homecoming Court Interest Meetings on 11/16 had to be cancelled at the last moment due to sponsor's illness. Meetings scheduled for 11/18 will occur as planned.

In progress - Any student still needing materials for a course should complete the JFK materials request form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1GwDmjFIU96bYcRtTKSMh4I0EFxxvZaP3XF AaI9BcYkI/edit?ts=5fa4558b&gxids=7628>

Scheduled - Grade level town hall/check-in meetings with students, which will include previews of our virtual homecoming and spirit week, are Wednesday, November 18, at 2:45 p.m. for seniors and freshman, and Thursday, November 19 at 2:45 p.m., for sophomores and juniors. Zoom login information will be shared with students through the Student VUE portal.

Scheduled - The JFK Cluster Thanksgiving Family Market (free dry goods and produce for families) is Thursday, November 19 at 10:30 a.m., in front of the auditorium.

Scheduled – Virtual Parent-Teacher Conference days are November 23 and November 24. Please see the virtual parent-teacher conferences information below. Sign-up information is being shared with families via Synergy and MCPS Canvas.

JFK Virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences:

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/schools/high-schools/a-j/kennedyhs/jfk-parent-teacher-conferences-2020-english-002.pdf>

<https://www2.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/siteassets/schools/high-schools/a-j/kennedyhs/jfk-parent-teacher-conferences-2020-spanish.pdf>

Link to conference sign-up:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H9kRxJQklftxUkNtl1DPX4wJrIjun-fk/view?usp=sharing>

Scheduled – Virtual JFK Homecoming 2020 and School Spirit Week begins November 30.

Opportunity for interested MCPS students – In case you haven't heard, there is an exciting lineup of panelists for the next www.ourmindsmatter.org **Men's Mental Health Panel on November 19 at 8 p.m. EST** Students can register for the event at bit.ly/mensmindsmatter.

Dr. Rubens was asked to compare MP1 grades from last year and this “COVID” year. He stated attendance is an issue for certain students; Wellness Team is following up with students regarding attendance. A Student Voice Survey will be coming out on StudentVUE to see what is working & what is not working. (A Parent Voice Survey will come out after that.) Dr. Rubens has been meeting with various student groups each Friday to discuss what is working and what is not working. He is also checking MAP-R and MAP-M scores. Kristen offered PTSA assistance. Zolfa mentioned the Parent Voice Survey should be open longer than the MCPS survey earlier this fall. Also the Student Voice Survey may not capture the voice of those students not engaged because they won't even see it.

KCTV checked in with a few students and alumni to learn more about their student experiences.

Bryan asked about Senior JFK student spoke at recent BOE about lack of “senior experience”. Gayle asked if there were any special tools to help Seniors to get more engaged. Ms. Lewis & Dr. Rubens are looking at ideas after we get through Homecoming & Spirit Week. Perhaps looking for opportunities to engage students during the Advisory Period. MCPS is planning for in-person graduations at DAR but also outdoor venues as a back-up.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE SENIOR PRESENTATIONS

Link to the LTI Senior Project Presentations: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/145-83HleoCpFFF3_srj6bHkLzzXhpnyV9Wc-sugSqDs/edit?usp=sharing

Link to Project List: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hp75IFFicc6amJ_RLptf-0qSzWH41v12/view?usp=sharing

Leadership Training Institute Senior Projects:

Warm Winters presented by Djenebou “JJ” Traore & Michael Sarino

Collecting winter garments for donation to Martha’s Table and Stepping Stones shelters

Garments pickup contact: djenebou.s.traore@gmail.com

Go Fund Me: [gf.me/u/y23u5i](https://www.gofundme.com/u/y23u5i)

Senior Shoppers presented by Ariful Haque

support senior citizens by purchasing & delivering their groceries

contact: jfkseniورشoppers@gmail.com

Helping Everyone Around presented by Eden Gugsu & Hewan Kidanemariam

collecting personal care products to be donated to local shelters

Drop Off Location for Items: [2001 Briggs Rd. Silver Spring, MD 20906](#)

The Duo Podcast presented by Francesca Gasasira & Amya Yuth

podcast focused on current event topics of interest to youth

Our first podcast includes links to GoFundMe's, petitions, and educational sites about how to get involved.

<https://open.spotify.com/show/3SNWGjGvpM2oBZEsrNNGxl>

Feed the Streets presented by Fatmata Bundu & Leon Carson

raising money and supplies for the National Center for Children and Families

Go Fund Me: [gf.me/u/yzgmgd](https://www.gofundme.com/u/yzgmgd)

Give for Good presented by Rouky Mama Sambo

raising money and awareness for children of incarcerated parents

<https://donate.prisonfellowship.org/fundraiser/2915221>

Gift for Givers presented by Aylin Aguilon

honoring medical personnel for their tireless work with small tokens of appreciation

Go Fund Me: [gf.me/u/y29726](https://www.gofundme.com/u/y29726)

Wish Equality presented by Asia Nuchurch and Rosie Marcel

raising money and awareness for the National Black Child Development Institute

<https://www.charities.org/charities/national-black-child-development-institute>

Homeful Winter Ian Virga & Andrew Hernandez

collecting canned goods and clothing to donate to local shelters

Currently working to organize a fundraiser at a local restaurant

MCCPTA REPORT by Bryan Benesch & Meg Morrow

First meeting focused on line-item edits to their Advocacy Priorities to BOE; mentioned getting more student memberships by giving SSL hours for attending PTSA meetings.

A lot of schools say membership is down and are considering lowering the cost of membership to increase membership numbers.

Discussion of on-going lawsuit between MD PTA and National PTA. Court ruled against MD PTA temporary restraining order. MCCPTA President suggested delaying sending our dues to MD PTA until later. We should keep the PTA membership cards (because they represent money).

Discussion about getting schools to acquire tents to put in school parking lots to do extracurricular activities. Dr. Rubens said the Dept of Athletics is reviewing their extra-curricular plan and hopefully will be shared with the public soon (including a thorough “pod plan”).

Discussion on what votes can take place virtually vs. in-person.

Upcoming MCCPTA Delegate Meeting on 11/19: have invited 2 MCPS IT Reps to talk about Synergy & Canvas issues.

PTSA BY-LAWS REVIEW by Joe Jenkins

Our PTSA should update our by-laws every 3 years. If there aren't any changes, then we can continue. Joe has reached out to MD PTA for clarification on that. Financial Reports have to be submitted to MD PTA within 120 days of XXX. Have to follow Robert's Rules of Order. Have to use MD PTA template and make handwritten changes/edits. MCCPTA would be good resource for By-Laws.

Joe will reach out to past PTSA president Amie Wohlfarth to see if there are updated By-Laws (Amie said she sent them to Ms. Lyons to post on school website last year).

Article 6: officer may not be eligible to serve more than 2 consecutive terms.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion of prom but also other events/supports for Seniors

Gayle: parent of Senior

Kimra: parent of Senior Kirpal Allen, willing to support

Joe Jenkins: willing to support

Kristen will work with Dr. Rubens to communicate with Senior families, to ask people to the table

Senior Parent Meeting with Ms. Lewis is 11/18. Kristen asked Gayle Rankine to report back to PTSA on how PTSA can help. Gayle will ensure Special Education perspective is considered as well.

Djenebou “JJ” Traore is the Senior Communication SGA Liaison: her focus is on having a graduation over a Prom (because Prom is so hard to pull-off in COVID environment). She doesn’t want to have a YouTube graduation.

TEACHER APPRECIATION by Zolfa Valiani-Merchant

Mr. Frempong suggested letters or pictures of appreciation from students. Kristen also suggested sending our thanks through JFK Twitter account.

33 ATTENDEES (3 JFK STAFF, 17 JFK STUDENTS, 13 PARENTS/GUARDIANS):

Amyla Yuth (LTI student)
Andrew Hernandez (LTI student)
Ariful Haque (LTI student)
Asia Nuchurch (LTI student)
Aylin Aguilon (LTI student)
Bryan Benesch
Djenebou Traore (LTI student)
Donnie Gamble (JFK staff)
Eden Gugsa (LTI student)
Emmanuela Obia-Amauwa (LTI student)
Fatmata Bundu (LTI student)
Francesca Gasasira (LTI student)
Gayle Rankine
Hewan Kidanemariam (LTI student)
Ian Virga (LTI student)
Idalia Palacios (LTI student)
Isabella Vega
Joe Jenkins
Dr. Joe Rubens (Principal)
Kai (LTI student)
Kirpal Allen
Kimra
Kirsten Murray
Kristen Walker Painemilla
Kofi Frempong (LTI teacher)
Margot Khoo
Meg Morrow
Michael Sarino (LTI student)
Michelle Bonner
Nancy Goldberg
Rouky Mama Sambo (LTI student)
Rusa Gahima (LTI student)
Zolfa Valiani-Merchant

Meeting adjourned @ 7:40pm