

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE CAVALIERS

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL PTSA MEETING NOTES December 15, 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	Special Education	Mr. Kevin Jefferson Special Education Resource Teacher
6:45-7:00 pm	Talk on the Signs of Suicide	Ms. Kimberly Batten Kennedy School Psychologist
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	Report on Seniors Meeting	Gayle Rankine
7:30 pm	Adjourn	

Meeting started at 6:04pm

Kirsten Murray quickly reviewed minutes from November 17 meeting. Motion was made to approve the November Meeting Minutes by Bryan Benesch, seconded by Kristen Walker Painemilla.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Kirsten Murray

58 have paid PTSA membership (11 staff, 9 students, 38 parents/guardians), 76 have created MemberHub accounts.

New website: <https://kennedyhsptsa.new.memberhub.store>

Pay your PTSA membership: <https://kennedyhsptsa.new.memberhub.store/store>

Join Kennedy HS PTSA MemberHub: <https://kennedyhsptsa.memberhub.com/join/3gcp4z>

TREASURER REPORT by Michelle Bonner

Balance on hand as of 10/31/20220 was \$2,214.70. \$2,343.60 balance as of 11/30. Michelle Bonner presented the proposed budget. Motion was made to approve the December Budget by Bryan Benesch, seconded by Kristen Walker Painemilla.

We need to pay MCCPTA membership soon, according to Bryan Benesch (MCCPTA Rep).

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT by Dr. Joe Rubens

See complete [Principal's Report](#).

Asst. Principal Keir Lewis' mom passed away suddenly. The whole school community sends their condolences.

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

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1GwDmjFIU96bYcRtTKSMh4I0EFxxvZaP3XFAaI9BcYkI/edit?ts=5fa4558b&gxids=7628>

Completed: virtual JFK Homecoming & Spirit Week

Completed: Asst Principals' Quarterly Grade Level Check-In Meetings were completed to set expectations, etc.

Cancelled: Have to cancel JFK Cluster Family Market December 17 due to upcoming snow storm; MCPS food is doubled up in its place.

In progress: The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is providing short-term rental assistance to eligible families that have experienced financial loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While funds are available, the program will provide up to \$4,000 to eligible households to cover the cost for back rent (arrears) and/or a rent credit for future months. The program is funded through a \$20 million supplemental appropriation to DHHS. For more information, please visit:

https://montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/RightNav/COVID19_RentReliefProgram.html

Scheduled: The next episode of "Let's Talk Careers" will feature state and local government leaders including Maryland State Senator Cheryl Kagan, Maryland State Delegate Lily Qi, Montgomery County Council Executive Marc Elrich, and Montgomery County Councilmember Sidney Katz. The airing of the second "Let's Talk Careers" session for secondary students is Wednesday, December 16 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Students can watch on MCPSTV (Comcast 34, Verizon 36 and RCN 89).

Scheduled: December 23 is full day of teacher check-ins, not early release.

Scheduled: Marking Period 1 Virtual Honor Roll Assembly is December 23 at 2:45 p.m.

Announcements:

New staff: Ms. Carolina Pinkney, administrative assistant at Forest Knolls ES, has accepted our school administrative assistant position (replacing Ingrid), effective Tuesday, December 29, 2020. Please welcome Ms. Pinkney to our school.

Request for In-Person Learning: The Board of Education voted that schools will remain closed until February 1, 2021, but JFK staff still have to plan as if re-opening in January. 467 students requested in-person learning at JFK, 673 students requested to remain virtual, 649 did not respond (which defaults to virtual). HVAC Status Website Information:
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/default.aspx?id=674571>

Letter from MCEA to the Board of Education: <http://www.theseventhstate.com/?p=14370>

Next BOE meeting is January 12, 2021.

Please don't forget to activate your ParentVUE account. More details are in the [Principal's Report](#).

Awards are listed in the [Principal's Report](#).

“Choose Respect Video Contest” for students. More details are in the [Principal's Report](#).

Although student enrollment is down, JFK school construction project is still progressing; final bids were accepted November. Actual construction begins Spring/Summer 2021.

Athletic Director Amanda Twele would like to talk to PTSA about creating a sports booster club.

There were questions about JFK email regarding measurements for Senior Graduation & Graduation Date. The graduation date will be shared next month (but they are tentative dates). If it is safe to do so, in-person graduation will be at DAR Constitution Hall (DC) in June. If it is unsafe, MCPS is exploring outdoor venues. A third option is an outdoor graduation on JFK campus.

Zolfa Valiani-Merchant asked Dr. Rubens if Teacher Appreciation messaging could be included in the week's ConnectEd.

SPECIAL EDUCATION by Kevin Jefferson

JFK is one of largest programs (4 depts): Autism Resource Services (ARS), Learning & Academic Disabilities (LAD), Learning for Independence (LFI), and School Community Based (SCB).

COVID situation provided the department an opportunity to refine & reflect on existing approach, to meet students where they are. JFK has awesome para-educator staff. The administration did a survey of that staff to pair up w/ teachers & co-teachers. They are currently looking to fill para-educator position in ARS English. Case managers are actively monitoring amount of student workload. The focus is on students being able to demonstrate mastery of the content.

Student support / social & emotional supports: Thursday morning Educational Management Team (EMT) meetings, Friendship Club after-school club is catered to ARS students. School Psychologist Ms. Kimberly Batten: provides SSL opportunities for targeted lesson

“SIGNS OF SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM” by Kimberly Batten

SOS training is done at all JFK middle & high schools (presentation will be shown during 2nd period classes on January 12 & January 15, 2021). Suicide is an attempt to solve the problem of strong emotional pain & hopelessness.

301-738-2255 Montgomery County Hotline

([Link for video](#) is in the agenda)

MCCPTA UPDATE by Bryan Benesch & Meg Morrow

Bryan: National PTA won the court case against MD PTA, but no direction on what to do about paying dues. MD PTA is rewriting it's by-laws (Bryan will provide to Joe); vote will be at January meeting.

The Cluster Rep reached out to Bryan & Meg.

Bryan asked the PTSA Board on how to share incoming PTA info with JFK PTSA.

Meg: at MCCPTA meeting, MCPS presentation about Synergy & ParentVUE & how to navigate, plan to return to school, metrics probably won't be met.

PTSA BY-LAWS REVIEW by Joe Jenkins

Joe & Amie haven't heard back from MD PTA.

Joe has the most current version of the By-Laws.

SENIORS' MEETING by Gayle Rankine

Talked to Asst Principal Keir Lewis, asking parents to reach out to PTSA.

Seniors said Graduation is more important than Prom.

Pictures

Cap & Gown measurements

1st Senior fundraiser completed (a class ring costs \$1,000).

Asked what the staff needs from PTSA.

TEACHER APPRECIATION by Zolfa Valiani-Merchant

Would like to send JFK staff into the winter break with appreciation with students and families. Suggested maybe use LTI students to post memes. Tweets will be used to tell families to show their appreciation.

Reminder to students to turn on your video during class.

Norah Brahimi offered to help with Teacher Appreciation. Nancy Greenberg is also part of the committee.

26 ATTENDEES (7 JFK STAFF, 19 PARENTS/GUARDIANS):

Adept Engineering
Barbara Marchwicki (JFK staff)
Bob Buchanan
Bryan Benesch
Donniel Gamble
Dr. Joe Rubens (JFK staff)
Gayle Rankine
Jdomah
Joe Jenkins
Kaleisha Wright (JFK staff)
Kevin Jefferson (JFK staff)
Kimberly Batten (JFK staff)
Kirsten Murray
Kristen Walker Painemilla
Kofi Frempong (JFK staff)
Lileth
Lexanne Wilson (JFK staff)
Meg Morrow
Michelle Bonner
Nancy Goldberg
Norah Brahimi
Oscar
Tanya Jenkins
Veronica King
Zainab Hassan
Zolfa Valiani-Merchant

Meeting adjourned at 7:29pm