

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE CAVALIERS

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL PTSA MEETING MINUTES December 15, 2021 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

AGENDA

6:00 - 6:10 pm	Welcome & Introductions to the PTSA	Kristen Walker Painemilla
6:10 - 6:25 pm	Principal Intern Report	Sam Levine
6:25 - 6:40 pm	Kennedy Club Spotlight: SGA	Leinayah Jex
6:40 - 7:05 pm	PTSA Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Approval of Previous Minutes● Treasurer Update<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Vote: Betsy Alley-Strocher● Financial Report● Membership Report● MCCPTA Report	PTSA Officers & Others
7:05-7:20 pm	Winter Fundraiser week of 2/14 in conjunction of Hall of Fame Celebration	All
7:20 pm	Any Other Business	Open
7:30 pm	Adjourn	

The meeting was brought to order by Kristen Walker Painemilla at 6:05 pm.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT by Dr. Sam Levine

Mr. Levine welcomed everyone.

In Progress:

George B Thomas Learning Academy (Saturday School) is still virtual. There is still space remaining for students to register and participate.

Scheduled:

College visits continue.

12/15: 2nd Marking Period Interim Reports are available today on ParentVUE.

Winter Sports have begun.

12/16: Winter Dance Showcase.

SGA Candy Gram Fundraiser is underway during lunch.

12/27-12/28: JFK is hosting Cavalier Classic Girls' Basketball Tournament.

Course Registration Presentations for next school year have begun:

- 12/8-12/9: Electives Fair was held during lunch (for next school year's electives).
- 12/13-12/17: counselors are meeting with current Grade 11 students during English class to discuss the registration process.
- 1/3-1/7: counselors are meeting with current Grade 9 students during English class to discuss the registration process.
- 1/10-1/14: counselors are meeting with current Grade 10 students during English class to discuss the registration process.

12/23-12/31: Winter Break; students return Monday, 1/3.

Reminders:

Hall sweeps are continuing, to ensure students are in classes and accounted for.

Please do not drop off / pick up students on Randolph Road.

Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad has sold out of their holiday trees. A big thank you to all who volunteered.

Seniors: College application deadlines are upon us.

Construction/Equipment:

Building expansion expected completion date is Summer 2022.

Turf field will be ADA compliant & will fix practice field. Expected completion date is Jan 2022.

Needs:

Door prize donations, college/university T-shirt donations; hand sanitizer donations.

Volunteer support for winter sport concessions.

Principal-Internship Practicum:

Our Principal Intern, Mr. Sam Levine, is serving his practicum here at Kennedy between 12/13 and 1/28. During this time, Dr. Rubens will be the visiting principal at Odessa Shannon Middle School. After 1/28, Mr. Levine will then continue as assistant principal when Dr. Rubens returns. Dr. Coleman was supposed to be here, but Dr. Yung Me Kim will be joining 12/20 to support Mr. Levine. Mr. Levine has already had two coordinator visits from MCPS Internship Program. Mr. Levine is thrilled to be here at JFK and appreciates the support.

Kristen Walker Painemilla asked about the current uptick in COVID notification letters. Mr. Levine said the JFK Health Room continues to serve and assess and provide rapid testing as needed. Montgomery County HHS provides on-site support a couple days a week. They are partnering with Ms. Twele to manage contact-tracing for the athletic teams. Those students who are quarantining are given support.

Ms. Lewis pointed out Cian is doing asymptomatic testing (PCR) on Fridays.

KENNEDY CLUB SPOTLIGHT: SGA by Senior Class SGA President Leinayah Jex
Ms. Jex pointed out Candy Grams sales ends tomorrow; can also order via Google Form:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZxJPz315arWIS6Mgrh6wo-RTLVCpwVUDovkdJe49OLmjhXw/viewform>

5/27/2022 (tentative): Looking to hold Senior Prom at either the Mayflower or Odyssey.

Considering Talent Show, pending COVID.

Considering sending out Holiday Letters to senior centers, pending COVID.

She stated the SGA is definitely interested in partnering with the PTSA.

REVIEW PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES by Kirsten Murray

Kirsten lost the draft version of the November Meeting Minutes, so we will need to approve the November Meeting Minutes at the January Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Kirsten Murray

We had 2 new members since last month's report: 72 have paid their PTSA membership (10 staff, 10 students, 49 parents/guardians, 2 grandparents, 1 community member).

PTSA website:

<https://kennedyhsptsa.memberhub.com>

Pay your PTSA membership:

<https://kennedyhsptsa.memberhub.com/store>

Join Kennedy HS PTSA MemberHub:

<https://kennedyhsptsa.memberhub.com/join/5aeb11>

Kristen Walker Painemilla introduced Betsy Alley-Stocher, who has volunteered to be our PTSA Treasurer. She proposed the PTSA vote on her appointment, Kirsten Murray seconded, and the PTSA body voted to appoint Betsy as Treasurer.

FINANCIAL REPORT by Betsy Alley-Stocher

Previous Accounts Balance on 11/16/2021 was \$2,865.71. Current Accounts Balance as of 12/13/2021 \$3,464.94. Betsy will be paying our National PTSA dues.

Fred moved to approve the proposed budget, Bryan seconded the motion.

Betsy Alley-Strocher then led a discussion on Benchmarking on PTSAs:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/OLO/Resources/Files/2020%2520Reports/OLOReport2020-8.pdf>

\$2.15 PTSA revenue per students for JFK, compared to \$9 - \$30 for other high schools.

She also highlighted Boosters Clubs Budgets.

PTA Membership/School Population: 20% for County, JFK is 4%.

MCCPTA REPORT by Bryan Benesch

Unfortunately, Bryan had to leave the meeting early.

JFK FUNDRAISER FOR FEBRUARY 2022 by Kristen Walker Painemilla

Kristen Walker Painemilla introduced a community-wide campaign to raise \$20-\$25K during 4 weeks in February, building up to the Kennedy Hall of Fame Ceremony.

1. Direct ask for donations
 - a. Direct ask of alumni via newsletter.
 - b. Seek Hall of Famers (such as David Silver, Michael Silverman and others, to make more significant donations of \$5K
 - c. Direct request to families in the Kennedy Community via letters & social media.
2. "Athon" of some sort for students to more actively participate
3. Corporate Sponsorship from local businesses (\$250, \$500, \$1000)

The campaign will support:

1. Senior Class & Post Prom
2. Percentage to underclasses
3. To Boosters such as Athletics and NJROTC
4. PTSA budget for teacher appreciation, a grants program for teachers and clubs

Hope to meet with JFK administration next week.

This is an opportunity to highlight what JFK is doing and link it to important events at the Hall of Fame Celebration and JFK athletics.

Ms. Lewis says this is the most robust PTSA we've had in past 8 years. JFK PTSA used to have more involvement of the Spanish-only-speaking families because we had a Spanish-speaking officer. She agrees that a dance-athon would be a great idea. A lot of students "like" to be at the school. She also suggested a Relay for Life (outside on the track) in the spring, to give student groups an opportunity to participate as a team.

Zolfa Valiani-Merchant asked whether there is a way to identify active parents in other clubs (sports, etc.).

Betsy Alley-Strocher pointed out the benchmark report covers membership and finances at MCPS schools. Non-native speaking families may not understand the purpose of a PTSA. The level of financial support is often a function / related to community involvement.

Fred Azcarate (TK MS PTA President) stated there is no silver bullet. We need to try different things, like foreign language interpretation. At TK MS, they don't charge for PTA membership. We should send students out to the community to ask businesses and neighborhoods for support. When people know what the money is used for, they are more generous.

Leinayah (SGA): would like SGA to attend PTSA meetings, to help spread the word.

Ms. Lewis: each class has done a variety of fundraisers this year. Senior Class Car Wash was successful. Having a Car Wash at Wheaton Volunteer Rescue Squad is very easy: all you have to do is supply the manpower & advertise it (they supply water, towels, etc.). Another popular fundraiser is selling Krisy Kreme donuts.

Kristen Walker Painemilla said Hall of Fame week is a way to do a larger fundraising effort, so we don't take away from (smaller) student group fundraisers. She said she would like for the SGA to be present at the meeting w/ JFK administration next week.

Campaign Timeline:

- December: consultation w/ PTSA & school admin, committee formed, explore platforms like [Raize Craze](#) or [Pass the Hat](#)
- Late December & early January: formalize & finalize the campaign statement & communications material; work w/ registrar office on communications to alumni & identify key alumni
- Jan 3-15: decide on "-athon"; develop corporate sponsor material
- Jan 15-20: develop & finalize communications materials
- Jan 31: fundraising campaign formally launched; "-athon" is week before Hall of Fame week
- Feb 28: campaign officially ends

Committee Members:

- **Fred Azcarate** offered to be a part of the committee
- **Zolfa Valiani-Merchant** will work w/ student groups
- **Betsy Alley-Strocher** will work on corporate sponsorships
- **Ms. Keir Lewis** can help liaise w/ SGA

Kristen Walker Painemilla will send out a follow-up email. Mr. Levine will determine when to meet next week.

Kirsten Murray moved to close the meeting, Zolfa Valiani-Merchant seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

21 ATTENDEES:

Betsy Alley-Strocher

Bill & Lynn Hoffman

Bryan Benesch

Colleen Jeske

Darrell Beutel

Donniel Gamble, JFK Counselor

Fred Azcarate

Heather Murray

JJ

Jennifer Granados, JFK Academy Coordinator

Keir Lewis, JFP Assistant Principal

Kirsten Murray

Kristen Walker Painemilla

Leinayah Jex, SGA President

Marilee & Matt Davenport

Samuel Levine, JFK Principal Intern

Tanya Jenkins

Zainab Norris

Zolfa Valiani-Merchant