

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE CAVALIERS

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL PTSA MEETING MINUTES

March 15, 2022 from 6:00 - 7:30 pm

AGENDA

6:00 - 6:10 pm	Welcome	Kristen Walker Painemilla
6:10 - 6:20 pm	Principal Report	Dr. Joe Rubens
6:20 - 6:35 pm	School Safety and Security	Officer Kristie Palmer
6:35 - 6:50 pm	Kennedy Spotlight	Students
6:50 - 7:05 pm	Committee Formations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Post-Prom● Staff Appreciation● Nominating Committee for 2022-2023 PTSA Officers	All
7:05 - 7:15 pm	PTSA Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Approval of Previous Minutes● Treasurer Report● Membership Report● MCCPTA Report	PTSA Officers & Others
7:15 - 7:20 pm	Wrap-Up of Winter Fundraiser	Discussion
7:20 - 7:30 pm	Any Other Business	

The meeting was brought to order by Kristen Walker Painemilla at 6:06 pm.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT by Dr. Joe Rubens

George B Thomas Learning Academy is still offering tutoring virtually on Saturdays until May 2022. JFK will be an on-site location for the academy next school year.

College/university visits are taking place now. More info on College and Career Center [website](#).

Please complete the MCPS Anti-Racism Survey.

3/16 & 3/17: This week is [Gold & Green Instruction Days](#).

3/16: Senior Meetings (prom and graduation) during 2nd half of 3rd period. Virtual Parent Meeting at 6pm.

3/23: SAT School Day.

3/23: Virtual Grade 9 Parent Meeting at 7pm.

3/24: Early Release Day.

4/1: Upper field and track will be ½ out of commission to turn into temporary parking lot while construction on tennis courts begins 3/28; throughout the summer. Will not impact baseball or softball teams but will impact track & field team.

4/1: [Once Upon A Prom dress giveaway](#) at BCC from 12pm-6pm. There are other, more local organizations also providing free or low-cost dresses.

4/6: Montgomery County National College Fair Day for Juniors at Maryland SoccerPlex in Germantown from 10am – 1pm for Grade 11 students. The fair is also open to all high school students and their families from 6 – 8pm on 4/5.

5/27: Last Day of School for Seniors.

6/3: Senior Prom from 8 – 11pm. \$85 for JFK students, \$95 for guests, and includes dinner. Post-Prom at Wheaton Rescue Squad should still be possible, but may need to adjust start/end time. Dr. Rubens will reach out to former PTSA President to get budget estimate for previous post-proms sponsored by PTSA. Post-Prom usually includes breakfast (from IHOP), picture booth, etc.

6/14 @ 10am: Graduation at DAR Constitution Hall. Hope to have future graduations on-campus at JFK. No school for underclassmen.

Please take Financial Literacy Graduation Requirement Stakeholder Survey.

Make-Up Instructional Days due to Inclement Weather: 4/1, 6/16 & 6/17.

Construction/Equipment:

Turf field is being installed now. New scoreboard with video screen.

Temporary changes are coming to JFK parking lot. The garage build begins in April 2022 and will temporarily shift student parking to inner portion of the track, including installation of a temporary ramp and gravel. Fencing will go up around the tennis courts.

Building expansion expected completion date is Summer 2022.

Turf field expected completion date is March 2022.

Needs:

Door prize donations for school events and the PBIS program (Positive Behavior Interventions); new college/university T-shirt donations can be drop off to main office (any sizes); hand sanitizer donations.

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY: by Officer Kristie Palmer

Officer Palmer was the SRO/CEO at JFK for 7 years. She provides mentoring and an additional layer of safety. Dr Rubens pointed out that he provides the discipline, not Officer Palmer. Officer Palmer has spent 21 years with the Montgomery County Police Department, 9 years with Special Crimes (Family Crimes Unit). She works to form positive relationships with the students. Bryan Benesch mentioned Superintendent Dr. McKnight is proposing SRO/CEO would be in plains clothes (for a “softer look”), but Officer Palmer’s department has not provided her any guidance yet. Question of uniform has not been firmed up. Dr. Rubens said at the MOU is not signed. Not sure it will happen this school year.

Kristen Walker Painemilla asked what current trends Officer Palmer is seeing this school year. Officer Palmer responded that she hasn’t completely been back in the building (she now responds to all schools (ES, MS, HS) in the district). She mentioned a lot of kids are having difficulty adapting to coming back, there has been inappropriate video and texts between students, and school fights / disorderly behavior.

Zolfa Valiani-Merchant: I’ve heard that globally at MCPS schools there have been more incidents with disruptive behavior in classrooms and schools. What about suicide rates/attempts? Officer Palmer mentioned there’s been more disruptive behavior that teachers have to deal with. But she only responds when she gets a call; “if they don’t call me, I don’t know about it.” Dr. Rubens pointed out he was not aware of any suicides, but there was an adjustment period for younger students (9th grade). Likewise, while he was working at the MS, the administration focused on the 6th graders. But also a lot of students have thrived. JFK administration learned from pandemic and formed Student Wellness Groups.

Marilee Shelton-Davenport: My question is whether we need to do anything to ensure we can keep Officer Palmer coming to JFK? At my other child’s school (Northwood HS), it doesn’t seem we can get an officer, if I understand correctly. It doesn’t seem NHS has a CEO presence. Officer Palmer admitted it is a very political situation; they are working on new MOU. “We are very short-staffed.”

Kristen Walker Painemilla pointed out the SRO/CEO position was a very political issue advocated by MCCPTA last year. Bryan Brenesch: MCCPTA was very vocal against SROs in the school.

KENNEDY SPOTLIGHT: by Sophia Barquilla and Elizabeth Cruz

Sophia Barquilla, Health Care Academy, CCNA, Poms, Key Club, National Honor Society:

Sophia’s interest began with the scrubs. She is in the Health Care Professions Program, and she is

interning as a Medical Assistant during the summer at Holy Cross Hospital. She talked about her experiences as Captain of the Poms, and as a member of Key Club and the National Honor Society. She mentioned there are many opportunities at Kennedy.

When asked, Sophia said she heard a little about PTSA from Ms. Granados.

Elizabeth Cruz, Senior, Teacher Academy of MD, JCTV Broadcast Journalism, Leadership Training Institute (LTI), Key Club, National Honor Society, year-long teacher internship.

Elizabeth said she's had a very amazing high school experience, she feels like she has a mission. She joined Teacher Academy because her teachers have always supported her. What she liked best about her Student Teaching experience is interacting with students and teachers. In JCTV, she enjoyed doing interviews and editing. In LTI, she liked meeting new people. All these clubs have made for a wonderful high school experience.

Bryan Benesch asked Elizabeth if she was going to college. She responded she will go to Montgomery College to get associates degree and then transfer to a university to get her teacher certification.

Teacher Academy video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLB40Yrjb7I>

Thanks to Ms. Granados (Academy Coordinator) for getting our student speakers!

COMMITTEE FORMATIONS: POST-PROM, STAFF APPRECIATION, NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2022-2023 PTSA OFFICERS by all

Post-Prom: Joe & Tanya Jenkins are willing to co-chair with an underclassman parent. Wheaton will get back to us next week. Dr. Rubens will let PTSA know, he hopes to get logistics plan together soon. Joe Jenkins will forward the PTSA Post-Prom budget from his son's freshman year. Food, entertainment, safety & security. We need someone to step up to co-chair. Dr. Rubens said the bowling alley event was success, over 200 students.

Nominating Committee for PTSA Officers: vote for officers at May meeting. Marilee Shelton-Davenport offered to be on the committee.

Heather Murray said she will volunteer for something.

Staff Appreciation Week (May 2-6): Joe Jenkins said he will help. Kristen mentioned the PTSA did a banner, gift bags for teachers, notes in mailboxes last year. She pointed out the PTSA needs a budget.

Ricky Ribeiro: reimagined our social media presence on Facebook & Twitter. He pointed out had to start over from scratch with Facebook. Feed Ricky content once a week! Facebook: @jfkhsptsamd. Twitter: @KennedyHS_PTSA.

Ms. Henderson, sponsor of SGA, wants to coordinate with the PTSA. Teachers have reached out to her on how they can get involved & help.

REVIEW PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES by Kirsten Murray

Kirsten Murray reviewed the February Meeting Minutes with the PTSA body. Kristen Walker Painemilla moved to approve the February Meeting Minutes, Betsy Alley-Strocher seconded the motion.

FINANCIAL REPORT by Betsy Alley-Strocher

Previous Accounts Balance on 02/12/2022 was \$5,660.64. Total income for the month was \$1,792.81. Current Accounts Balance as of 3/14/2022 \$7,453.45. No expenses this month. We are now a tax-exempt organization!

MEMBERSHIP REPORT by Kirsten Murray

No new members joined in the last month. We have 78 people who have paid their PTSA membership (11 staff, 10 students, 54 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>

MCCPTA REPORT by Bryan Benesch

Directed the membership to the [short report](#) and [MCCPTA draft statement on Sex Abuse](#).

WINTER FUNDRAISER UPDATE by Kristen Walker Painemilla

A direct ask went out to Kennedy community and alumni. Kristen lowered our goal to \$10,000. She said we have gotten great response from JFK Alumni. A few Alumni reunion committees have committed to give leftover funds to the PTSA. Got us \$600, just got another \$400 today after Dr. Rubens' email message. Closing the campaign by March 19. Kristen pointed out that yes, the "direct ask" works. In the future, need to have a formal committee for fundraising. Will have conversation with Senior Parents for Post-Prom.

The "[PTSA Fund](#)" fundraiser: <https://app.memberhub.gives/jfkptsafund/Campaign/Details>
Raised \$4,500.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS by all

Darrell Beutel: mentioned the Garden Gate community (the west side of school) is upset with the number of red-light runners. Dr. Rubens & PTSA would greatly appreciate information about this effort.

The membership also talked about a survey about whether the PTSA should meet in-person and at what time.

Kirsten Walker Painemilla moved to close the meeting, Betsy Alley-Strocher seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 pm.

25 ATTENDEES:

Kristen Walker Painemilla

Kirsten Murray

Dr. Joe Rubens, JFK principal

Betsy Alley-Strocher

Bryan Benesch

Officer Kristie Palmer

Darrell Beutel

Bill & Lynn Hoffman

Marilee Shelton-Davenport

Heather Murray

Sam Levin, Principal Intern

Takia

Ricky Ribeiro

Je'Nelle Henderson

Tanya Jenkins

Jeske

Zolfa Valiani-Merchant

Vafumba Musah Kromah

Elizabeth

Margot Khoo

Jennifer Granados, JFK Academy Coordinator

Belay Woldemaraim

Sopia Barquilla

Keir Lewis, JFK Assistant Principal