

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE CAVALIERS

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL PTSA MEETING MINUTES

December 20, 2022 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm

In person (in the Media Center) and virtually via Zoom

AGENDA

7:00 - 7:05 pm	Welcome	Ricky Ribeiro , Vice President
7:05 - 7:45 pm	<p>Safety and Security in MCPS and at JFK High School</p> <p>Safety and Security in MCPS</p> <p>Safety and Security at JFK High School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protocols ● Role of Community Engagement Officer ● Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reaction to information that was shared from recent incidents ○ What can and can't be shared ○ What will be changed or communicated in future incidents ● Mental Health 	<p>Kristen Walker Painemilla, President (overview and facilitation)</p> <p>Robert B. Hellmuth, Acting Director of MCPS School Safety and Security</p> <p>Dr. Rubens, Principal</p>
7:45-8:10 pm	Community Discussion	All

8:10-8:35 pm	PTSA Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● November Meeting Minutes ● MCCPTA Update ● PTSA Fundraiser 	Kirsten Murray , Secretary Sharon Atterbury , MCCPTA Rep Kristen Walker Painemilla , President
8:25 - 8:30 pm	Any Other Business / Close	

The meeting was brought to order by Ricky Ribeiro at 7:06 pm.

SAFETY AND SECURITY IN MCPS AND AT JFK OVERVIEW by Ricky Ribeiro

In introducing the main focus of tonight’s meeting, Rickey mentioned the PTSA Executive Board heard from several parents that they had questions and concerns about the November 30 incident and how it was communicated. Therefore, the Executive Board decided that safety and security would be the focus of the December General Membership Meeting and that the meeting should be offered both virtually as well as in-person.

SAFETY AND SECURITY IN MCPS by Josean "Ace" Acevedo, MCPS Cluster Security Coordinator Kennedy, Sherwood, and Wheaton Clusters

Ace showed an [MCPS video on Emergency Preparedness](#) and provided a [link](#) to MCPS Department of Systemwide Safety and Emergency Management.

SAFETY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AT JFK by Deyjah Chappell

Mrs. Chappell started her [presentation](#) by going over the Four Phases of Emergency Management. She noted the JFK updates the emergency plan each year.

1. Prevention, Mitigation
2. Preparedness (understanding protocols & different rooms)
3. Response (6 different drills, performed 5 times/year)
 - a. Evacuation
 - i. Fire Evacuation
 - ii. Directed Evacuation (for gas leak)
 - iii. Reverse Evacuation (if severe weather is coming)
 - b. Shelter in Place: can receive instruction in the classroom

- i. Public Safety (example, bank robbery)
 - ii. Severe Weather
 - iii. Earthquake (Drop, Cover & Hold)
 - iv. Outside Hazardous Materials Shelter
 - v. Modified Shelter (only affects a portion of the building)
 - c. Reverse Evacuation
 - d. Lockdown (if imminent danger in the school or on school property)
 - e. Drop, Cover & Hold
 - f. Severe Weather
4. Recovery

On-Site Emergency Team completes a review each summer (late July or early August).

The presentation ended with graphic displaying the Incident Command Structure.

Kristen: Is the video & presentation available in Spanish? Mr. Acevedo responded that MCPS Central Admin Office is working on adapting it for multiple languages and a communication will go out when it is available. Mrs. Chappell stated the JFK presentation can be translated by JFK staff.

Questions can be emailed to JFK staff, which will be forwarded to MCPS Department of Systemwide Safety and Emergency Management.

Ricky: What happens when a threat is made? Dr. Rubens responded he understands and MCPS recognizes that the letters that have gone out after security incidents need to be re-evaluated. Need to get away from “less is more” approach, especially after last year’s Magruder incident. No “one size fits all”. On Nov 30, JFK immediately contacted police and MCPS. (He pointed out it is still an active investigation.) Very early on, they were able to pinpoint the individual responsible, they contacted teachers for samples of the student’s handwriting and contacted the family to ensure the student did not have access to a weapon at home. During this, JFK security also found Nazi graffiti in a bathroom. In addition, JFK admin was dealing with two separate run-aways that day as well. Our school houses several special ed programs and some of these students need a lot of wrap-around support. Of the 190 staff, 35 did not come to school on December 1 (including 3 staffers who chose not to come, even after talking to Dr. Rubens). Dr. Rubens pointed out 15-16 staffers were already scheduled to be out on December 1. Since the incident, they have had staff meetings, as well as admin team meetings, to ensure we can share more information with staff. JFK Security Assistance was added and undercover officers were in the building on December 1.

Dr. Rubens is pro-police, but he knows that some students are uneasy when police are present.

Kristen asked for examples of what a day or week may look like for JFK (to put this incident in “context”). Dr. Rubens says every day is different. Some days are very quiet, and others are like today during which 2 young ladies were at each others’ throats over a boy. There are typically more incidents around the holidays, not just at JFK but throughout MCPS and probably Country-wide. Of the 1900 students at JFK, maybe only 50 make bad choices. He is most concerned about the rise of DCC students

in using percocet. Wheaton HS lost a student 2 weeks ago with overdose (percocet laced with fentanyl). DHHS was able to sign up 50 students to participate in “Montgomery Goes Purple Campaign” education sessions.

Kristen: What kind of communication with students was there afterwards? Dr. Rubens talked to multiple teachers on Nov 30, all staff on Dec 1. He spoke to all students on morning announcements, and student groups at lunch. Will be talking to students about the fentanyl situation during scheduled Grade Level Town Halls. JFK will issue flash passes to any student if anxious about a situation.

Mr. Acevedo mentioned he is an MCPS parent as well. Security personnel are also about mentoring & making sure we get the students to a counselor as needed.

Sharon: is there Narcan in school? Dr. Rubens said yes. He mentioned a recent incident during which a JFK student overdosed in bathroom & 2 students recognized it & the nurse was able to administer Narcan. The “Montgomery Goes Purple” campaign provides more education and awareness.

3 nights ago: student (enrolled but not actively coming to school) overdosed (percocet laced with fentanyl).

Kristen: MCPS has heard after Magruder Town Hall that communication needs to improve (families need more information & expect MCPS to respond in kind). What is next? How can JFK PTSA help? Dr. Rubens’ 1st letter: MCPS process includes Central Office editing & approval. Parent frustration on how letters coming out, feels like principal letters are a template (but they are not).

How can PTSA help in these situations? If there is a situation & a letter comes out, if anybody has questions, please call Dr. Rubens or the school. Parents can contact us with anything. Kirsten suggested Dr. Rubens delegate that responsibility to someone else. Dr. Rubens will provide contact information for the JFK Public Info Officer & Liaison Officer.

NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES by Kirsten Murray

Kirsten Murray presented the November Meeting Minutes to the membership. Carol moved to approve the minutes, Dr. Rubens seconded, and they were approved by voice vote.

Kirsten also mentioned that as of 12/19, there were no new members joining since last month (total of 76 members: 20 faculty/staff, 5 students, 47 parents/guardians, 2 grandparents, and 2 business/community members). But that’s 4 more members than what we had at this time last year.

MCCPTA UPDATE by Sharon Atterbury

Advocacy Priorities Draft, edits due to Sharon by Jan 18th:

1. Access to equitable opportunities
2. Capital Funds & Facilities
3. Operating Funds

4. Communication
5. Curriculum
6. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
7. Health and Wellness
8. School Climate & Security

Carol asked & Sharon confirmed MCCPTA is umbrella organization, representing all PTAs & PTSAs in the county, advocating on our behalf to MCPS.

Superintendent rolled out Capital Budget last night. Dr. Rubens asked whether it has been reviewed by MCCPTA yet. Sharon confirmed there are already discussions via email and will be discussed shortly.

The PTSA membership will meet virtually to get an opportunity to hear from Lisa Cline (MCCPTA) and to provide and to compile comments to Sharon on Jan 4.

PTSA FUNDRAISER by Kristen Walker Painemilla

Kristen Walker Painemilla mentioned we extended the deadline to Jan 31; about 1/3 of the way there. Will give a full report. Ricky pointed out [AmazonSmile](#) is another way to donate to PTSA (be sure to Select "John F. Kennedy High School PTA").

ANY OTHER BUSINESS by all

Ricky: Nov 30 was a fire drill, stressful, enlightening. Appreciate JFK administration was willing to have a discussion with the PTSA. This speaks to the foundation of the community and partnership between JFK staff and the PTSA.

Ricky moved to adjourn the meeting, Carol seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

8 ATTENDEES (PLUS XX OF VIRTUAL ATTENDEES):

Kristen Walker Painemilla, parent/guardian
Ricky Ribeiro, parent/guardian
Kirsten Murray, parent/guardian
Mimi Ramos, parent/guardian
Carol Christensen, parent/guardian
Deyjah Chappell, JFK 9th Grade Administration
Dr. Joe Rubens, JFK Principal

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