

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE CAVALIERS

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL PTSA MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2023 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 - 7:30 pm	PTSA Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● December Meeting Minutes ● MCCPTA Update ● PTSA Fundraiser 	Kirsten Murray , Secretary Sharon Atterbury , MCCPTA Rep Ricky Ribeiro
7:30-7:40 pm	Principal Update	Dr. Rubens , Principal
7:40-8:10 pm	Wellness Center Overview	Luis Cardona , MC Dept of Health & Human Services
8:10 - 8:20 pm	Any Other Business / Close	

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

DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES by Kirsten Murray

Kirsten Murray presented the [December Meeting Minutes](#) to the membership. Mayuris Pimentel moved to approve the minutes, Sharon Atterbury seconded, and they were approved by voice vote.

Kirsten also mentioned that as of 1/16, 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 1 more member than what we had at this time last year.

MCCPTA UPDATE by Sharon Atterbury

Draft Advocacy Priorities (edits are 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

The PTSA membership met virtually on Jan 4th to get an opportunity to hear from Lisa Cline (MCCPTA) and to provide comments on the MCCPTA Resolution on Digital Balance. The deadline for comments was Jan 10th and the MCCPTA will meet on Jan 24th to vote on the resolution. Kirsten Murray put forward a motion to approve the proposed resolution, Carol Christensen seconded the motion, 6 in-person and 5 virtual voted for the “yay” to resolution.

CLUBS UPDATE by Carol Christensen

Early December she emailed the club coordinators (33 different clubs) a survey to ask about their needs. Most common was request for money. She also mentioned clubs want to travel but it is difficult to use MCPS school bus because of driver shortage. Another request was art supplies to promote their clubs. The Broadcast Journalism Club is hoping to go to Student Television Network Convention in CA. Now that Carol has gathered information, the PTSA should act on this information and provide some funds to some of the clubs. Regarding MCPS busses: only 13 vacancies. Because of other routes, MCPS busses are only available 9am-1pm. Dr. Rubens has reached out to Montgomery County Rec Dept to possibly use 9-passenger vans (already have a partnership via RecZone).

NAACP UPDATE by Ricky Ribeiro

Focus is on closing learning gap for brown & black students. The group is commenting on the MCPS budget. He pointed out only 15% of students are taking advantage of free tutoring. PTSA would like suggestions on how to advertise the availability of tutoring.

PTSA FUNDRAISER by Ricky Ribeiro

Ricky mentioned we extended the deadline to Jan 31; about 1/5 of the way there (\$4,314 of \$20K raised by 22 donors). Ricky was at the Hall of Fame event and was impressed by dedication of alumni, Ricky was warmly received. Only 40 people came to the induction ceremony; Dr. Rubens hopes more folks will come in the future.

PRINCIPAL UPDATE by Dr. Rubens

JFK received Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS) survey results, to assist counselors with scheduling.

College visits are finishing up.

MCPS Virtual Academy applications are open for 2023-2024 school year.

Free tutoring (in-person and virtual); National Honor Society students also provide tutoring.

1/16 – 1/21: MLK Jr. Week of Service.

1/20: JFK Cluster Family Food Market moved from Saturday to Friday (1/20 from 2:30-4:30pm).

1/26: Last day of second marking period.

2/6: 2nd marking period report cards distributed.

5/26: Last day for Seniors (regardless of weather events).

6/2: Senior Prom (looking at Martins West & Spirit of Baltimore, both in Baltimore); should be firmed up soon.

Congratulations to our Poms Team who placed 3rd at Seneca Valley Invitational.

Congratulations to JFK Class of 2023 Hall of Fame inductees.

1/13: Alumni Hall of Fame Banners were put on display.

1/14: successful Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony.

Construction Update: Still waiting for final approval for parking garage (sprinkler system and alarms are out-of-sync). Can park in the garage.

Police cars at JFK this afternoon because incident between 2 girls fighting over a boy.

Extra grief counselors & support are available after the recent death of 10th grader due to drug use. A GoFundMe link is available to help the family to cover funeral costs. Exploring some other avenues (PTSA may pay for a speaker, [Montgomery Goes Purple Community Forum in Clarksburg](#) (flyer in [Spanish](#)), JFK is discussing targeted intervention w/ MCPS central office and DHHS). Dr. Rubens said is only a handful of students are using Fentanyl & Percocet (2 students using tin foil in small squares, grind up Percocet & smoke it w/ dollar bill...burned dollar bills is a telltale sound). Wheaton HS lost a student a month ago.

The funding awarded to us for National PTA School of Excellence award can be used for a “Zen Den” in the Wellness Center.

WELLNESS CENTER OVERVIEW by Luis Cardona

Unfortunately, Mr. Cardona was unable to attend due to illness.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS by all

The PTSA is looking into bringing a speaker to school to address the fentanyl crisis.

Kirsten asked Dr. Rubens for an update on the prom. The proposed date is June 2. Mrs. Davis is taking a few seniors to look over the [Spirit of Baltimore](#) as well as [Martin's West](#) (she believes both of these sites in Baltimore are cheaper than other sites closer to DC). The Riggs Center (University of MD) is not available June 2, so Mrs. Davis will research to see if other dates are available and comparable in price to the two Baltimore sites above. (That way, prom & post-prom could be closed together at University of MD.) If the seniors decide on a Baltimore location for the prom, Dr. Rubens said having the post-prom at the Wheaton Rescue is still "do-able" because it is "close to home" so students can quick go home after the prom to change and then come to Wheaton Rescue for post-prom. He mentioned that Mont Co RecZone was able to provide video games in the past (I forgot to ask about cost). He can provide a POC. He also mentioned IHOP catering for post-prom (again, I forgot to ask about cost).

Ricky Ribeiro moved to adjourn the meeting, Kirsten Murray seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

7 ATTENDEES (PLUS 5 OF VIRTUAL ATTENDEES):

Ricky Ribeiro, parent/guardian
Kirsten Murray, parent/guardian
Sharon Atterbury, parent/guardian
Carol Christensen, parent/guardian
Takia Manley, parent/guardian
Dr. Joe Rubens, JFK Principal
Mr. Kofi Frempong, JFK staff
Maryuris Pimentel, parent/guardian (virtual)
Lexanne Wilson, JFK staff (virtual)
Donniel Gamble, JFK staff (virtual)
Maria Beck, JFK staff (virtual)
Sarita Payne, JFK staff (virtual)

PTSA website: <https://kennedyhsptsa.memberhub.com>

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