

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE CAVALIERS

JOHN F. KENNEDY HIGH SCHOOL PTSA MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2023 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm

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

AGENDA

6:30-7:00 pm	Pre-PTSA Training from MCCPTA Fentanyl Facts & Narcan Training For High School PTSAs	Please register in advance at https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/registrer/tZUvcu2uqToqE9Ze-N4l6fYB1h7i41c1Yan
7:00-7:05 pm	Welcome to JFK February PTSA Meeting	Kristen Walker Painemilla , President
7:05-7:10 pm	Spotlight: Kennedy's It's Academic Team	Bryan Cockrell, Charles Holt , and students from the It's Academic! Team
7:10-7:20 pm	Principal's Report and Overview of Kennedy's Approach to Student Health, Wellness, and Drug Awareness	Dr. Rubens , Principal
7:20-7:40 pm	Safety and Security @ Kennedy	Officer Marbley Steven Washington (not available)
7:40-8:10 pm	MCPS Approach to Dealing with Opioid Crisis	Dr. Patricia Kapunan , MCPS School System Medical Officer and team
8:10-8:20 pm	PTSA Business ● January Meeting Minutes	Kirsten Murray , Secretary

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MCCPTA Update ● PTSA Budget 	Sharon Atterbury, MCCPTA Rep Mimi Ramos / Ricky Ribeiro
8:20-8:30 pm	Wellness Center Tour (postponed)	Dr. Rubens, Principal

Kristen Walker Painemilla brought the meeting to order at 7:06 pm by welcoming everyone. [Link to presentation.](#)

JFK SPOTLIGHT: IT’S ACADEMIC! TEAM by Bryan Cockrell and Charles Holt and 2 students
 Bryan Cockrell and Charles Holt are the sponsors for the It’s Academic! Team, which has competed at four different competitions. Most students are new to the team. Lucy and Rashni, freshmen students on the team, spoke about how they loved participating on the team. The team will use PTSA mini-grant to purchase team sweatshirts. The team has been working hard to build engagement and energy for the club and we hope all Cavaliers will cheer the group on as they represent our school at competitions across the county.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT AND OVERVIEW OF KENNEDY’S APPROACH TO STUDENT HEALTH, WELLNESS, AND DRUG AWARENESS by Dr. Joe Rubens

Dr. Rubens spoke about serious incidents at school and other MCPS schools. Mentioned [Montgomery Goes Purple](#) forum on Saturday 2/25 at 9:30am at Northwood HS ([flyers in English](#) and [Spanish](#)). Seen a couple of cases of JFK students who are addicted to Percocet (out of 1900 students, about 75-100 students make bad choices, couple handfuls of students making poor choices with drugs). He is concerned that some of our undocumented families who need help may be afraid to seek help from the County. After student’s death, SGA coordinated a “Wear a Purple Ribbon” Day.

Ms. Gamble helped start up a weekly session with DHHS for JFK students to discuss drug use prevention. Andres asked when the group meets; Ms. Gamble confirmed the group will continue to meet at 10:30am. The school is still recruiting students to participate.

The PTSA is sponsoring [Tony Hoffman](#) to speak at the school on March 6. On March 22, the State’s Attorney’s office is sponsoring a “Speak Up, Save a Life” assembly. Many of JFK staff have been provided with Narcan training.

Any MCPS school will have limited bathroom access, some bathroom doors have been removed. Student safety is a top priority at JFK every day.

Marilee asked about the emotional impact of the crisis to JFK staff. Dr. Rubens has brought this up to MCPS. He said MCPS needs to build staff time into the school calendar such as wellness breaks and

planning sessions for teachers. He mentioned the press is focused on the negative things happening at MCPS, not the positive.

2/24-2/26: Winter Play “First Kisses”

2/25: Fentanyl Family Forum

2/25: Girls’ Basketball Team got a “bi” for playoff this weekend; Boys’ Basketball in the playoffs

Dr. Rubens talked about his new position (included staff & [parent letters](#) in the handouts). Mr. Greg Mullenholz, will hold a community meeting to begin working on the search and selection process for the next principal of JFK on Wednesday, March 1 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

SAFETY AND SECURITY AT KENNEDY by Officer Marbley

Kristen Walker Painemilla introduced our Community Engagement Officer Marbley. This is her 2nd year in CEO program, 14 years as a police officer. Ricky asked about shift from SRO to CEO model and what’s a normal day for you (duties) as compared to last year. She was not the previous SRO. Each year, the MOU seems to change. SRO’s work 7am-3pm: check-in with principal (she has an office in the school), respond to 911 calls that come in from any school in the cluster, but main focus is the high school. What are the kinds of incidents you see at JFK? Most incidents are drug issues (Percocet, marijuana, vape pens) and weapons (knives), a few sex assault calls, a few calls for fights. Kristen asked what recommendations she had for parents. We have to start at home, try to connect with your children every day (ask about school), pay attention to their behaviors. She mentioned the COPE trailer that will be at the [Fentanyl Family Forum](#) at Northwood HS. Dr. Rubens responded to question in the chat: if someone sees students off school grounds who are smoking, please contact non-emergency police number (which will probably go to CEO on-duty). Ricky mentioned the local McDonald’s can be a hot spot after school. It was pointed out that Blair HS McDonald’s is paying to have police on-site after school.

Mr. Washington, the new head of security for the school, who was originally scheduled to attend the meeting to provide more information on the school safety and security operations, was not able to make it.

MCPS APPROACH TO DEALING WITH OPIOID CRISIS by Dr. Patricia Kapunan and team

MCPS School System Medical Officer Dr. Kapunan and her team talked with us about MCPS’s ongoing efforts to raise awareness of the fentanyl/opioid epidemic that has been plaguing MCPS youth as of late. Stephanie Iszard thanked PTSA for reaching out to Dr. Kapunan’s office. Dr. Kyle Potter was virtual, and social worker was virtual. Dr. Kapunan’s presentation will be shared later. She mentioned the 12/9 Community Message. She pointed out medication safety at home. She mentioned several local resources including [Montgomery Goes Purple](#), Montgomery County Child & Adolescent Assessment Services (CAAS), [BTheOne](#), SAMHSA’s [N988 National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline](#) and Online Treatment Locator, 240-777-4000 Montgomery Crisis Center. Maryland’s Good Samaritan Law protects people assisting with an emergency overdose situation from arrest or prosecution. The 2/25 the [Fentanyl Family Forum](#) at Northwood HS will have breakout sessions for privacy.

Dr. Kyle Potter: Kennedy is one of the schools that came early to prevention efforts, including the County Harm Reduction student group to discuss mental health, dangers of different substances, mindfulness, information to students (30-40 min sessions). Was designed to run 3-5 sessions. 5th session will be this Thursday. Ms. Gamble is happy to start another session. It will be rolled out to other schools.

The PTSA is happy to share that we are funding a motivational speaker, [Tony Hoffman](#), as part of the awareness efforts about substance use in collaboration with [Montgomery Goes Purple](#). Tony will be speaking at Kennedy on Friday, Mar. 10. He has spoken to many schools, given TED Talks. JFK PTSA officers has been advocating around broader security and opioid crisis.

JANUARY MEETING MINUTES by Kirsten Murray

Kirsten Murray presented the January Meeting Minutes to the membership. Lorena Moyer moved to approve the minutes, Andres Guerra seconded, and they were approved by voice vote.

Kirsten also mentioned that as of 2/21, 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).

MCCPTA UPDATE by Sharon Atterbury

The “Digital Balance Resolution” was approved. “The Advocacy Priorities” is a living document and will be updated accordingly.

MCCPTA will host a Zoom session on recent discrimination incidents.

2/9 MCPS presented to the Board of Education proposed adjustments & budget accelerators to the FY24 operating budget. Mentioned [slides](#) and [video](#) about budget.

Free State PTA officers needed.

2/28 next MCCPTA Delegate Meeting.

NAACP UPDATE by Ricky Ribeiro

2/22 hosting conversation with Dr. McKnight to discuss: (1) understanding EOL (learning gaps); (2) failing to connect when great resources do not reach our children; (3) let’s keep our community safe. On YouTube on MCPSTV.

PTSA BUDGET by Kristen Walker Painemilla

Fundraiser brought in \$5,114 (about same amount last year). We got some corporate sponsorships this time. Kristen displayed the budget that was approved 9/22/2022. The PTSA Officers suggested we push more funding to grants for clubs and proposed the Staff Appreciation / Booster / Club line be increased to \$4,489.05 (from \$3,720). The funding would be moved from Membership Promotion (\$220), PTSA Conventions (\$330), and Officer’s & Chair’s Reimbursement (\$220) lines. In light of the recent opioid crisis, the PTSA also wanted to use some of the National PTA Grant to pay for Tony

Hoffman (\$2,500). Mayuris Pimentel moved to approve the new budget, Marilee Davenport seconded, budget was approved.

Dr. Rubens mentioned pre-pandemic, there used to be field trips to visit local colleges & universities by charter bus (U of MD, Bowie, Howard, American). Kristen hopes the PTSA can provide some funding. Also mentioned next year is 30-year anniversary.

WELLNESS CENTER UPDATE by Dr. Joe Rubens

DHHS Wellness Center: soft-opening will be in the next couple of weeks. DHHS is working with Mr. Cardona to ensure mental health services are provided to the community; interviewing vendors tomorrow for that. Invited Dr. Rubens to be part of that interview. Ms. Gamble provided interview questions to ask of the vendors. After question from Mr. Sheffield, Dr. Rubens will share who the last 2 vendors are. They will accept both private & public health insurance. Hope to give PTSA a formal walk-through in the next week or so. Wellness Center [Fact Sheet](#).

Enrollment forms ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) will be sent out again.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS by all

Marilee Davenport moved to adjourn the meeting, Kristen Walker Painemilla seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

10 ATTENDEES (PLUS 18 OF VIRTUAL ATTENDEES):

Kristen Walker Painemilla, parent/guardian

Ricky Ribeiro, parent/guardian

Kirsten Murray, parent/guardian

Marilee Davenport, parent/guardian

Andres Guerra, student (SGA)

Sharon Atterbury, parent/guardian

Priscilla Sheffield, parent/guardian

Dr. Joe Rubens, JFK Principal

Kofi Frempong, JFK staff

Takia Wormley, parent/guardian

Bryan Cockrell (virtual), JFK staff

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