



North Atlanta High School



An International Baccalaureate World School

North Atlanta High School PTSA General Meeting

Tuesday, May 3, 2016

6:30pm in the Auditorium

In attendance: Sign-in sheet (attached); Board Members - Frankie Williams, Dawnitra Quigley, Sarah Shoup, Lisa Reynolds, David Bittner and Elizabeth Miraldi

Call to Order – 6:34pm

I. Call to Order/Greeting – Frankie Williams & Dawnitra Quigley

- a. *A graduation ceremony is an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in identical caps and gowns that "individuality" is the key to success.*
~Robert Orben
- b. *There is a good reason they call these ceremonies "commencement exercises." Graduation is not the end; it's the beginning.* ~Orrin Hatch
- c. This is the final meeting of the 2015-2016 NAHS PTSA. Thank you to all outgoing board members and welcome new board members. This year was a record for membership and fundraising, thanks to the work of Elizabeth Miraldi and her volunteers.

II. Approval of Minutes – Sarah Shoup – April 21st

MOTION by Sydney Shipps to approve the minutes, 2nd by Frankie Williams, all in favor and none opposed.

III. Treasurer's Report – David Bittner (attached)

IV. Budget Amendments – Dawnitra Quigley

- a. Administrative Expenses
 - i. Change "School Donations" to "School Enhancements"
 - ii. Increase "School Enhancements" from \$1000 to \$2700
 - iii. Increase "Training" from \$400 to \$500
 - iv. Decrease "Volunteer Appreciation" from \$1000 to \$800
- b. Communications
 - i. Decrease "Banners" from \$1000 to \$0 and eliminate it
 - ii. Decrease "Bulletin Boards" from \$200 to \$0 and eliminate it
 - iii. Increase "Website/Branding" from \$500 to \$2100
- c. Membership/Fund Raising
 - i. Change "Car Magnets" to "Car Decals"
 - ii. Increase "Car Decals" from \$200 to \$500
 - iii. Increase "Copying, Envelopes and Stamps" from \$150 to \$300
 - iv. Increase "Printing" from 0 to \$200
 - v. Add line item "College & Career Center" in the amount of \$200
- d. Teacher/Student Appreciation
 - i. Decrease "Honors" from \$500 to \$0 and eliminate it
 - ii. Decrease "Sunshine" from \$200 to \$0 and eliminate it
 - iii. Add line item "Celebration of Learning" in the amount of \$1000
 - iv. Increase "Hospitality" from \$500 to \$1000



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MOTION by Dawnitra Quigley to approve all of the budget amendments; 2nd by Sydney Shipp, all in favor and none opposed. Motion passes.

V. VP Reports

- a. Community – Lisa Reynolds – Visions is the next event and will be held May 19th. Emails and Signups have gone out for food donations and help that day.
- b. Communications – Leigh Ann Livaditis – We are looking for someone who knows MailChimp and experts in Website design.
- c. Membership/Fund Raising – Elizabeth Miraldi – Student member t-shirts are in, please see Elizabeth if your child is a PTSA member.

VI. 2016 Graduation – Nan Hunter (attachments)

- a. If you are a senior parent, you should subscribe to her Remind101 because there will be a lot of information coming out in the next couple of weeks. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are senior exams for most, but not all. On the 13th all grades will be posted, so be sure to check the Parent Portal. Teachers will be attempting to reach parents if any students are failing their classes. It is board policy to allow students to retake one exam per semester. You apply for it through Mr. Robinson and you can only apply for one class per semester. The retake date is May 16th. Mr. Robinson also has a Remind101, so please sign up of this applies to you.
- b. Graduation is May 26th at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC). You make pay for parking in advance and its \$10 for the entire day. All APS schools graduate at the GWCC that day, so it will be crowded. Plan accordingly. Students must be there by 8am.
- c. Dress Rehearsal is Tuesday, May 25th at the GWCCC and students must provide their own transportation. They must be there by 7:30am and parking is \$10. There is a lot of walking, so be sure to purchase the proper shoes. They must wear exactly what they plan to wear for graduation so it can be approved. The class photo will also be taken that day. In years past, students have spelled "NA" with the colors of their hats. This year, there are enough students (close to 400) to spell "NAHS".
- d. Boys are required to wear a silver tie and the school will be selling those for \$10. It can be a tie or a bowtie.
- e. For Visions, students will wear the same attire they wear for graduation.
- f. Tickets for graduation are divided evenly amongst the students. Every student will get approximately 10 tickets and that number may go up depending on the final numbers. Students may trade tickets amongst each other so that everyone ends up with the amount they need. There also will be a lottery with any extra tickets and it always works out that everyone ends up with the number of tickets they need.
- g. Obligation letters have gone out to any students who owe money for books or other dues over the years, not just senior year. If you received a letter, it must be taken care of by May 13th. There was an issue with IB Math books, so if you received a letter for that, please see Mrs. Hunter.
- h. If your student has received any scholarships or acceptances, please forward a copy of those by May 6th. Include every school accepted to and all scholarships received, with proof.



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- i. Rising senior parents, start thinking about senior portraits. You can either do it at the studio or at NAHS. The sitting fee is \$25 and these are the photos that will go in the yearbook.

VII. 2017 Rising Seniors – Leslee Evans (attachments)

- a. Everyone should be familiar with the College & Career Center (CCC) in Room 8142. Ms. Bush is a valuable tool and everyone should take advantage of the information and opportunities available there. It's a great idea to set up a meeting with her and your student, if you have not already done so.
- b. Next year, we are hoping to hire a part-time person to fill in when Ms. Bush is absent and also to provide assistance to her where needed. This person will allow the CCC to be open every day during school hours unlike now, when Ms. Bush is gone for training the CCC is closed.
- c. The CCC would also like to implement the "House System" similar to Hogwarts houses where students are placed into a group with various grade levels to create comradory amongst students in different grades.
- d. The College Fair next school year will be August 26th and planning has already started. Last year there were 220 colleges and this year will be even bigger. The sign-up went live this week and we already have 20 signups. We are inviting more schools this year and will add the Big10 schools to our list. Juniors and seniors are invited to attend. Last year, they had to complete an essay, but this year the requirement will be for them to complete a survey that Ms. Bush requires. This survey enables her to assist every student, according to his or her needs. Students will also need to go to the CCC to get the survey from Ms. Bush so they become familiar with the room and exposed to the valuable tools offered there. Same as last year, other APS schools will be invited to participate, but the requirements for attendance will be up to them.
- e. Looking to add a Career Fair next school year. Hopefully sometime in November.
- f. Sophomores need to focus on clubs, community service, jobs and most importantly GPA. As they get older, they need to move into leadership rolls within the areas of true passion and interest.
- g. The "Class of 2017 Guidebook" went out to all juniors during Advisement back in January. If your student did not show it to you, you can find it online at www.NAHScollege.org. The "Class of 2018 Guidebook" will be made available to students in September.
- h. DID YOU KNOW – If you have a 2.0+ HS GPA you get the Hope Scholarship at any 2-year school – FREE TUITION!
- i. You can begin signing up for the FAFSA in October. There will be workshops to help you get signed up and answer questions. You don't have to sign up, but good idea if you think you will be eligible.
- j. It's a good idea to check with Coach Thomas, the registrar, to make sure that your records are correct and up to date.
- k. Parchment is a way to register online to get access to your student's transcript and you can do it at anytime. You can have them sent to any college free of charge.
- l. Would like to have meetings next year with each grade level to have discussions on what applies to their class to help prepare from year to year.



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- m. Common App – it's good and bad. It makes it easier for students to send their information to multiple schools but it has created problems for the universities because they are receiving more applications than they can handle. As an example, Georgia Tech had four times the number of applications. Often times the essays are the same so students are encouraged to begin working on them over the summer.
- n. Senior Seminars – will be held during the week that seniors are out. Examples include dorm life, surviving rush, self-defense, alcohol awareness, finances, life skills and others.
- o. Decision Day – an opportunity for seniors to share what they will do after high school or their college of choice. About 2/3 of juniors will be able to attend, some will have testing or schedule conflicts. It's May 16th at 11:00 in the auditorium. Parents are welcome.

VIII. Adjourn – 7:55pm

Sarah Shoup

Sarah Shoup – NAHS PTSA Secretary