



North Atlanta High School



An International Baccalaureate World School

North Atlanta High School PTSA General Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2015

9:30am in the Auditorium

In attendance: Sign-in sheet attached

Call to Order – 9:31am

I. **Welcome & Introduction** –Frankie & Dawnitra

- Presentation of the colors
- ROTC Blood Drive is October 7th 9am-2pm in the Multipurpose Room

II. **Vice Presidents**

- Treasurer – David Bittner – bank fees of \$1000 are mostly from PayPal.
- VP Prospective Parents - Katherine Nicholson – encourage everyone to take a tour and be informed, we have an extensive “brag sheet” and want everyone to know about so will begin posting on the website and around the school.
- VP Community - Lisa Reynolds – working with Sports Booster on Spirit Busses. The first one to Riverwood is Friday and the first 50 will ride for free and the normal charge is \$7. If you’d like to chaperone, please contact Lisa. Bus leaves at 6pm. Students will stay after school from 4-6pm, have pizza and the bus will return around 9:30pm. You may make arrangements to pick up your student from the game. We will have another for Homecoming. That bus will be \$10 and there will be a food truck. Warrior Fall BBQ is Friday, October 16th from 5:30-8:30pm at the school. More details to come!
- VP Communications – Leigh Ann Livaditis – Need help, please contact her if you have experience. Deadline for submissions to the Warrior Weekly is Thursday at 6pm. Our directory will be available online this year to all PTSA members. On Friday look for an email telling you how to access the online directory.
- VP Student/Teacher Outreach – Missy DeLaria – The French Delegation from Toulouse France was here and the PTSA served them lunch and their host was Cynthia Briscoe Brown. Here are her notes on the event:

The purpose of the visit from the Toulouse delegation last week was to plan an exchange program with the following goals:

- *To create a culture of collaboration between L’Academie De Toulouse (France) and Atlanta Public Schools (United States of America) to strengthen global academic and technical education and training for students and teachers*
- *To provide exposure and cultural awareness to students and teachers via an international experience*
- *To provide international apprenticeship opportunities for students*
- *To enhance students’ proficiency in the subject matter*
- *To develop international relationships to ensure that students are both college and career ready*



North Atlanta High School



An International Baccalaureate World School

To that end, we hosted four representatives from the educational system in Toulouse:

- ***Mr. Jean Solito***, head of L'Academie Toulouse
- ***Mr. Rivoal***, Dean inspector for the career education area for 3800 schools in the region
- ***Mr. Courade***, head master of career education school specialized in culinary arts, tourism and hospitality
- ***Mss. Arestie***, the head master of a business, law and commerce school

We're still ironing out the details, but our visitors were extremely impressed by all that APS and Atlanta have to offer, and we are all eager to finalize an agreement and start sending students back and forth. I'm particularly excited about how this exchange will allow us to enhance our IB programs system wide. It will give a special boost to the new IB Career Program, which we hope to implement in the current and future IB-authorized high schools.

A HUGE 'thank you' to you and your wonderful PTSA team at NAHS for hosting us for lunch. Our visitors were absolutely blown away by the NAHS experience, including the facilities, the teachers, and the classroom activities. And they could not stop talking about how active and strong our parents are – that's not common in France, but I think they're a little jealous now!

The Diversity committee is doing a great job this month with signs around the school spotlighting different members of our community and this will continue throughout the year by highlighting different cultures. Students will see a 2-3 minute slide show of the culture we are highlighting so they can better relate. There's also a trivia contest and the kids love it. Our first Teacher Appreciation Luncheon is coming up soon; contact Missy if you can help.

- VP Membership – Elizabeth Miraldi – Currently we have 405 members, beating last year's membership, consisting of 285 parents, 84 students and 36 faculty members. Would like to see more faculty join and plan to be at their next staff meeting to encourage more sign ups. To date, no teachers have taken advantage of Mr. Quigley's offer to cover \$10 of their \$30 membership. Good turnout for our Jason's Deli dine-out event. Handouts are available from Buckhead Pizza Co. and experimac – both partners offering discounts. Ads for our directory are due this week.

III. It's All About the Subjects

- Mr. Douglass was unable to attend so Ms. Kaltman introduced the following faculty members:
 - i. Dr. Mitchell – 11th Grade Assistant Principal also Testing Coordinator and over Title 1
 - ii. Ms. Stewart – 12th Grade Assistant Principal also over AP and IB Diploma Program
 - iii. Mr. Whitman – Assistant Principal



North Atlanta High School



An International Baccalaureate World School

- iv. Ms. Williams – 10th Grade Assistant Principal also over Special Ed
- v. Mr. Reeves – Science Department Chair
- vi. Ms. Costarides – Social Studies Department Chair and Extended Essay
- vii. Ms. Brandhorst – Fine & Performing Art Department Chair
- viii. Ms. Hunter – Math Department Chair
- ix. Ms. Freeman – CTAE (Career Technical and Agricultural Education or electives)
- x. Ms. Funk – IB Middle Years Specialist, will work closely with Sutton's IB MYP Specialist
- xi. Col. Minnick – JROTC Program, which is the best program in the state.
- xii. Ms. Hiers – IB Literature
- xiii. Ms. Carmon - PE
- xiv. Ms. Lucas – Parent Liaison
- xv. Ms. Bush – College Advisement

IV. Questions and Answers

- Q1** What is the correct calculator to be purchased for various classes? Also which ones can be used for testing purposes on SAT/ACT?
- A1** 83 or 84 TI Inspire is the one primarily recommended, but it will depend on the math course and or Physics class. It was recommended to also refer to collegeboard.org for suggestions.
- Q2** Last year there were many problems in math, what is being done differently this year?
- A2** We lost a math teacher and those students had to take the course online. This year all teaching positions are filled ad off to a great start. All department teachers have common planning periods at least once per week. The Foundation also paid for all of the Algebra1 books, which is the course most of the students are taking.
- Q3** What is the best online source for students to go to for help? Kahn is often recommended but it's not the best resource for all students and it's so large they find it hard to find the specific help they are looking for.
- A3** Ms. Hunter will explore the options and give a recommendation.
- Q4** When will there be an AP Night like there was for IB and grade levels?
- A4** Ms. King is over AP. Ms. King left NAHS and the new counselor will manage this event in the spring. Last year it was in January and will likely be in January again this school year.
- Q5** There have been many complaints about the system, Edgenuity, which is used for online courses. Will that system be replaced or changed for the better?
- A5** They simply plug in the courses that match the GA curriculum. Every teacher is now trained in the system for students using it for Recovery. Teachers can also use the system to help students with certain portions of a subject and don't necessarily have to access the entire course.



North Atlanta High School



An International Baccalaureate World School

V. Closing Comments

- Extended Learning Time (ELT) – Just started on Tuesday. Teachers are also using it for students that have been flagged as struggling in a certain subject. The teachers have access to a SignUpGenius for students that have been flagged. Only teachers can sign the students up. Those students get the help they need during the normal Advisement times, so every Tuesday and Friday. There are 10 slots available per teacher per grade level. Not every teacher is an ELT teacher.
- Teacher Conferences started this week. Ms. Boykin, 9th Grade, has a SignUpGenius. 9th & 12th grades are the 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month and 10th & 11th grades are the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month. It's a lot like Speed Dating. Be ready when you come with your questions and let the teachers know ahead of time which ones you would like to see.
- There are PILES of books left over from the books APS gave out to the schools for additional summer reading, separate from the assigned summer reading. See our Parent Liaison, Kim Lucas, in Room 4711. If you can use them or know of a place that could use them please see Ms. Lucas.

VI. Questions Posted On-line and Their Respective Answers (not all were discussed in the meeting)

Q6 Is there a testing calendar posted online and do extracurricular activities (sports and other) plan games around those dates?

A6 Ms. Kaltman - The district has not posted a testing calendar.

Q7 Is there a timeline for MYP?

A7 Ms. Funk - The IB philosophy (conceptual learning, educating the whole child, student centered, etc.) we are moving in the right direction: advisement lessons, teacher's planning conceptual units collaboratively. Warrior of the Month combined with Learner Profile of the Month, our IB essential question of the month. ATL skills are spanning middle and high school and vertical planning with Sutton. The Personal Project timeline is on the website. www.mypnorthatlanta.weebly.com

Q8 Are there plans in place for SAT/ACT practice tests in school?

A8 Ms. Kaltman – Not for practice exams during the school day. No High Schools that I know of practice the ACT or SAT during the school day, other than the PSAT. This year we are implementing the new PSAT 8/9 and 10th and 11th graders are all taking the PSAT for free.

Q9 How are we doing across the board in fostering a true NAHS School Culture that is indicative of an IB environment?

A9 See A7 and A12



North Atlanta High School



An International Baccalaureate World School

Q10 Are there any plans to raise the gap across our student population to increase graduation rates?

A10 Ms. Kaltman - School achievement plans: increase in AP testing, using ELT in advisement, 12th grade mandatory tutoring program and HOPE.

Q11 Are there any plans in place for students to have a study hall in order to balance the needs of academic rigor and extracurricular whole child experiences (whether sports or other) like other schools in our district and outside of our district?

A11 Ms. Kaltman – There are no schools in our district or that are public that offer “study Hall”. That is a private school thing that they can do because they don’t rely on state funding for classes. There is a study skills class available for special education students.

Q12 What are they doing to truly build an IB culture that permeates throughout the school regardless of whether students elect the IB DP?

A12 Ms. Stewart – We have hired an MYP Coordinator, IB question of the month in the morning announcements, increased numbers of teachers were sent to training over the summer and will be sent this summer via our new relationship with CASIE (the regional IB workshop provider).

Q13 Will there be an option next year to take a few IB classes rather than the whole IB program, like they offer at Riverwood?

A13 Ms. Stewart – No, the value of the DP is that it is a program and taking only a few of the classes, weakens the program. Students wishing additional rigor without enrolling in DP may take AP classes and/or enroll in Move On When Ready.

Q14 When/How do they work with students who are undecided in either where they want to go to college or know what they want to study? Do they take any type of personality/skills/career testing and if so during what time frame in their high school year?

A14 Ms. Stewart – The students, primarily juniors and seniors, may stop by the CCC and make an appointment to speak with Ms. Bush.

VII. Adjourn – 10:59pm

Sarah Shoup – NAHS PSTA Secretary



North Atlanta High School



An International Baccalaureate World School

Next Meetings:

- September 30th 12:00pm – NAPPS Meeting - E. Rivers – Special Needs Programs
- October 15th 6:30pm – General Meeting – APS, Academics, Standard Tests
- October 21st 7:00-9:30pm – NAPPS Meeting – North Atlanta – Documentary “Beyond Measure” followed by Panel Discussion
- November 18th 12:00pm – NAPPS Meeting - Sutton – Sports in the North Atlanta Cluster
- November 19th 9:30am – General Meeting – Community Service/Students Voices
- December TBD – Holiday Concert (we sponsor)
- January 7th 10:30am – General Meeting – Return of College Freshman
- January 27th 12:00pm – NAPPS Meeting - Warren T. Jackson Main – Speaker TBD
- February TBD – Diversity Program (we sponsor)
- February 24th 12:00pm – NAPPS Meeting - Sarah Smith Main – Speaker TBD
- March 17th 6:30pm – General Meeting – Student’s Kick Back: Mr. Douglass
- March 23rd 7:00-9:00pm – NAPPS Meeting - Bolton Academy – Atlanta Public Schools Board of Education
- April 21st 9:30am – General Meeting – 2016 Seniors
- April 27th 12:00pm – NAPPS Meeting - North Atlanta – North Atlanta Stellar Seniors & Panel of Experts on the College Admissions Process
- May 3rd 6:30pm – General Meeting – Graduation Information