

9/23/16 MINUTES NAHS PTSA General Meeting

People in attendance: see sign in, and speakers plus Nancy Meister. Board members included Laura Denning, Lisa Reynolds, Rita Golden, Kim Sumlin, Elizabeth Miraldi, Leigh Ann Lividitis.

9:15 – Laura Denning called the meeting to order, welcomed guests and members, and asked that everybody sign in on the Title I sign in sheets. Introduced Cynthia Briscoe Brown.

Cynthia Briscoe Brown, Atlanta Board of Education, At Large Seat 8 – CBB wanted to make members aware of two things:

1. OSD – be aware of it, educate yourself about it, as it will be on the ballot
2. Exchange Program, re: Toulouse, France – an academic and IB career pathways exchange. Great program. She left a sign up sheet for those who are
 - a. interested in hosting a French student
 - b. have internship possibilities for French students
 - c. have a student interested in enrolling in IB career pathways exchange.

Chip Fife, Go Team Representative -

1. Go Team Meetings are the first Thursday of every month in the Media Center, and he welcomed any one to join them.
2. Go Team's Strategic Plan is looking at three areas of NAHS where might be a better fit for the schools needs
 - a. alternate schedule consideration
 - b. non-traditional four year program
 - c. data driven strategies for student success

Aquaria Smith, PTSA Legislative Committee Chair and NAPPS Representative -

1. Look for her legislative column in the Warrior Weekly
2. Read and vote re: Senate Bill OSD
3. Introduced Lisa Maria Haygood, President of Georgia PTA

Lisa Maria Haygood, President of Georgia PTA –

Haygood explained the GA PTA's view of OSD, and encourages everyone to educate themselves about it. It is not a complicated read. She also reminds everyone to register to vote by October 11th. She further explain PTA's view of Amendment #1, which passed by one vote.

Amendment #1/ OSD/ Opportunity School District:

The wording /title does not represent the content. It allows for state take over of 20 schools per year, up to 120 schools, if the school is 'chronically failing'. The definition of a 'chronically failing' school changes every other year depending on the ever-changing metric that is mandated by the government (state and/or federal). When the state takes over, the school is under the governance of a superintendent that is appointed by the governor and not beholden to a governing board. Accordingly, there is no community involvement and no transparent measure of success.

There is already a law that allows the Department of Education, elected officials, to take over failing schools. It is not funded well or exercised frequently, but has had much success.

If the bill passes, OSD superintendent gains control over the local funds, closes the school (no students, but APS would have to maintain it, pay taxes, etc...), changes teachers and administration, can fire school board and take 3% off the top (totally need help with that one!?), and bring in for profit charter school (which are designed to make money in the business of educating our youth).

Go to www.georgiapta.org to get more information. There is a list of schools eligible for take over. Even if it is not your school, and a school is closed, the school board still has to pay for the upkeep of the schools without funding. This means that funding will end up coming from your school. There is also a TOOLKIT, if you would like to get this information out via social media. It can NOT come from the school, or on behalf of the school. If you would like anyone from the GA PTA Board of Directors to speak at a public event, please contact them. All are willing.

Courtney English, Atlanta Board of Education, Board Chairperson –

English wants everyone to know that APS is dedicated to keeping all schools from being taken over, and has launched a massive turn around strategy. The strategy is three pronged:

1. Foundational support for all schools
2. Intensive support for those schools that are on the cusp of failure (dig in more, ie: address social challenges, incentivize teachers to go into these schools, vacation academies)
3. Target Intervention for those schools that are on the list (number has decreased from 26 to 19), which involves partnerships to manage schools.

He spoke of the charter school system (think GoTeam), and said that they are trying to decrease the size of the Central Office, put money where it's closest to the students, and recognizes that one size does not fit all.

He also spoke of SEL, which is Social Emotional Learning programs being implemented throughout APS schools, because it is widely recognized that students' social and emotional makeup can negatively effect their intellectual learning. SEL provides that skills and tools to understand and work through emotions so that students can learn their ABC's.

Announcements via Laura Denning:

- North Star has 18 acts and is this Saturday at 7pm.
- Homecoming is next week. Volunteers are needed to chaperone the dance. See Lisa Reynolds.
- Volunteers are needed to lead Tour Groups through NAHS, there is a program to follow which makes it easy.
- There is no official PTSA meeting in October. There is a Drug Awareness meeting/speaker instead.

Kimberly Lucas, NAHS Parent Liaison, Title 1 -

School – Home Compacts went out September 9. They need to be read, signed and returned by mid October. Title 1 is based on the percentage of students that receive

free and reduced lunch. The funds received based on this algorithm benefits all students ie: ipad carts, tutoring, transportation. She knows there are +/- 20 more students that qualify, but have not filled out or turned in the application. There was confusion about the meeting held on the Monday before Curriculum night, as some members tried to attend but the location was confusing.

Mr. Douglass, Principal, NAHS -

Dedicated in taking the school from good to great. Targeted tutoring for those students impacted by the cheating scandal, supported by APS. MYP is working better under the direction of Dr. Showers. After our last evaluation, we are under 'self study' to make improvements by 2018. MYP spans Sutton and NAHS, as it is a program for students in grades 6-10. He has high regard and is encouraged by the academic focus of the administrative team. NAHS has the highest participation of parent viewers. Let him know if teachers are not posting grades. He is encouraged by the GoTeam's academic and school climate goals. Announced that APS is trying to come up with a formula to help pay for AP and IB exams...perhaps 90% for F/R lunch and 75% for others. He is excited about adding Career Path program to IB, as it will enable students to find a career pathway and still encourages students to attend a four year program beyond high school.

Information based on questions from audience:

- TOK as an elective will be looked at, but at the time it is part of the IB Diploma program only.
- About 20% of the students that took the IB Exams received the diploma. Students can score high enough on any one exam and receive college credit, even if they do not get the diploma. We don't have a test in to enter the IB diploma program at NAHS. We do not deny anyone who is interested.
- MYP, Dr. Showers is going to have students at Sutton MS work on a personal project, so that they will have experience and be able to produce quality personal projects by their sophomore year.
- Administration is considering changing counselor from grade level to alpha system – the district is looking at this as well, and may hand down a decision.
- Block schedule being evaluated as well, as it has issues.
- Early morning tutorials, tutorials in general – must be prompt and be sure a teacher is meeting student to let them in. Big building and not enough man power to keep open doors secured.
- Principals hire coaches, APS helps with the process and does not dictate hires.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45

Prepared by Kim Sumlin