

**North Atlanta High School**



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**MINUTES**

North Atlanta High School, Virtual PTSA General Meeting  
August 31, 2020 6:30pm

55 Zoom participants (quorum achieved), including, where names are known:

PTSA Executive Board Members

Karyn Lawson and Kellie Pharis (Co-Presidents), Preston Burden, Colleen Wheeler, Kisha Stanley, Jennifer Srouji, Daniela Diefenbach, Mikki Hawkins, Celena Evans, Amy McPherson, Mary Claire Allvine, Principal Douglass

General Members (with apologies where names are incomplete)

Cris Krachon, Karen Roman, Mason Hardee, Maria Vinnik, Kirsten Neufeld, Sharie Bassett, Elina's iphone \_\_\_, Fleming \_\_\_, Edey Simpson, Robin Ortale, Meri Cotney, Samantha Quick, Wil Stone, Luke M \_\_\_, Maureen Hetrick, Kendall Cephas, Gwendy Johnson, Derin Dickerson, Michelle Bohlen, Shonda Heath, April Miles, Kimberly Dickerson, Claire Benedict, Carletta Demps, Kai Fleming, Bobby Wheeler, Lizzy Wickland, Kari Wells, Victor Montana, Edward, Charlie Garnett, Dustin \_\_\_, Margaret Mertens, Alyssa McElrone, Lisa Simpson Hoover, Juliet Joyce, Patton Fowler, Kristi Walts, Kathryn Edgcombe, Kate Hart

Call to Order @ 6:32 p.m. – Karyn Lawson

- 1) Welcome & Introduction - Karyn Lawson & Kellie Pharis, Co-Presidents
- 2) Review May 2020 Meeting Minutes - Mary Claire Allvine, Secretary. The minutes were approved as read.
- 3) Principal's Report – Principal Curtis Douglass

Current enrollment is 2096; lower than projected. Question of COVID effect? No known repercussions in terms of budget or faculty reductions.

4X4 schedule was a concern initially, but has been successful in other high schools. Not going to change this year. More complications and changes needed than district anticipated. IB and AP classes getting support needed.

We now know how we started the school year – but how end? Still TBD. Goal is 4X4 schedule will provide greater consistency for students regardless of virtual/in-person. Allows more opportunity for students to see teachers. NO plans to adopt 4X4 scheduling beyond COVID-19.

NA daily class schedule slightly differs from APS recommended schedule. APS wanted SEL every day (first 20 minutes of the day. NA decided SEL daily would undermine attendance. NAHS offers weekly advising every Tuesday at the end of the day.

Teaching process faces big changes. Testing is challenge. IB/AP tests not available in December because we would have had to register back in May (before we knew our school plans).

Class concerns? Email administrator/content leaders for the subject.

Motto for teachers: Be better each day! Ask for help.

\$140k was returned to NAHS budget from district; will help to restore budget.

Athletics awaiting decision on football. Football, volleyball, cheer, cross country – were allowed this fall. APS not allow fans, even as other districts allow fans. Football and COVID? Could expect game delays in interest of players' health.

Loss of student: Courtney Louisville died in car accident.  
Family impacted by fire near Lindberg. No lives lost. PTSA Sunshine committee helped in both cases.

Dr. Herring (APS Superintendent) visited virtual classes last week, including NA's Mr. Lundy's ELA virtual class. Highlighted two students who read poems aloud.

Good feedback on first week of school. Was very nervous head of time!!

Continuing goal of being best virtual school in Georgia!

Want to support student activities. APS is hesitant to have anything in-person at a school. Risk that one school's activity inspires another. Please share all ideas with Mr. Douglass. Wish is to do any activities that benefits students.

Next Q&A? TBD

4) Treasurer's Report – Amy McPherson, Treasurer -- See attachments.

Last year's PTSA closing budget: \$63,511 closing cash balance, reflecting surplus due to event cancellations.

New school year report: \$3,484 donations received and \$7k dues today. Some lag in payments from PayPal. Small expenses to-date for new year.

5) New Business

➤ 2020-2021 Proposed PTSA Budget

This year's budget: Plan to spend \$34k more than inflows to use last year's surplus and still keep cushion.

Goal: 875 PTSA members

No income from Sutton Chastain concert parking

Adding way-finding signs at school for when we return

Emphasize budget for spring events, especially senior celebrations; make up for lost fall!

Parent coffees

Membership incentives – more to reward members

Prospective parent welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> graders in January

Partnering with CCC and Drug Awareness (NA is a Red Ribbon school)

Support for special needs department

Teacher outreach – missing lunches!

Mikki Hawkins motion to approve budget as shown. Second from Kisha Stanley. Vote unanimous by voice with offer of chat.

6) VP Reports

➤ VP Communications - Mikki Hawkins

Warrior Weekly main communication – Sunday nights. Text NAHS to 33777 to subscribe.

Parent survey this summer asking about communication (thanks to Celena Evans). Weekly Warrior #1 trusted communication.

Social Media: Thanks to Cris Krachon and Meredith Kaltman (NAHS administrator), plus grade-level administrators. Karen Roman 2021 and 2024, Allison Vuicich 2022, Mary Claire Allvine 2023.

Weekly emails for each class too.

Lots of info. Trying to be accurate. Always interested in volunteers.

➤ VP Community - Jennifer Srouji

Link to Spirit Wear Online Store: <https://north-atlanta-hs-ptsa.square.site>. Safe, contact-less pick-up outside a house. NAHS masks available!

Preparing events for when return to physical school.

➤ VP Fundraising - Kisha Stanley

Changes in process this year. Restaurant partners – thank you to Daniela! New partners include Corner Bakery, Starbucks, new law firm, and more.

Unique opportunity! Support bigger spring budget. Ask additional partners to come on.

COVID has disrupted would-be partners who are struggling. Push in month of September – final cut-off for Directory placement ads. Gold and Silver levels expanded to Bronze.

Offer ability to designate donation to Sunshine support.

Any additional partners, reach out to Kisha Stanley: [Ptsanorthatlanta@gmail.com](mailto:Ptsanorthatlanta@gmail.com) Donate online – no paperwork! Also looking for volunteers.

➤ VP Membership - Daniela Diefenbach

Running ads in Warrior Weekly. Links there to join!

147 members as of 8/25

Masks, NAHS decal, bar taco first 200 members, PTSA restaurant cards – 18 supporters!

➤ VP Teacher Outreach - Colleen Wheeler

No lunches/breakfast for teachers – for now!

Instead, back-to-school teacher gifts, including masks. Waiting for school to settle down, then figure out how to distribute.

Teacher supply drive is coming up! Start early this year. Hand sanitizer, masks. Prepare for return to school.

Supporting Sunshine committee. Many students in need now. Coordinate with social worker. Desperate need for food bank. How to get started? TBD.

➤ VP Student Outreach - MaKara Rumley

In MaKara's absence, Karyn Lawson reported. Virtual college information sessions through CCC. Scheduled from 9/1-9/11. Check out Warrior Weekly or CCC website: [nahscollege.org](http://nahscollege.org)

➤ VP Parent Outreach - Celena Evans

Thanks to 180+ responses to parent survey. Feedback on communication channels, demographic information. Challenge to be solved: Not easy to attend PTSA meetings. Now we're virtual! Please encourage attendance.

Summer registration to reach parents new to school. Created Google form. 55 parents registered via Google form.

Informal coffee next week for new parents. Create forum for new parents.

Finishing touches on Parent Presentation (virtual tour).

➤ Senior Drive-Around

Colleen Wheeler reported: Karen Roman and Cris Krachon leaders. 200 students participated; 300 collected gifts. Chick Fil A Support. DJ. Passed out senior tshirts and yard signs. Masks! Neck Gators! Raffle tickets, too. Kids decorated cars. Videos of the event are on Instagram and Facebook.

Karen Roman: With Football games pending, try to organize spirit committee virtually. Get all kids together! Be innovative! Excited! If you have ideas, email Karen.

➤ Freshman activities

Kellie Pharis: Freshman ride around, following senior footsteps. PTSA provided NAHS water bottles for all incoming Class of 2024 students. Trying to connect wherever possible during this time. Thank you to freshman committee! Keep volunteering!

## 7) Announcements

- 9/1 - 9/11 - College & Career Center Virtual Information Sessions
- 9/7 - NO SCHOOL - Labor Day Holiday
- 9/10 - 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting for IB MYP Personal Project

Adjourned @ 7:30 p.m. by Karyn Lawson