

MINUTES
North Atlanta High School, PTSA General Meeting
October 28 | 6:30pm

Call to Order @ 6:33 p.m. – Kellie Pharis

- 1) Welcome & Introduction - Kellie Pharis & Jen Geckler, Co-Presidents
- 2) Review August 2020, February and March 2021 Meeting Minutes (on PTSA website) - Mary Claire Allvine, Secretary. Call for edits? None.
- 3) **QUORUM REACHED AT 6:38pm**

4) Principals Report – Principal Curtis Douglass

Student enrollment report : 2,220 students as of today ; largest school in APS. Slightly more females than males. Demographics : 36% African American, 24% Hispanic, 34% White, 6% other. More than 100 students over projections => additional funding plus CARES act funding. Much to be used for hiring more staff. Curriculum – successful two days of PSAT/SAT testing, even as some students were frustrated being stuck in classroom all day. Still, standardized testing rules.

Graduation rate 93.9%. Congratulations to us! 3rd highest in APS. Very proud of students. Increased 1.2% from previous year.

Five lunch periods, not using multi-purpose room any longer. Winter sports need room to practice. Cafeteria ok for most. Seniors allowed to eat outside.

Surveillance testing participation is relatively low, approximately 600 signed up (by parents). Average 162 actually test weekly. Increasing participation with prizes. Staff is mandated to test twice a week. To increase student testing, Viral Solutions will receive a list of students who are signed up to participate. Some students don't want life interrupted if positive. Adding a case investigator starting Monday, funded through APS. Investigator's job is to track COVID cases, mostly via HealthCheck apps. Cases declining over last two months.

Teaching vacancies. Two new positions posted : one math and one ELA. Vacant because additional funding for extra students. Hard to find qualified applicants this late in school year. Also trying to replace a Special Ed and Science teacher because of resignation and promotion. For science, might try virtual class with support or help for students graduating in December.

BESS Universal screener tests sent home => parents upset that confidential questions were then answered and sent home to parents. Mailing was directed by APS. Trying to resolve issues with new procedure. More to come. If did not get results, please email your student's grade-level counselor.

District actively looking at COVID protocol for testing, masks, and vaccinations. TBD for winter sports – capacity and masking issues. Increasing normalization.

Overall positive year. Students are adjusting to back to school. Some students struggling to return to normal routine. Change is hard for some. Most appreciative Senior Class ever. 11th grade la

cking expected maturity. 9th/10th adjusting well. Teachers have also adjusted well; a lot of change for them too.

5) Treasurer's Report – Amy McPherson, Treasurer

Finished last year with \$64,610.76. More money than projected because COVID limited spending. This year, projecting to spend \$36k more than in-flows in order to reduce cash on-hand.

Seek to approve budget. Questions? Seeking comparison to last year and reconciliation of plan to over-spend. Speak to highlights for new members – what does PTSA do? Spirit wear is break-even. Pay for school-wide events, career centers, fill gaps for school events.

Largely a return to budget from two years ago with increase to student outreach and career center.

Currently \$66k on-hand. Collected \$7k donations YTD; spent more in spirit wear to stock inventory. \$18k in PTSA dues.

What are diversity funds being spent on? Colleen Wheeler reported on support for Hispanic Heritage Month, t-shirts for Hispanic Heritage (recouped costs already). College/parent events support with refreshments, banners, signs. Continue with other diversity groups, e.g., No Place for Hate.

Question: what doing for engagement? Fear COVID lack of engagement from community. See VP report section.

6) New Business

1) Vote: 2021-2022 Proposed PTSA Budget

Proposed: Linda Mazzeo

Seconded: Ashley Koontz

Unanimous voice vote

2) As notified to all members 9/28/2022 though calendar invite with detail and follow up announcement via Warrior Weekly and reminder email:

Vote: 15 members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business in any meeting of this local PTA/PTSA, this is a change from 25 to 15

Proposed: Corrie Rovak

Seconded: Colleen Wheeler

In discussion, Karyn Lawson objected. And online, same concern from Kim Kauffman – too large a community to have such a small quorum; loses interest, loses pressure for engagement. If Zoom voting not allowed, then struggle to get numbers. Need range of voices for large school.

Pragmatics v. ideal. Everyone invited, still extend invitation widely. Not a reflection of desire to reduce engagement.

Vote: Ayes

Nays: 2 (Karyn Lawson and Kim Kauffman)

Proposal passed.

6) VP Reports

1) VP Parent Outreach - Celena Evans

Focus on parent engagement. Very difficult to engage parents during pandemic. Goal is to take advantage of return to in-person school.

Parent tours delegated to Kai Fleming (on call); third Thursdays but for November. 60 person capacity.

Stephen Lindsay working on prospective family video. Short segments on different aspects of the school.

Diversifying parent participation. Demographics of school should be reflected in PTSA leadership. New committee chair, Marcia Isom, to focus on engaging Hispanic and Black populations, plus fathers' engagement.

Parent business directory. Small business networking opportunity. Partnering with fundraising committee. If interested, please email Celena.

Coordinating PTSA volunteer appreciation event. 75 parents across activities. Next Thursday at Howells on Howell Mill.

Go to see "A Wrinkle in Time"!

2) VP Community - Jennifer Srouji

Report in absentia. Spirit wear – lots of interest, new items
Visions Ceremony in the spring
Campus clean-up in spring

3) VP Fundraising - Ashley Koontz

Working on recruiting business partners. Four platinum business partners: Park Taverner, Chick-fil-A, Big John's Christmas Trees, Simply Admissions.

Different levels of participation opportunities available for every business.

4) VP Membership - Daniela Diefenbach

Thank everyone who has joined: 646 memberships. 395 parents, 183 students, 66 faculty. Try to reach 800, match two years ago.

Three in-person events so far this year. Join!

5) VP Communications - Lani Preis

Parent business directly and fundraising. Working on communications side. Integrate into website and broader community.

Seeking website volunteer! Email Lani for more information.

Feeder elementary schools asking about consolidating systems. Working together building future NAHS students. And building network on experience. Morris Brandon, Sarah Smith, and maybe E. Rivers.

6) VP Teacher Outreach - Corrie Rovak

Teacher supply drive Nov 1-5. Gift card drive only! Extra money elsewhere for cleaning supplies. Asking for \$10 denominations. Distribute at holiday teachers' luncheon. Donate via PTSA website link or drop off in morning car pool. Or drop off at front office.

7) VP Student Outreach - Colleen Wheeler

Support student body throughout the year, largely College and Career Center. College and Career Fair in September. Work with Diversity groups throughout the school. Support senior class to make special year.

7) Platinum Sponsor - Simply Admissions, Lindsey Fried

Educational consulting firm. Simplify Admissions process includes guiding students to make college lists, managing deadlines, planning for standardized testing, reviewing costs. Lindsay is one of only seven certified educational consultants in Georgia. Simply Admissions students were admitted to 118 different schools last year. Class of 2022 advisement spots full. Openings for 2023 and younger. SimplyAdmissions.com

- Announcements

- 10/29: Orchestra Scary Movie Night (6-9pm)
- 11/1-11/5: PTSA Supply Drive
- 11/2: No School – Election Day
- 11/4: NAHS Go Team Meeting (4:30-6pm)
- 11/4: Volunteer Appreciation Event (6-8pm)
- Denise Maxey: help with online directly – update your information! If you haven't added yourself, you might still be there. Check out process via Weekly Warrior.

Final comment from Karyn Johnson: urge more parents to be involved. Executive board has 12 members. If 15 is the new quorum, general and exec meeting same core group of people making decisions. Get active!

Principal Douglass added thanks to all NAHS parents. Students come to the school because of relationships. Bring someone to the next meeting. Double attendance numbers!

Adjourn @ 7:29 p.m.