



TJ PTSA Meeting Minutes

Sep 24, 2020 at 6:30pm - 8:00pm Rev A

6:30pm Meeting was called to order by Nick Costescu President.

Introduction of the 2020-21 EC

President: Nicolae Costescu

President-Elect: Bonnie Qin

First VP: Anna Lee Kim

Second VP: Kaushik Goswami

Treasurer: Li Yang

Secretary: Stacey Heller

Corresponding Secretary: Asra Nomani

Presentation and Approval of

- **Meeting of June 11, 2020** -Minutes of June 11, 2020 was approved
- **June 26, 2020** EC Officer Election Results were approved
- **July 14, 2020** Return to School Town Hall Q&A Minutes were approved

Report on PTSA Activities

6:50pm Treasurer's Report & Approval of Budget: Li Yang

- Li Yang, Treasurer, presented the budget. Li requested more parents join the PTSA to increase budget for all school activities, scholarships, teacher appreciation and other programs. The reserve needs to be spent down, and PTSA is happy to fund more events this year even if virtual and donations flow in when events occur. Budget is flexible and will be brought back up to membership again if there are changes.

2020-2021 Budget was approved.

6:55pm Faculty Report: Betsy Sandstrom

- Betsy Sandstrom, faculty representative, welcomed everyone and indicated that technology is working beautifully. It is wonderful after 3 weeks to see the kids and happy to be in class even if on a screen. Smaller group some kids feel more comfortable turning on their cameras. Yesterday teachers helped out with the SATs.
- Denise Castaldo, welcomed everyone indicating it was such a joy to be back with all of the students. Sent a thank you to all the parents
- Michael Auerbach, things are feeling more normal and he is teaching from school. There are 5 or 6 teachers that are at the school.

7:00pm SGA Report: Sean Nguyen, President

- Sean Nguyen, President, reports that it is important to check in with your child and ask beyond "how are you." Elections occurred and Sean is SGA President. SGA



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has been working on small groups initiative to gain trust and special relationships. Small groups have 260 sign-ups. SGA is working on purchasing furniture for a room at TJ so students can decompress. SGAT will submit a poll to see if mascot should change. Eighth period starts next Wednesday.

7:15pm Committee Reports - Chairs present are marked in green and named with - in front Health and Wellness: Michelle Gilles & Penny Dunlop-

- Michelle Gilles, chair of the Health and Wellness Committee, welcomes everyone to the PTSA. Next meeting is October 5, 2020 at 1:30. They will be hosting a lot of events.
- Penny Dunlop, the committee has to be creative this year and come up with events that we can do virtually. 5K, mental health first aid, but if not virtual, we will celebrate mardi gras and hand out snacks to students.

Challenge Success: Yolanda Theeke

- Dr. Bonitatibus welcomed everyone and presented about Challenge Success. Using Challenge Success umbrella, mindful of student workload, student engagement, and student sleep. First meeting is Monday, September 28, 2020. Per Nick- PTSA Challenge Success has information about good fit for colleges and survey.
- Yolanda Theeke, chair of Challenge Success Committee, reviewing the priorities, sleep, workload, rigor, and managing expectations. Silver lining due to covid is that workload is being addressed through FCPS, and hopefully sleep will follow. Bringing a new focus on a climate of care. One event is to introduce freshmen to the program. Also, we are planning to schedule a session around managing expectations. Another big priority is around climate of care, and we would like to initiate a mindfulness program.

Academic Support Committee: Haojie Wu/Alice Wang

- Haojie, co-chair of the Academic Support Committee, welcomed parents, Navigating TJ is another event that link school and parents. Goal is to teach new parents of the subjects at TJ including having a panel for IBET and Math. Those will occur late November or early December once a date is set, the chairs will collect questions from parents and send to teachers. Need volunteers from parents and those parents will have a great opportunity to understand TJ from different aspects.
- Alice, co-chair of Academic Support Committee, the committee supports the academic area and the May AP exams. Prepared 3900 students AP exams. The AP exams is the largest event that this committee prepares for and needs a lot of volunteers. Need 100s of parents for proctors and need snack and water brought to the rooms. 2 ½ weeks of events.

ANGP Committee: Sumei Wang

- Sumei Wang, chair of ANGP, 2021 parent - four co-chairing the committee and all senior parents. ANGP stands for All Night Graduation Party. Designed to provide a safe alcohol free environment with fellow graduates and takes place on night of graduation. It is an all night lock in on school property. Six hours of fun activities, games, rides, food,



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entertainment, casino in past. With current covid situation as of now does not look like ANGP is likely. Thinking of back-up plans since day one, which will be pandemic proof. Fund raising through sale of yard signs and Jefferson Cups. All merchandise is on AtoZ connect. Students will receive a gift bag packed with momentos that will be cherished for a lifetime. Need volunteers and it would be helpful to have freshman and sophomores to get involved so they know what is coming. Need volunteers to distribute yard signs in Alexandria and Springfield area. Looking for a Junior parent to shadow and to start end of this school year for next years ANGP.

College Outreach Committee: Helen Yi, Lee Ann Ritter, Lee Hsu

- Helen Yi, co-chair of COC, welcomed everyone. Here to assist the College Career Center (CCC), and support college visits for Universities. College visits started on line, and this committee helps to assist the student body. In past, we have done two events, the Alumni Panel and the Senior Panel. Both events were very well attended. The committee will be adding something new and will have a monthly gathering to bring in different speakers. One will be with Samantha Wolf to talk about ideas. October 15, 2020 is the kick off meeting. Need volunteer members.

Diversity Committee: Suparna Dutta and Helen Miller

- Suparna Dutta, Diversity Committee co-chair, looking forward to celebrating diversity with all parents at TJ. We would like to appreciate what all families bring to TJ. Reach out to minorities in Middle School and get them excited to apply to TJ.

Reflections Committee: Heather Li

- Heather Li, Reflections chair, welcomes everyone, it is her 3rd year and last year to serve reflections committee. Great to see creativity from students. All information with all links and rules on facebook and in TJ this Week and will be on the PTSA website. Deadline will be **October 16, 2020**. Its nice to share observations and thoughts with community and parents and students. Amazing artwork.

Hospitality Committee: Tara Lateef

- Tara Lateef, chair of Hospitality Committee, 4th year and last year doing this and would like to pass on baton to another parent. Please reach out to Tara if interested. Mission is food, fun and gratitude. Host 4 themed luncheons. First two are out so working with PTSA to share gratitude and do gift cards for faculty and custodians. I will be asking for contributions. Always working within rules maybe doing a small event and do a box lunch outdoors. Teachers really appreciate the luncheons in past and only time they can have a large gathering together.

Membership Committee: Anna (acting chair)

- Nick, talking for Anna who is the acting chair. All programs are funded by your memberships. Committees submit a proposal at beginning in year and PTSA may need to adjust it. One vote per membership. This is how you support the activities of PTSA. If you would like to help contact Anna Lee Kim or Nick. Please put in all information in the



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AtoZ Directory so you can receive a directory that you can keep. We are trying to list upcoming events on the PTSA website.

7:35pm Principal Report and Q&A: Dr. Ann Bonitatibus -

- Dr. Ann Bonitatibus, Principal, welcomes and thanks everyone again. Three prongs for opening. Make sure technology works, make sure to make personal connections and maintain academic rigor. Teachers are doing fantastic and pleased how much work the teachers have been doing. Wellness goals, I wanted to thank Sean for the video to bring awareness to our community due to the loss of James Huang. As we start 8th period, there will be an ability twice a month one block, to engage with each other and stay connected. We will be submitting our school improvement plan. FCPS is requiring a 4th goal around equity and responsiveness. Text books will be provided in a brown bag for all books. 250 signed up for SATs and short of that arrived on site yesterday. A good sense if have to come back to school. **PSAT will be on October 29, 2020** due to covid circumstance it will be only for Juniors. We will reach out about if anyone needs transportation. Feel bad for not having back to school bash and homecoming so supportive of ideas of what TJHSST can do. No field trips or gathering of students. Not permitted to sign contracts right now and don't know what our operating status will be. Dr. Braband presented plans about some certain groups of students going back to school. So Dr. Bonitatibus has requested if some seniors for select labs will be able to come back prior to other students. Dr. Braband is examining the proposal and if he gives approval, TJ will see what the interest is. TJ is the pilot site for checking out streaming equipment. Teach kids who are in classroom and kids at home. Unhealthy levels of screen time. Having text books delivered and picked up will help. Find out how much time on screens and homework but give us another week or two to figure it out.

7:45pm [TJ Admissions Proposal](#) Discussion.

- Per Nick- Contact policy makers and share your feedback. Also share your feedback on your TJ experience, positive or negative. Superintendent's proposal is a goal for diversity but attached to the TJ budget. PTSA is encouraging everyone to write FCPS board emails and tell them thoughts and proposals. If you watch school board sessions, please share your experiences with school board.
- There was a question and answer session with Dr. Bonitatibus regarding the merit lottery system which included some suggestions and comments
- There will be a work session on October 8, 2020- school board does not have to vote - operational change and not require a school board vote.



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- EC submitted the survey before the Merit Lottery was proposed.
EC may do a survey on this proposal which was not done before.
- Principals opinion- kids will not suffer if have a 3.5 gpa. TJ is a school where kids come to thrive. Underselling faculty and underselling peer support and underselling child coming into the school. The kids can't be looked at as the less than student and not called the remedial student.

Please reach out to the school board and policy makers and get your opinions known.

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm