

Manual PTSA Meeting Minutes September 20, 2017, Senior Cafeteria

ATTENDING: Robin Weiss, Delene Taylor, Trish Kline, Debbie Rowe, Barbara Coffield, Catherine Arnold, Gila Jones, Beth Brown, Brenda Mills, Laura Bollinger, Serena Hirn, Lynn Deveaux, Kate Chandler, Sallie Stevens, Jane Ernst Crowley, Sara Holland, Ann Schwartz, Shannon Evans, Pinky Jackson, Shelley Thomas, Becky Mosley, Betsy Johnson, Vidya Ravichandran, Kent Hall, Lara Talbott, Kim Williams. Guests: Mr. Mayes, Ms. Lete.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: at 8:30am

Inspiration - Lisa Becker

Maya Angelou: If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be.

So thankful that Manual is full of students, staff, and parents who gave up conforming to become the amazing community that it is.

REPORTS FROM GUESTS -

- None

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE – (Mr. Mayes)

- Mr. Mayes thanked the PTSA for their work on the Open House. It was a great opportunity to have Acting Superintendent Pollio attend. Especially relevant as the State Legislature is looking at school assignment process and “neighborhood” schools.
- Homecoming went well. Toga theme allowed kids to go in groups and have fun/be creative. Issue was raised re: procedure for bringing people from other schools. Person at the door early did not have good information and denied entry to kids who had gone through the proper procedure. Will work to avoid this in the future.
- Senior class ACT composite is 28, a point higher than last year.
- Manual was named most beautiful public school in KY.
- November 3rd will be “Power Lunch” trial. Periods will be shortened by 5-6 minutes, to create a 1 hour lunch period. During this time, teachers can have office hours, clubs can meet, tutoring can be in designated places around the school. Students could take a nap! This is an alternative way to handle lunch during busy times, and offer students a choice of activities that work best for them. This will be an experiment that can be replicated in the future based on results.
- Dennis Robinson will be working 1 day/week as part of counseling staff. May use PTSA or Alumni offices, starting 9/25.
- Dates to remember:
 - 10/10 Conferences
 - 10/28 Showcase of Schools
 - 11/2 8th Grade Open House
 - 2/21 Founders’ Day

SBDM (Site Based Decision Making) -

Kent Hall Kenttimothyhall@gmail.com, **Jennifer Tuvlin** jbtuvlin@twc.com

- Club Approval is being addressed. Manual has so many clubs and many are in name only (for resume building). Trying to avoid duplicate missions and ensure an active sponsor. Last year there were 87 clubs. This year, 63 with 3 new ones pending.

- Parents will be needed for 7 official committees. Mr. Mayes will coordinate with Robin Weiss and the PTSA Executive Board for input.
- IDs: Currently students can forget their IDs 10 times without consequences. This number is likely to go down.
- Dress Code Enforcement. The faculty was asked to use “respectful enforcement” of the dress code and not to yell in the halls, or say anything to anyone violating the code in front of other students. A memo was sent to all staff from SBDM (after the meeting) reiterating that the point of the dress code is not to keep kids out of class and to use discretion in enforcement. Please contact Jennifer Tuvlin or Kent Hall if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Advocacy Judith Bradley blueskymom2@gmail.com, Pinky Jackson pkjackson9@gmail.com

- NOTE: Full written report from the Advocacy Committee is attached at the end of these minutes.
- Issue raised on Facebook page re: finding an alternative meal source for Open House. After robust discussion with over 100 comments on feed, it was determined that: we need to consider both our mission and our resources. As a co-sponsor of Open House, we can best execute our mission if families can have dinner and join the PTSA while they are on campus. So, we responded to this request with a call for a volunteer to take the lead on finding an alternative vendor. Leslie King and Beth Regrut have stepped up to do that for the 2018-19 Open House. This is per our Resource Management Standing Rule. PTSA Board would also welcome a student member of a Manual organization such as the Gay/Straight Alliance to be a guest speaker at an upcoming meeting to share student perspective.
- Amanda Clark raised the issue of later school start times as an advocacy issue that she is willing to take the lead on, so we will be meeting with her to begin exploring this issue.
- Both Judith and Pinky attended the KY Interim Joint committee on Education (IJCE) meeting held on 9/17 at Valley High School regarding JCPS’ student assignment plan. [Here is a link to photos of the powerpoint that Dr. Pollio presented.](#) Dr. Pollio presented to the IJCE a summary of and rationale for JCPS’ current student assignment plan, and made it clear that a review was due as the last revision was in 2007. Dr. Pollio outlined his commitment to improving culture and climate in JPS, increasing student learning/achievement, and building organizational coherence. Student assignment and facilities plans must be worked on in tandem.
- During the last legislative session, HB151, nicknamed the “neighborhood schools” bill was presented by Rep. Kevin Bratcher, R-Louisville. The bill would have greatly impacted JCPS’s student assignment plan by prioritizing assignment to neighborhood schools. A similar bill may be introduced in the next legislative session.
- No news (yet) regarding the status of the KDE audit of JCPS. We are seeking information.
- We are in the process of updating content for the [Advocacy page of the Manual PTSA website](#), and we are right in line with Dr. Pollio’s focus on improving culture and climate, increasing student learning/achievement, and building organizational coherence.

CRIMSON MISSION - Tammy Ackerson tammyackerson@gmail.com

- No report

REPORTS FROM PTSA OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PRESIDENT – Robin Weiss manualptsa@gmail.com

- Microwave has been delivered to Manual. We did not use any PTSA funds to purchase this; we had enough to cover it in gift cards from the #ThankaTeacher award. We were able to purchase extra k-cups with the rest of these funds as well.

- PTSA Facebook page has had robust conversations on a variety of topics, and lots of questions about how things are done. Would be helpful to increase website FAQs, and think about what questions we had as new Manual families. This will help cut down on redundant posts.
- Need to revisit school website was noted. There are broken links, etc. throughout. Ms. Lete will follow up with staff.

TREASURER – Beth Brown bethbrown68@gmail.com

- See budget at end of agenda. Budget passed at PTSA meeting at Open House.
- Our actual income this school year has now exceeded our projected income, so all budgeted expenses can be fully funded.
- 990N tax postcard has been filed for the 2016-2017 tax year.

3rd VP / WAYS & MEANS - Ann Schwartz annmerm@gmail.com

- No new funding requests.
- Revisited Good Clothes Good People request. They have not yet applied to be recognized as a club. VA will support by painting collection containers donated by Rumpke, but VA is not providing funding. Of 20 bins, 3 will be located at Manual. There was discussion of duplication of CAP, need to pursue club status, partnering with CAP, and whether donations had been solicited. **Pinky Jackson moved, and Brenda Willis seconded a motion to provide \$150 to CAP, which could be used for paint. Motion did not pass.**

Nominating Committee - Kate Chandler katecchandler@gmail.com

- No report

Recording Secretary – Lynn Deveaux ldeveaux@aol.com

- It was moved by Trish Kline and seconded by Catherine Arnold to approve the August meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Corresponding Secretary - Catherine Arnold cgarnold@me.com

- Correspondence Sent: Condolence card to Mr. Larry Wooldridge and family (formal duPont Manual Principal), Congratulation card to Ms. Audrey Villion and family (duPont Manual French Teacher), Thank you cards to Dr. Marty Pollio (Interim Jcps Superintendent), Mr. Nathan Moore (duPont Manual Men's Lacrosse Coach), Mr. Christopher Applegate (duPont Manual Teacher).
- 2018 Founders' Day will be February 21, 2018 (school cancellation date February 28, 2018).

Historian – Jenny Mercer jmercer@humana.com

- Please share your photos! You can upload here: <https://goo.gl/photos/6B6mVgCvRjQZpzyK8>

Parliamentarian/SBDM Elections – Vidya Ravichandran vidya@glowtouch.com

- No updates until mid-Spring

1st VP/PROGRAMS – Lisa Becker maverick.becker@yahoo.com

Alumni Service Corps – Jennifer Hummel jchummel71@gmail.com

- No report

Awards – Meredith Lambe mapplegault@att.net

- No report

Beautification - Lara Talbott ltalbott@bellsouth.net

- No report

Clothing Assistance Program (CAP) / Manual Community Closet (MCC) - Becky Mosley

beckster2828@att.net, **Betsy Johnson** betsy_h_johnson@yahoo.com, **Sandy Metel** sandrametel@yahoo.com

- 2017-18 dates to work at CAP: 11/21/17 and 3/29/18.
- Red/White week collection challenge with Male HS will be to collect **new** socks for CAP, to begin October 1st and end on gameday. Boxes will be placed at entrances. Committee will be assisted by a school service club to count and sort socks.
- The CAP committee recommends that all clothing in the closet be taken to CAP, as it is not needed at Manual and has been stored for some time. The office keeps socks, underwear and sweatpants in a cabinet in the main office. The CAP committee can continue to keep a stock of these items for the office. **It was moved by Betsy Johnson and seconded by Ann Schwartz to empty the closet and store any back up items on shelf in the PTSA room. Motion passed.**
- The remaining items in the CAP closet are not PTSA items. Betsy Johnson is meeting with Ms. Lete this morning to look at the remaining items and discuss plans for the closet going forward. We will no longer be responsible for the closet and will turn the space over to the school.

College & Career Center (CCC) – Trish Kline tkline102@gmail.com, **Kelly Seiler** kelly.seiler@twc.com,

Jane Crowley je_crowley@bellsouth.net

- College rep visits are going well. Reminder: students must show their teacher a parent written excuse note at least 2 class periods in advance of the visit.
- AP TESTING update: JCPS is participating in a pilot program for AP test registration. CCC volunteers will be asked to sign up to help collect AP test registration fees during lunchtime (in hall near cafeterias) and after school (in the CCC) the week of October 16-20 (a couple months earlier than usual). Students will be receiving more information about testing in their AP classes this week.

Hospitality – Barb Wainwright barb2k@twc.com, **Gila Jones** gmj4jesus@gmail.com, **Jennifer Tuvlin** jbtuvlin@twc.com, **Kim Williams** williamsx4@twc.com

- Teacher Open House Dinner was a success, with great food and volunteers. Next up is “Feed the Teachers for Conference Day”.

Idea Fest Liaison - Vidya Ravichandran vidya@glowtouch.com

- District has taken on a bigger role and they are coordinating activities for the next IFJCPS. Manual is still the lead school, but more schools and students are getting involved. Need 2 parents to chaperone field trips to Idea Fest. Delene will send out request.

College 101 Program - Amy adlapinski@gmail.com, **Punita Halder** theholdersare@gmail.com, **Debbie Rowe** theredsoxwin@yahoo.com

- Scheduled for Wednesday, March 14, 2018. This is during U of L’s Spring Break which has worked well in the past (allows for plenty of available parking).

Project Graduation - Jill Lauroesch jlauroesch@yahoo.com, **Karen Kiesel** kkiesel@twc.com, **Sara Holland** sfgholland@yahoo.com, **Kelli Rodman** krod0003@hotmail.com

- No report

Red/White Week – Missy Smith missyky@twc.com, Shelley Thomas shelley.thomas@louisville.edu, Catherine Werner catherine.werner@geappliances.com

- Monday Oct 16 is Ramstock and the theme is undecided. Voting for themes will be held by a penny war. PTSA will order popcorn and hand out during Ramstock. We will also have a 125th Rivalry photo booth set up for the exclusive use of the class that wins the student membership challenge. Will need 5-6 volunteers.
- Tuesday Oct 17 the theme is undecided. The Powderpuff football game is that evening.
- Wednesday Oct 18 is the Manual Olympics after school on the front lawn and the theme is undecided. Volunteers will be needed to set up the Olympics and to help organize the games.
- Thursday Oct 19 is the Burial of the Bulldog at 7:10 and the theme of the day is Doomsday.
- Friday Oct 20 is Spirit Day and the pep rally is that afternoon. Game that evening at Manual Stadium.
- Have an Amazon Wish List - will need help distributing information to parents.
- Also requested assistance publicizing volunteer needs and sign up. Will need volunteers every day, including 10/13 for decorating.

Reflections – Lara Talbott ltalbott@bellsouth.net, Shannon Evans sme02@bellsouth.net

- There are informational sheets available in the office regarding the Reflections Art Contest.
- The theme is “*Within Reach*” and categories are: photography, literature, dance choreography, visual arts, film production, and music composition. There is a special arts division for all of our special needs students.
- Communications regarding the contest have gone out through the Manual POST, daily emails from Michele Bynum, daily announcements, the scrolling TV announcements at school, CSPN-TV, and through emails and hard copies in teachers’ boxes.
- All projects are due to the Manual office by October 4th. The due date to the district office is October 20th by noon.
- Lara and I will also be getting the word out to students during all lunches on September 20th.
- We have sent out a volunteer request through MSA for judges. Judging will be held on October 12th at Manual from 10:30am to 1:30pm. We will need at least 3 judges in each category. Judges will be provided with lunch on judging day. There is money available in the Hospitality budget for this if needed. Hospitality also has paper goods, serving pieces, etc. available in the PTSA room.
- Any questions can be emailed to Lara and Shannon at manualreflections@gmail.com.

Scholarships – Lisa Becker maverick.becker@yahoo.com

- Still working on distributing award money to 2017 scholarship recipients.

Volunteer Coordinator - Laura Bollinger lbollinger@x-gen.us

- No Report

Wellness & Compassion - Andre Wilson trinitysgrace@hotmail.com, Jiapeng Huang

jiapenghuang@yahoo.com

- No report

2nd VP/MEMBERSHIP – Serena Hirn serenahirn@gmail.com

Membership - Trish Kline tkline102@gmail.com, Melissa Carpenter melissa4carpenter@gmail.com

- As of September 10th, we are at 2,250 members strong!! Goal: 2,000.
- We added many members at Open House and Mr. Applegate followed through with his promise of dyeing his beard red. Plus a huge shout-out to Nathan Moore (Manual lacrosse coach) who sponsored

30 faculty members. Thank you to both Mr. Applegate and Mr. Moore for their enthusiastic support of PTSA!

- We ALMOST have 100% board participation - just need 1 more person to sign up
- Teacher memberships - need about 20 more to reach 100%
- We have 863 student members (out of approx 1600 students) to date. Challenge: The first class to reach 90% student participation for PTSA membership will win *exclusive access* to our 125th Rivalry photo booth at Ramstock!

Magnet Liaisons

VA Liaison - Brenda Mills bamills0409@gmail.com

- The enVision Group is still looking for additional Board Members. We are still in need of a VP of Communications and a Treasurer. Our regular meetings will begin in October now that we have gotten past the Annual Fundraiser.
- The enVision Field Day – Sept 16th 4-8pm Had a low attendance compared to previous years. The event is both a social opportunity for the VA Magnet and a way to kick off the year. The estimated funds raised to date have been around \$1,500.
- The Art Club is working on the Cards for St. James and look forward to the seniors submitting their work. The selections were made last week. That fundraiser usually earns the National Art Honor Society approximately \$2,500.
- The enVision Group did not donate funds to the Good Clothes Good People project, as it is not a VA club or project. However, VA students are donating their talent and ideas to paint the containers.

MST Liaison - Debbie Rowe theredsoxwin@yahoo.com

- Vidya reported that due to a date change, Kentucky Lt. Governor, the Hon. Jenean Hampton will not be the keynote speaker at the duPont Manual regional science fair. The annual fundraiser will be held at the Mellwood Arts Center on November 9th. Doors will open that evening at 5:30 PM and tickets can be purchased at tinyurl.com/mstfundraiser. A panel will be there to discuss the admission process for elite schools. Issue was raised by a parent re: political implications of having Lt. Governor speak. Vidya noted she was asked as an individual with a strong history as a women supporting STEM education. Change in speaker is due to date conflict, not this issue.
- Glenn “Skip” Zwanzig has officially retired as MST Coordinator after 25 years. He will continue to act as Science Fair Coordinator beginning in October.
- Belinda Hafell will replace Mr. Zwanzig as the MST Coordinator.
- A new process was implemented for Science Fair participants whereby each student will have a teacher/mentor to provide guidance on their project.

HSU Liaison - Elizabeth Milliken e.milliken@twc.com

- Per Mr. Kuhn, the new teachers heading up HSU are Shannon Kederis, Scott Williams and Michael Starling.

YPAS Liaison - Melissa Chastain mchastain@spalding.edu

- No report

J+C Liaison - Vaughn Bell vaughnpbell@att.net

- No report

ECE/AEMS/LEARNING LAB Liaison - Judith Bradley blueskymom2@gmail.com, Lynn Deveaux ldeveaux@aol.com, Andre Wilson trinitysgace@hotmail.com

- This year, we have 61 ECE students who are receiving special education services and an additional 111 students with Section 504 plans. That's 10% of our student population.
- Thanks to Ms. Strohmayer, Lynn Deveaux and Andre Wilson for organizing and assisting with an Open house "meet and greet". One family purchased PTSA memberships which were made available during Open House!

4th VP/COMMUNICATIONS - Delene Taylor dtaylor@dmlc.com

- Communications Chair Melissa Chastain will not be able to serve in this capacity; student Allison Tu also said that her schedule this year will not allow her time to do a weekly newsletter.
- Please share post about open positions:
<http://dupontmanual.com/manualptsacommunications-team-openings-2017/>
- We reached 1,000 members of the PTSA Facebook group during the meeting!

Content Contributor - Barbara Coffield barbarajbenjamin@gmail.com

- So that the POST includes as much all-school news as possible, please let me know of story ideas. Magnet Liaisons, would love to include stories from each magnet regularly.
- Counselors would like to hold an information sharing meeting on resources, website, etc., and would like PTSA to help. It was suggested that J+C do video interviews with counselors. This would make the information "evergreen" and be accessible to parents on an ongoing basis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07am.

NEXT MEETINGS

- PTSA Meetings are open to all and are generally held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 8:30am in the freshman cafeteria or PTSA room. We hold a lunchtime meeting in December at a local restaurant, and evening meetings at Open House and on College 101 Night
- Rather than an end time, we get through the agenda as quickly as possible, with a "soft closing" at 9:30am announced by the Parliamentarian for those who need to depart. Everyone is welcome to arrive when you can, leave when you need to, and stay afterwards for any discussion / assistance.
- PTSA meeting dates and minutes can be found here:
<http://dupontmanual.com/manualptsanews-minutes/minutes>

	2017/2018 Budget	2017/2018 Actual
INCOME		
Membership	20,750	22,500
Rebates	800	800
Donations/Sponsorships	2,500	1,990
Event Sales	-	
Designated Funds Carryover*	3,459	1,483
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 27,508.55	\$ 26,772.67
EXPENSES		
Campus Beautification	250	
College 101	250	
No Barriers	600	
College & Career Center	100	73
Hospitality	1,700	-
Welcome Back (Aug)	50	
Open House (Sept)	50	
Conference Days (Oct/Feb)	300	
Bus Drivers/Cafeteria (Dec)	200	
Staff Appreciation (Dec/May)	500	
Founders Day Luncheon (Feb)	600	
PTSA Meetings	-	
Red and White Week	200	
Project Graduation	2,000	
Scholarships	3,000	1,800
Honors/Awards Founders Day	500	
PTSA Membership Expenses	8,680	7,832
PTSA Conference Banquets/Materials	300	
PTSA State/National Dues	7,263	6,934
PTSA District Dues	415	415
PTSA Insurance	337	337
Membership Drive Expenses	365	147
Memorials	100	
Wellness & Compassion Fund	600	
Reflections	250	
Administrative (postage, Quick Books, paper...)	120	26
Communications	598	398
Purchases for School/Student Programs	3,052	
Purchases for School/Designated*	3,459	1,483
Staff Membership Fund	1,500	
Service Charges	550	547
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$27,508.55	\$12,158.44

Budget as of 9-19-17

Full Report from Advocacy Committee Pinky Jackson and Judith Bradley

Responding to request that we find another food source for Open House dinner sales

We do not intend to take meeting time to process this any further, this is just a report to let the full Board and our entire membership know what follow up has been done; to remind us all of our Resource Management Standing Rule; and to thank Delene, Jonathan and all those who took time to write down their thoughts on this issue for their participation and authenticity.

1. This request was made via our Facebook group and garnered over 100 passionate, thoughtful comments. The conversation depicted the diversity and passion of our community.

From Wikipedia 9/19/17:

“The Chick-fil-A same-sex marriage controversy was a controversial topic focused around the American [fast food restaurant Chick-fil-A](#) following a series of public comments made in June 2012 by [chief operating officer Dan T. Cathy](#) opposing [same-sex marriage](#).

This followed reports that Chick-fil-A's charitable endeavor, the [S. Truett Cathy](#)-operated [WinShape Foundation](#), had donated millions of dollars to political organizations seen by [LGBT activists](#) as hostile to [LGBT rights](#). Activists called for protests and [boycotts](#), while other activists ate there in support of the restaurant. National political figures both for and against the actions spoke out and some business partners severed ties with the chain.

Chick-fil-A released a statement in July 2012 stating, "Going forward, our intent is to leave the policy debate over same-sex marriage to the government and political arena."^[1] In March 2014, tax filings for 2012 showed the group stopped funding all but one organization which had been previously criticized.^[2]

2. It called upon us to consider both our mission and our resources. As a co-sponsor of Open House, we can best execute our mission if families can have dinner and join the PTSA while they are on campus. So, we responded to this request with a call for a volunteer to take the lead on finding an alternative vendor. Leslie King and Beth Regrut have stepped up to do that for the 2018-19 Open House.
3. If there is a student member of a Manual organization such as the Gay/Straight Alliance who would like to be a guest speaker at an upcoming PTSA meeting to share a student perspective on this issue, we would welcome that opportunity to learn.
4. Suggestions for improving our services to our members and broadening our perspectives are always welcome. In order to take action on suggestions, we must have volunteers and/or funding to do the work. Our [Resource Management Standing Rule](#) says "...If the resources are in place, we will proceed; if not, we will cancel. This is simply meant to be an honest, healthy, transparent process that respects the freedom of the community to support what events/programs that it values and that its resources allow."

Responding to request that we advocate for later high school start times

Amanda Clark raised this as an advocacy issue that she is willing to take the lead on, so we will be meeting with her to begin exploring this issue.

KY Interim Joint committee on Education (IJCE)

- Both Judith and Pinky attended the KY Interim Joint committee on Education (IJCE) meeting held on 9/17 at Valley High School regarding JCPS' student assignment plan. [Here is a link to photos of the powerpoint that Dr. Pollio presented.](#)
- Dr. Pollio presented to the IJCE a summary of and rationale for JCPS' current student assignment plan, and made it clear that a review was due as the last revision was in 2007.

- During the last legislative session, HB151, nicknamed the “neighborhood schools” bill was presented by Rep. Kevin Bratcher, R-Louisville. The bill would have greatly impacted JCPS’s student assignment plan by prioritizing assignment to neighborhood schools. The bill passed the Kentucky House but was ultimately not taken up by the Senate.
- Yesterday’s meeting was the result of a commitment by Sen. Mike Wilson, the chairman of the education committee to convene the interim education committee in Jefferson County for further discussion of the neighborhood schools issue.
- Dr. Pollio noted his commitments for JCPS for 2017-18:
 - Improve culture and climate
 - He described culture as the attitudes & beliefs of the adults, and climate as what students experience every day
 - Increase student learning/achievement
 - He mentioned engagement, passion, and participation in extracurricular activities as ways to look at student learning with a “bigger lens” than just test scores.
 - Build organizational coherence
 - He shared that we have and value different schools and different programs, but we need to have the same focus areas and belief systems
- Dr. Pollio’s presentation provided the demographic and historical context for JCPS’ current plan and reiterated the district’s commitment to the six guiding principles of the JCPS’ Board’s 2020 vision. Those principles are: choice, diversity, equity, predictability, quality, and stability.
- Dr. Pollio shared the mission of JCPS, which is “to challenge and engage each learner to grow through effective teaching and learning and meaningful experiences within caring, supportive environments.” He stressed that deeper learning is authentic and relative to ***their*** (students’) ***world***.
- Dr. Pollio emphasized choice and diversity as critical components of the assignment plan.
- Comments & questioning by several committee members and guests, including Rep. Bratcher and Sen. Dan Seum challenged the emphasis on choice and diversity to what they expressed might be at the expense of quality.
- Other committee members, including Sen. Julie Raque-Adams expressed their desire for the legislature not to dictate to the district how it should assign students.
- There was also considerable discussion regarding JCPS’ aging facilities. Dr. Pollio stressed that the student assignment plan and the facilities plan must be worked on together. Overcrowding at some schools, under-enrollment at others, and lack of state of the facilities county-wide were some of the reasons mentioned.
- It is likely that another bill will be presented in the upcoming session. We will keep you posted.

Kentucky Department of Education Audit of JCPS

No news (yet) regarding the status of the KDE audit. We are seeking information.

Website

We are in the process of updating content for the [Advocacy page of the Manual PTSA website](#), and we are right in line with Dr. Pollio’s focus on improving culture and climate, increasing student learning/achievement, and building organizational coherence. Here is part 1 of the revisions:

Advocacy is the “act or process of supporting a cause or proposal.” (Merriam-Webster). Manual PTSA has a solid history of acting in support of our school and our members, due in part to our focus on process.

As a PTSA, we advocate within the school and as well as within the community and at the district (JCPS) level. As part of 15th District PTA initiatives, we participate in state and national advocacy.

We strive to follow a process that allows our actions to be:

- well-informed
- respectful
- effective

We encourage a variety of perspectives, thoughtful discussion, increased understanding, and creative problem solving. This approach allows us to:

- model Manual-worthy conduct for our students
- develop healthy relationships with school, district, state, and community personnel
- proceed in a sustainable fashion
- get results

This does not mean that we avoid conflict or refuse to question authority. Actually, we appreciate the contrast between what is not working and what could better serve our students and the adults who work on their behalf. By identifying problems and addressing them in an honest, collaborative, forward thinking way we can more easily help find solutions.

To expedite the processing of your concern, contact the PTSA President and Advocacy Co-Chairs so we can determine if your issue is within PTSA's purview. If it is, your documentation can be added to any other information received about the same issue. This helps identify patterns, school-wide issues, and systemic problems. Documentation is an important resource that we can provide.

If the issue you raise is not within our purview to address, we can assist you in finding the person/s process your concern.

Issues at School

School-facing advocacy is often the simplest, because we have an accessible and responsive school administration. Principal Jerry Mayes comes to our monthly PTSA meetings to provide updates and field questions. By listening to the administration's understanding of a situation, and having him listen to the PTSA perspective, many concerns are resolved immediately.

If a longer process is needed, here is our process:

1. Anyone with a concern is asked to put it in writing. This is a very important step, and can be as simple as a brief email. Don't let it fester, don't just keep talking about it without finding the right person to help with resolution, and don't expect the PTSA to do this step for you. Taking the time to articulate your concern helps us move from a place of emotion to a place of thought and generates the documentation that is often essential for effective results.
 - a. If it is a logistics or "new to the school" question that can be asked in a respectful way, without using another individual's name or any disparaging comments, the DuPont Manual PTSA Facebook group page is a terrific resource. Many active parents, students, teachers, staff, and alumni are willing to pitch in to help you find the answers you need.
 - b. If it is a larger or more sensitive issue, email the PTSA President, to determine if it is in PTSA's purview and inform the Advocacy Chair/s as needed.

District Issues

As part of the strategic plan of the school (Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, or CSIP), schools are charged with acting upon the understanding that strong relationships with parents contribute to effective

teaching and learning. In addition to school-based advocacy, the Manual PTSA also requests updates from school leadership regarding what resources are needed from the district so that we can advocate for those needs.

State and National Advocacy Issues

As a member of the 15th District PTA, we participate in advocacy initiatives, including legislative actions.

To Participate on the Advocacy Committee or Get Support with an Issue, contact the PTSA President and Advocacy Co-Chairs.