

GHS PAC Meeting December 5, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:07pm

Motion to Accept: Nyssa Frazier-Shaw
2nd: Jennifer Rainville

Yvonne Palasky:

Yvonne spoke of "The Giving Tree" donations of hats/gloves/etc. to be given to needy families

Secretary's Minutes from October 2012:

Approved and Accepted: Lauren Anthony
2nd: Julie Groene

Board of Education update by Nyssa Frazer-Shaw:

1. BOE congratulated Selina Benitez, a Senior, as a recipient of the 2012-2013 Scholar for Excellence in Academic Achievement on the PSAT. Selina also received a commendation letter from the National Merit Scholarship Program for outstanding performance on the PSAT/Merit Scholarship Qualified Test in 2011.
2. BOE also congratulated Christopher Vasquez, a Senior, as an Honorable Mention recipient of the Excellence in Academic Achievement through the National Hispanic Recognition Program.
3. Congratulations to Girls' Cross Country for their Class SS State Championship win! Runners were: Megan Faxlinger, Alyssa Brehler, Allison Playdon, Thara Saint-Surin, Samantha Hawkins, Megan Perez, Melina LaBossiere, Claudia Marsh, & Krystin LaRose.
4. Steven Murphy was recognized for his 1st placed win in the QVJC Boys Cross Country meet.
5. Scott Goyette & Roshan Patel were recipients of the CT Association of Public School Superintendent award. This award recognizes academic excellence, community service, service to others, & leadership/service to schools & communities.
6. BOE thanked Isabel Tang & Jiabei Jin for their assistance in translating for our recent visitors from China.
7. Dolores Walsh spoke on behalf of the GHS Academic Leaders & asked the BOE for consider supporting an increase in new electives, more AP classes/early college experiences, & a request for alternative textbooks.
8. Mr. & Mrs. Surrell (of "Surrell's Pizza") provided a \$4,500 donation to support GMS & GHS Special Olympics speed skating teams.
9. BOE approved the creation of a fitness center in the auxiliary gym at GHS. The cost for

this venture will be paid by student activity funds.

10. In October 2012, BOE received a referral letter for roof repair at GHS. This letter was sent to the Building Committee & options are being discussed.

Booster Club Update by Pam Getter:

1. Booster Club provides financial support to student athletes & campus improvements
2. Booster Club fundraises all year
3. 100% of all profit goes directly to the schools

Update from Dr. John Dilorio:

1. Changes are underway relative to CT school accountability
2. A new set of curriculum standards have been adopted by 48 states
3. New assessments to replace CAPT & CMT in the 2014-2015 school year
4. New teacher & principal evaluations
5. Funding to “early childhood education” is allowing GPS to open 13 additional slots
6. All student scores must now be *at goal* – not just *proficient*
7. Writing & Science scores now count as well
8. High schools must reach specific graduation rates
9. All test scores for all students will be tallied using a specific formula to determine a certain number for the school as a whole.

Teacher Update by Laureen Anthony:

Art & Pottery (Paula Pauley & Nancy Meteyer):

1. Art classes created a very large poster for the “Day of Caring” on December 7th & it was on display in the cafeteria.
2. Students in Mrs. Pauley’s advisory have designed a 6’x6’ “Thank You” to Plainfield H.S. for their support to GHS on December 7th two years ago – all students at GHS will sign it & it will be presented to PHS during a winter concert.
3. “Pottery I” students are making great progress in their skills. Some of their work is on display in the case near the main office

Special Education (Academic Leader: Monica Pomazon):

1. Jerry Ross reports that the Griswold Unified Speed Skating Team has started practice for the 2012-2013 season. There are presently 9 athletes from GHS, 3 from GMS, and 15 helpers from GHS.

English Department (Academic Leader: Nadine Keane):

1. Honors Freshman & Sophomore English classes went to UCONN on November 29th to learn/utilize the resources of a college library. The research they conducted that day will be used on a future project.
2. Sophomores are working on an assignment for *All Quiet on the Western Front*

researching aspects of WWI & the soldier's experience. Students will write a journal as if they were a WWI soldier.

Career Center (Terry Cholewa):

1. Career Center at GHS & the 6th Grade Team from GMS are working together on a new program. 20 GHS students will go to GMS once (or more) each week during WEB & provide academic support to the younger students in reading, writing, & math. This program continues to grow & will soon expand into 8th grade!

Family & Consumer Sciences (Academic Leader: Dolores Walsh):

1. Mrs. Walsh's UCONN "Individual & Family Development" class just completed a gerontological interview with a person over the age of 70. The purpose was to learn about the changes in a person as they age.

2. The same students mentioned above will be assisting the Griswold Senior Center with the 2nd annual Pancake Breakfast on December 15th to raise funds for fuel assistance for our town's senior citizens.

Fashion & Design (Teacher: Jayne Maynard):

1. Mrs. Maynard's "Advanced Fashion & Costume" class designed & created the costumes for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Science (Academic Leader: Lorraine Dawley):

1. Science teacher, Kim Speight, reports that her "Preparatory Biology" classes are using Nexus 7 tablets in class to communicate the results of their investigations. The students research an "Operation Biome" topic & post comments on-line.

Library Media Center (Kathleen Sasso):

1. The "Friends of GHS Library" is going strong! The group is currently reading their 2nd book – *The Maze Runner* - & is creating book trailers for *The Fault in our Stars* to be posted on the Media Center web page.

Yearbook (Advisor: Jessica Gillespie):

1. Staff is preparing to send the 1st third of the yearbook to print.
2. This year, all yearbooks will come with access to the school's digital timeline – meaning that students will not only have the yearbook, but access to all the pictures that didn't fit!
3. Yearbook sales end in February. NO YEARBOOKS WILL BE SOLD IN SCHOOL IN MARCH, APRIL, OR MAY.

Dr. Frizzell's Update:

Calendar Update:

- December 1st: SATs at NFA
- December 4th: Faculty meeting
- December 7th: Griswold "Day of Caring"
- December 10th: BOE meeting
- December 11th: 2nd quarter Progress Reports
- December 18th: Winter Choral Concert at 7pm at GHS

December 20th: Instrumental Winter Concert at 7pm at GHS

December 21st: ½ day

December 22nd – January 1st: WINTER BREAK --- NO SCHOOL

January 2nd: PAC meeting at 7pm in GHS Media Center

Mr. Peel's Update:

RISE Pep Rally:

1. Held the last day of school before Thanksgiving break
2. Honors academic achievements

Award from Connecticut:

1. GHS has been ranked #1 in "Career & Technical Education" out of all 157 schools in Connecticut – for the 2nd year in a row!!

Senior Lounge:

1. Started the program on December 3rd
2. Created this time to free-up teachers who can provide intervention to students who need it
3. Held during WEB, the Seniors can go to the cafeteria & use electronic devices/do homework/etc.
4. In order to be able to enjoy "Senior Lounge" the student must maintain a 75 in all classes

Guidance Department Update by Julie Groene:

1. 62 Seniors have processed college applications
2. PSAT results are in & will be mailed home
3. Guidance Dept met in all "Business" classes discuss Naviance
4. On January 1st, you may begin filling-out the FASFA form for college financial aid (www.fasfa.gov)
5. 15 students took the ASVAB test in December
6. "Senior Panel" will take place in December (alumni return to share college experiences)

Raffle (embroidered items donated by STM Embroidery):

Golf Shirt:	Audra Murphy
Golf Shirt:	Rick Goyette
Drawstring Bag:	Mrs. Syren
Drawstring Bag:	Barbara Seagraves

Respectfully submitted by Deb Whitmer