

**GHS  
Parent Advisory Council (PAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
December 3, 2014**

**Meeting called to order** by co-chair Yvonne Palasky at 7:15PM

1. Motion to call the meeting to order made by Bridget Kinnie.
2. Motion seconded by Lisa Willard.

**Meeting Minutes**

1. Draft meeting minutes from the November meeting were reviewed and accepted.
2. Motion to accept the meeting minutes as written was made by Bridget Kinnie.
3. Motion was seconded by Lauren Anthony.

**BOE Update (Melissa Blondet, PAC Meeting Representative)**

*\*Board of Education Meetings 11/10/14 and 11/24/14 Points of Interest\**

- i. At both meetings in the month of November opportunity was given for parents to voice their requests for the 2015-2016 Budget. A total of three parents/community members shared requests/concerns.
- ii. Employee of the Month recognized Pat Feeney – Literacy Coach at GMS.
- iii. The District has been awarded a grant from the State of CT for security updates. The project to replace the PA system at GHS was approved by the Capital Committee in last year's budget for \$25,000. The town will get \$18,000 in reimbursement from the state due to this grant.
- iv. The GHS kitchen hood project is in its final stages.
- v. The Board recognized Trevor Frizzell and Brianna Kinnie for receiving the Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendent Award (CAPSS).
- vi. Update on Events that have already happened in the school given by Elijah Perry.
- vii. Smarter Balance Testing will officially begin in the Spring for all Juniors.
- viii. Donation accepted by the Board:
  - a. A violin and electric Piano from Horns for kids to GMS.
  - b. Funds to purchase modeling clay for the GES Art Program from the GES PTO
  - c. Funds to reinstate the stipend for the GES Exploratory Coordinator from DiRoma Home and Gardens in the amount of \$1100.

**Giving Tree (Yvonne Palasky)**

- Collecting hats, scarfs and gloves for community members in need. This event is done in partnership (PAC and Student Council) and is its 9<sup>th</sup> year. Items collected will be displayed on a tree in the GHS lobby and will be distributed in time for the Holidays. Also collecting canned goods as part of this effort.

## Teacher Updates by Teacher Representative (Mr. N. Moore)

- Business & Technology Department (Academic Leader: Bhupal Babajiyavar)
  - Jewett City Savings to present “Get Smart about Credit” with a focus on personal finance and how to handle money in the real world to the Financial and Professional Management classes.
  - Business Department will cover but not limited to the following topics this semester; importance of credit, budgets, savings and investments, work place laws and responsibilities, pay and benefits federal and state income tax and insurance.
  - Dec 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> – host the Lincoln Technical will present “Life After High School” to our student body.
- Health & Child Development (Academic Leader: Dolores Walsh)
  - Individual and Family Development Students – help with the Jewett City Senior Center Emergency Fuel Fund Breakfast. Two students (Kaylee Kimlingen and Tyler Shaw) volunteered at the Griswold Senior Center to help raise money for the Emergency Fuel Fund. Each year the class decides on a theme and donates items for a basket to be raffled off.
  - Students have also been volunteering in the community. Students enrolled in the Individual and Family Development for UCONN credit must complete 40 hours of interning at three different stages of development. At the end of the first quarter, a total of 175 hours of volunteering in classrooms at GES, GMS, Canterbury and Voluntown Elementary schools, youth soccer, and a rehabilitation center have been completed.
  - Thank you to Mrs. Johanessen in the Career Center to assisting students in locating internship placements.
- Physical Education (Mrs. Missy Moore)
  - In December, students in P.E. will have the privilege of working out with Sgt. McGale from the CT Army National Guard in preparation for the GHS Wolverine Warrior Fitness Challenge coming up in May 2015.
- Art (Mrs. Pauley/Mrs. Thompson)
  - Two new are on display in the LMC. Advanced Drawing just completed a work of art based on shells using traditional pastel. Three sections of Drawing I have just completed their first major project “The Horse in Proportion”.
- Science Department (Academic Leader: Mrs. Lori Hatajik)
  - On November 4<sup>th</sup> students from Anatomy and Physiology, Medical Terminology and the Certified Nursing Assistant classes were provided an opportunity to attend the Day Kimball Hospital Healthcare Career Fair.
- History (Academic Leader: Elizabeth Kowal)
  - Thirty students, juniors and seniors recently returned from a 4 day trip to Washington DC. The trip included visits of many monuments and memorials, the Holocaust Museum, the Capitol, White House, Mount Vernon, many Smithsonian museums, and a show at the Kennedy Center. A highlight of the trip is a tour of Arlington National Cemetery, where we watch the Changing of the Guard ceremony and laying of a wreath at the gravesite of GHS graduate Tyler O. Griffin of Voluntown. The tour escort shared that in the 28 years of directing trips, this was one of the best behaved groups he has ever escorted.
- GHS Football Fundraiser (Craig Demars)
  - GHS football team is doing a fundraiser to raise money to fix equipment that needs repairing (replacing old helmets with new concussion helmets, fixing ripped jerseys and numerous other

things) that we cannot afford without a second fundraiser. All money will be put back into the program to ensure all equipment is safe for our student-athletes and allows them to have the tools for a successful season.

- Yearbooks (Greg Schoen)
  - Yearbooks can be purchased at [jostensyearbook.com](http://jostensyearbook.com). All orders are being placed online. Price of the yearbook increases from \$68 to \$80 after Jan 31<sup>st</sup>.
  - Collecting photos for the yearbook

### **Calendar Update (Dr. Frizzell, Principal)**

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> – Teacher of the Year Ceremony in the Bushnell Theatre in Hartford. Nadine Keane, English Teacher at GHS – and the Griswold Public School Teacher of the Year for 2014-15, will be honored during the ceremony.

Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> – Target Meeting (2015-2016 budget), PAC meeting

Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – SATs @ NFA

Dec 8<sup>th</sup> – BOE Meeting

Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – EastCon – State Dept of Education- Support Literacy, Academic Leader workshop

Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – ACT's, New England Music Festival Auditions

Dec 14<sup>th</sup> – Guard Theatre Music Trip

Dec 16<sup>th</sup> – GHS Winter Choral Concert

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> – GHS Instrumental Winter Concert

Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> – Half Day of School with In-School Winter Concert

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> – Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> – Winter Break

### **Superintendent of Schools (Mr. Paul Smith)**

- Encouraging early parent and community participation in building the 2015-2016 school budget.
- Goal is to put forward a budget that will likely be approved at the first referendum
- Several target budget sessions planned during the months of Jan, Feb 2015 a few are highlighted below
  - Monday, January 12 – Board of Education Meeting in the GMS Library, 6:00 PM. The Superintendent of Schools will make the initial presentation of the 2015-16 Budget to the Board of Education.
  - Wednesday, January 14 – Superintendent presents the budget to parents
  - Monday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> – Public Hearing on Budget, GMS Auditorium at 6PM

### **Director of Guidance (Mrs. Alfiero)**

- PSAT scores have been received, guidance will be meeting with students to review scores thru Jan. Scores will also be available on College Board.com
- Guidance will be meeting with Freshmen students to develop a 4 year plan
- Working with Seniors to ensure college applications are completed prior to the Winter Break, will also provide education event on Financial Aid applications after the Winter Break
- Alumni Panel planned for Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> – former graduates come in and speak to Seniors to share college experiences and answer questions they may have
- Prepping Program of Studies for 2015-2016 school year

- Field Trip to New England Tech planned for Jan 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Project Safe Grad**

- Several fundraisers underway to help support the safe, alcohol free Graduation celebration for the class of 2015
- Fundraisers include Alex and Ani bracelets, Chubby Chico Charms (mother and daughter team), Key rings, Gown Gala (Jan 24<sup>th</sup>)

**Raffle** (All embroidered items kindly donated by STM Embroidery)

- 3 Griswold Sweatshirts (Chad Deroy, Paul Smith, Mrs. Alfiero)

**\*\*Next meeting to be held January 7, 2015 at 7PM, GHS Library**

**Close Meeting (7:55PM)**

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Motion to close the meeting made by Joann Flynn.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Lisa Willard

Minutes respectfully submitted by Deb Camacho