

**GHS
Parent Advisory Council (PAC)
Meeting Minutes
3Feb16**

Meeting called to order by co-chair Yvonne Palasky at 7:04PM

1. Motion to call the meeting to order made by Krista Longest
2. Motion seconded by Michele Spinelli

Meeting Minutes

1. Draft meeting minutes from the January meetings were reviewed and accepted.
2. Motion to accept the meeting minutes as written was made by Michele Spinelli
3. Krista Longest seconded motion.

BOE Update (Melissa Blondet, PAC Meeting Representative)

Meeting Highlights (January BOE)

1. State Representative Paul Brycki came to speak regarding school funding. He feels we should start discussions with our lobbyist on providing state funding to special education, separate from the Board of Education budgets.
2. Electric Boat donated 50 Dell desktop computers to the technology department to be used in the district.
3. DiRoma Home and Garden made a donation for \$1,100 to the schools.
4. The 2016/2017 proposed budget was presented to the Board of \$26, 240, 091, a 2.87% increase overall. The Board voted on moving forward with this amount.
5. Annabelle Curran Estate donated \$1, 000 for the Griswold High School Friends of Music program.
6. At the Board of Education's public hearing on February 1st, 2016 the budget was presented with the 2.87% increase-there were no public comments made.
7. Upcoming meetings (2/8 and 2/22/2016)

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

1. The January Teacher Newsletter will be posted separately to the GHS PAC website <http://www.griswold.k12.ct.us/page.cfm?p=1772>
2. Below are a few key highlights.

World Language – Kasey Hosmer

- Spanish II classes have started working on their News Project for the third quarter. Working as a team of reporters, our students will write, produce and film the evening news from a major city in the United States. Each person in the group is responsible for different segments of the program. They will include things like sports, weather, entertainment, and local and international news. Each broadcast will include at least one commercial break. Their segments will be accompanied by appropriate visual aids and completed all using the target language!!

Lena Poitras, a New Faculty Member in Science at GHS!

- Lena Poitras is excited to be joining the Griswold High School team as the new science teacher. Her experiences have taken her from the wilderness of North Carolina to the subways of New York City giving her the opportunity to teach a diverse group of high school students. She is thrilled to be able to bring her skills to her hometown of Griswold. When she isn't teaching, Lena enjoys gardening, hiking, and exploring distant landscapes. She is looking forward to a long career at GHS!

Science – Katia Kingston

- Students write about a lab they performed in AP Biology!
- Working with gel electrophoresis to compare five DNA samples to see which child out of the two had cystic fibrosis.

Physical Fitness

- Sgt. McGale from the CT. Army National Guard came in to promote physical fitness and the upcoming Wolverine Warrior Fitness Challenge and worked with some of our students during class.

English – Lauren Anthony

- Senior Personal Narrative Awards
 - Each year, the senior English teachers read many heartfelt and meaningful personal essays that this year, we decided to acknowledge those essays that touched us the most. The decision was made to follow up on the freshman Laws of Life experience by establishing a senior personal narrative essay contest. The judges read through each of the essays and selected what they felt was the best essay from each of the six English classrooms. These six essays best met the goals of being strongly written and creating an emotional reaction in the reader. From those six “classroom winners,” three overall winners stood out. The six classroom winners were Taylor Dudek, Cole Mileski, Phil Michel, MaKayla Serrata, Skylar Murtha, and Noah Berghinzo. Three of these classroom winners stood out as exceptional. MaKayla Serrata was honored with the Magic of Words award for the most creative and imaginative essay, Skylar Murtha was recognized with the Power of Words award for the essay that was most powerfully moving, and Phil Michel earned the Wonder of Words award for the most inspiring essay.

English - Jessica Gillespie (Academic Leader)

- Laws of Life essays
 - Freshmen are working on their Laws of Life essays, culminating in the cherished tradition of the Laws of Life contest this month and recognition ceremony for class and school-wide winners in March. The school winner will move onto the state level competition. Students are tasked with explaining one or more of their laws of life—or “rules” to live by—and why we should all abide by these words of wisdom.
 - Students in Sophomore English are working on Personal Essays on an object of symbolic significance in their lives. Students are tasked with picking an item that calls to mind

memories, people, or even values of significance and then showing the meaning of that object through a personal narrative.

A message from the school nurse Dee Tedeschi

- Griswold Public Schools and the Connecticut State Department of Education regulations (10-212a) regarding the administration of medications in school also apply to field trips. Guidelines for the safe administration of medication are as follows:
 - List all medication of any type your child will need to bring on the medical release form.
 - **All medications, including over the counter medications**, will require an “authorization to administer medicine by school personnel” to be completed and signed by the student’s primary care provider and signed by the parent. If your student is to self-administer, please ensure that the self-administration portion of the form is also completed by the provider and parent. All medication orders must be dated with the specific dates that the medication will be administered.
 - If your child has an order from his/her doctor currently on file with the school nurse’s office, that order will be acceptable for the fieldtrip.
 - The Board of Education shall permit those students who have a verified chronic medical condition and are deemed capable to self-administer prescribed emergency medication including rescue asthma inhalers and cartridge injectors for medically diagnosed allergies, to self-administer such medication, and may permit such students to self-administer other medications, excluding controlled drugs.
 - Per state regulations and to ensure the safe administration of controlled medications, **all controlled medications** will be administered by a certified staff member chaperoning the field trip or by the student’s parent/guardian if attending.
 - **All medications** must be in the original containers and properly labeled.
 - Please **provide only the amount of medication needed on the trip in the original container**. For the as needed medication, estimate the amount needed. Do not send the student with a full bottle of over the counter medication.
 - Please return all authorization forms, self-administration and those to be administered by the teacher, to the school nurse. Forms may be faxed directly from the doctor’s office and a copy will be sent home from the GHS nurse to be signed by the parent.

Medical Professions – an update from Stephanie Greaney

- The Certified Nursing Assistant students have **ALL** qualified to begin clinical this month at Villa Maria Nursing and Rehabilitation
- The Medical Profession Scholars Club would like share a message:
 - Fact: Heart Disease is the #1 Killer of Women (American Heart Association).
 - So, wear RED on Friday, February 5 in support of National Heart Awareness Month and Women's Heart Disease
- The Diversified Health Occupations Course would like to welcome the eighth grade students into one of the sections this semester. In both sections, the students have been working on a collage of Health Care Professionalism for Unit 1 and have exemplified what it means to be a health care professional in pictures, quotes, article clippings, and drawings.

- The Medical Terminology 2 students have officially registered for the “College Career Pathways” “College Connections” with Quinebaug Valley Community College. Students are urged to strive for an 80% or better in this course, as college grades can affect financial aid eligibility. Students will be able to take this free college credit with them to any college they may attend!

Business – Bhupal Babajiyavar (Academic Leader)

- Financial Reality Fair: The annual trip to the Connecticut Financial Reality Fair will be held on Wednesday May 18th, 2016. Students will need to get a permission slip from a business education teacher. All FPM students from both semesters will be eligible to attend this field trip. This is a valuable experience for our students because they are put into a real world scenario with a future career in mind. Students will assume they are out of school and have a full time job. They will have nothing and will need to find housing, transportation, furniture, food, along with non-essentials items such as a cell phone. Students will randomly be assigned a credit score, be given their monthly income, and will set a goal of how much they expect to save.

Calendar Updates (Dr. Frizzell, Principal)

- 2/5 & 2/6: Berklee Jazz Fest
- 2/12: Half- Day for Students-PD Day
- 2/15 & 2/16: Winter Recess-No School
- 2/22: Chaperone Meeting for Canada Trip 6:00 PM
- 2/24: 3rd Quarter Midpoint
- 2/28: Boston Bruins Field Trip
- 2/29: Student/Parent Canada Meeting 7:00 PM

Marceline Macrino (Associate Principal)

- RISE Pep Rally
 - Apologies for not sending out a Connect Ed message to remind parents
 - Acknowledged students and staff for several academic and community service support
 - Second one planned for the Spring
- CAPT (10th graders)/SAT's (11th graders)
 - Planned for March 2nd; Make-up day in April
 - No CAPT retakes for 11th graders
 - 9th graders will attend the Laws of Life Breakfast Ceremony
 - 12 graders – ½ day arrival if they have transportation otherwise they will attend the Law's of Life Breakfast
- Parent Teacher Conferences planned for March 10th
 - Open to all parents including high achieving students
- Junior Prom is planned for May 7th at GHS

Sue Rourke (Interim Superintendent)

- Griswold Pride Donated Rally towels to GPS
- GMS Boys Basketball team went undefeated, bringing the Rally towels to the tournament
- Budget 2016-2017
 - BOE is supporting a 2.87% increase

- This increase maintains current staffing and programs
- This budget includes all activities to support the GPS mission
- Further cuts may have a grave impact on staffing and class size, existing programming and course offerings
- Encourage community to come to public forums to understand the contents of the budget
- Important Dates: March- April – Public Hearing on the budget. May – Annual Town Meeting on the budget

Yearbook Update (Mr. Schoen)

- 70% of the yearbook is complete, Feb 29th is the last day for a personalized yearbook
- Purchase a yearbook online at Jostens.com
- Focusing on Seniors this month
 - Reminder to send in baby pictures, young childhood memories for the senior collage/slide show
 - Grad ads are due by Feb 11th

GHS Student Council (Chris Champlain Student Council Advisor)

- Making/donating Valentine’s Day cards for Senior Citizens
- Upcoming activities include the Dodge Ball challenge in the Spring, host Spring Dance in March. The Spring Dance theme this year will be “Snow Ball”

Raffle (All embroidered items kindly donated by STM Embroidery)

- Prizes included GHS bag with PAC embroidered on it and 2 Griswold sweatshirts

****Next meeting to be held March 2nd, 2016 at 7PM, GHS Library**

Close Meeting (8:02PM)

- 1st: Motion to close the meeting made by Michele Spinelli
- 2nd: Anne Grzelak

Minutes respectfully submitted by Deb Camacho