

**GHS**  
**Parent Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**  
**December 4, 2013**

**Call to order** by co-chair at 7:02

1. Motion made by Rachael Weed
2. Seconded by Chad Deroy

**Minutes Review**

1. Motion to accept the minutes Lisa Willard
2. Motion seconded by Lynn Wisniewski

**Board of Education Update (Nyssa Frazer-Shaw)**

1. Student Council Updates
  - a. Homecoming was a success and the juniors won the float creation this year.
  - b. Student council exceeded their goal in collecting cans for the food drive this year.
  - c. 3 GHS students participated in the CAS student leadership conference this year (Heidi Willard, Tori Martel, Milan Smith)
  - d. Tyler Longolucco is chairing the Giving Tree event this year.
2. The GHS girls Cross Country team won the ECC Class SS state championship.
3. Heidi Willard and Tori Martel were honored as the recipients of the 2013 Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents (CAPSS) which recognizes students who possess academic excellence and their commitment to community service.
4. Heather Edge was recognized as the November Employee of the month.
5. Lauren Anthony (on behalf of team leaders) requested Common Core text books for all disciplines at GHS. Also requested additional course offering (AP and electives) to be competitive with others school districts.
6. The Board approved the purchase of new banners (\$1600).
7. GPS received a grant award of \$146,000 to support technology to prepare for the Common Core Standards.
8. The Board approved a request for an Instructional Assistant at GES .
9. The new First Selectman (Kevin Skulczyck) provided several updates including; the forthcoming legislative changes, paperless Town Hall, his open door policy.

**Building Committee Update (Stuart Norman)**

Mr. Norman provided an update on the GHS Roof Replacement Project. While last week's town-wide referendum on the GHS Roof Replacement indicated support for the project by a vote of 298-122, the wording of the question on the ballot was problematic in regards to the town securing the necessary bonding to pay their share of the project over a 15-year period.

There will be a meeting on Tuesday evening, December 10 at the Town Hall at 6:30 PM at which it will likely be decided to schedule an additional referendum.

## **Sue Rourke (Director of Curriculum)**

Mrs. Rourke provided an overview of the Parent Roadmap to the Common Core State Standards and upcoming Smarter Balanced testing (2014-2015 school year). For more information regarding the Smarter Balanced Assessments please visit [www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org) or contact Mrs. Rourke.

## **Teacher Updates by Teacher Representative (Laureen Anthony)**

1. Mathematics (Academic Leader: James Wilson)
  - Algebra II classes (Mr. Martin's and Mrs. Parker's) are competing and designing catapults to launch eggs.
2. Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)(Advisor: Jodene Bromley)
  - The club organized a toy drive to benefit the Griswold community and filled ~ 6 carriages full of toys all donated to the Griswold Youth Center.
3. Fall Drama (Advisor: Tim Moore)
  - The Fall play, Mrs. McThing was a success and set fall play attendance records. Mr. Moore is very proud of his cast and is looking forward to next year's production.
4. The Pawprint (Advisor: Jessica Gillespie)
  - The Pawprint student newspaper is set to release its fall issue in December. Students have been working hard on their own time to report on events, design layout and create content for the paper. Students interested in getting involved can see Mrs. Gillespie, Mr. Connor or one of this year's editors: Kayleigh Waters (editor in chief), Veronica Dinneen (copy editor), Mackenzie Chenette (Associate copy editor), Isabel Poole (layout editor), Shiloh Vournazos (web editor) and Mikayla Shaw (advertising editor).
5. Social Studies Dept (Academic Leader: Betsy Kowal)
  - Mr. Demars students love using the class tablets to enhance learning. His freshmen students have been exploring China and writing an argument-based paper about "filial piety". Mrs. Kowal's senior Civics class recently completed projects that investigated different political parties in the US and will be examining the Bill of Rights next.
6. Science (Academic Leader: Lori Hatajik)
  - Anatomy and Physiology students visited the Bodies Revealed exhibit in Hartford.
  - Michael Eddy (Student teacher working with Mrs. Dawley) has been enjoying his time in the classroom with 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. He completes his teacher training on December 20<sup>th</sup>
7. Family and Consumer Sciences (Academic Leader: Dolores Walsh)
  - Mrs. Maynard shared that GHS bakeshop made over 70 pies for Thanksgiving to sell to the school faculty and staff. They also donated several pies to the VFW for the veterans lunch on Thanksgiving.
  - Students enrolled in Intro to Individual and Family Development (UConn EAP) are completing course requirements to perform 40 internship hours. Students have interned at GES preschool, kindergarten, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, at GMS Fun Run

and the Griswold Child Development Center, at St. Mary's' Food Pantry and at a senior center.

- Family and Consumer Sciences After School Eighth Grade Enrichment program has been focusing on Foods and Nutrition while learning how to read recipe and make a healthy snack and lunch/dinner item. December will focus on childhood education courses.
8. Physical Education (Coach Glen LaBossiere) and GHS Career Center (Terry Cholewa)
    - GHS athletic department and Career Center provided students with an exciting opportunity to participate in career seminar at the XL center on December 13<sup>th</sup> designed to educate students on career options in the sports industry.
  9. World Languages Dept (Academic Leader: Rick Rule)
    - Spanish students participated in a field trip to Boston to enjoy two performances at the Berklee Performance Center and a delicious lunch at Tapeo Restaurant.
  10. English (Academic Leader: Laureen Anthony)
    - Student Teacher Alicia Schaffer competed her work with Mrs. Keane's and Mrs. Anthony's classes in December.
  11. Yearbook (Advisor: Greg Schoen)
    - The final deadline for senior class Grad ads is Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. Please visit [www.gradads.com](http://www.gradads.com) and search for Griswold, CT.
  12. Special Education (Academic Leader: Monica Pomazon)
    - Griswold Unified Partners speed skating team is up and skating. We have two brothers this year that are athletes, one from GMS and one from the GHS.
  13. Senior Class News (Class Advisors: Nadine Keane and Kacey Hosmer)
    - Mr. GHS pageant raised over \$2000 to help defray costs for seniors. Andrew Laro was this year's Mr. GHS.
  14. Music (Mr. Churchill and Mr. Kinsall)
    - Auditions for the Spring Musical Tarzan are on January 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Rehearsals begin on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Don't miss the chance to be part of something special!
  15. Career Center (Terry Cholewa) and Academic Academy (Susan Salley)
    - GHS is sponsoring a trip to see the WarHorse at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts in Hartford on February 2, 2014. Cost is \$50/student (includes ticket to show, dinner at Bertucci's and bus transportation).

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

1. Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> – CT Science Center "Bodies Revealed" exhibit
2. Dec 7<sup>th</sup> – SAT's at NFA
3. Dec 9<sup>th</sup> – BOE meeting
4. Dec 13<sup>th</sup> – XL Center – High School Career Seminar
5. Dec 17<sup>th</sup> – GHS Choral Concert; GHS Auditorium 7PM
6. Dec 19<sup>th</sup> – GHS Instrumental Concert; GHS Auditorium 7PM
7. Dec 20<sup>th</sup> – Last Full day of school prior to Winter Break

## **RISE PEP Rally (Mr. Peel, Associate Principal)**

The RISE (Rigor, Inspiration, Service and Endurance) pep rally is in its 4<sup>th</sup> year now and continues to build to acknowledge students (2x/yr) accomplishments in many areas (perfect attendance, Physical Fitness, sports, community service, academic excellence) in a fun school spirited way. Mr. Peel mentioned other schools, visitors have been truly impressed by this event.

## **History (Academic Leader: Mrs. Kowal)**

1. Aligning curriculum with Common Core Standards
2. Changes to course selection/requirements including AP Government and 4-5 electives in History
3. Focus on argument evidence based writing
4. Preparing students to be good citizens

## **Guidance (Mrs. Groene)**

1. GHS offered students an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) free of charge. There is no military obligation with taking the test.
2. PSAT results should be shared in December. Guidance will be meeting with sophomores and juniors to disseminate the results after the holidays.
3. College applications – 33.1% (53 students) of the senior class has processed a college application thus far.
4. College Panel for Seniors – GHS alumni share their college experiences on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.
5. Financial Aid Forms - FAFSA ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov))- families can file the free application beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> - this needs to be completed by February 15th. In addition some private schools require families to file a CSS profile form ([www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)).
6. Naviance Presentations – Guidance will be attending classes in December to teach students how to use the Naviance program.
7. Key Testing Dates – SAT (Jan 25, March 8<sup>th</sup>, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, June 7<sup>th</sup>); ACT (Jun 14<sup>th</sup> at GHS)

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

- Several lunch bags (Mr. Peel, Dr. Frizzell, Mrs. Moore) as well as a Griswold t-shirt (Chad Deroy) were raffled and awarded to attendees.

## **\*\*Next meeting to be held January 8th at 7PM**

### **Close Meeting**

1<sup>st</sup>: Bridget Kinnie

2<sup>nd</sup>: Mrs. Anthony

Minutes respectfully submitted by Deb Camacho