

2019-20 Annual Report

- **Goals**

- *Build Parent Engagement*
 - The newly formed New Family Committee arranged 2 coffees during the year to bring together families either new to town or new to the GPS system.
 - Hosted a successful Fundraiser/Parent Social, hosted meaningful and relevant parent education programs at our general meetings along with grade-level meetings for 9th and 12th grades.
- *Increase and improve communications with parents, Greenwich Community and BOE.*
 - In addition to our monthly newsletter, we utilized our online platform, MembershipToolkit to send targeted emails to parents with updates on district issues and school and grade related events.
 - Increased use of social media and newspapers to convey the work of the PTA.
 - Spoke throughout the year at BOE meetings to convey PTA accomplishments.
- *Increase PTA Membership.*
 - Created a new membership level at \$10 for Free and Reduced Lunch Families
- *Update PTA Bylaws*
 - The GHS PTA Bylaws were updated and approved by the PTA General Membership.

Curriculum Enrichment & Supplementation

- The largest portion of GHS PTA spending continues to be funding for curriculum enrichment and student services. This year, we will have helped to provide over 35 field trips and classroom experiences with a diverse assortment of learning opportunities, primarily class-specific field trips chosen by the faculty. The number of trips is down significantly due to the pandemic. One of the trips funded was for the entire 10th grade class to visit the FDR Presidential Library. This was the first time we provided funding for an entire grade to attend.
- Our Ventures in Education program allows teachers to apply for funding for innovative programs for their classroom and this year we purchased Google Cardboards for Art and Social Studies Classes and equipment for Video Production and Digital Media classes to create Podcasts.
- We provide outreach assistance for families with financial need. Fees for ACT/SAT classes, yearbooks, cap and gowns, merit and need-based scholarships and field trips are partially paid by the PTA. Several programs were not funded this year due to the pandemic, including Jr. and Sr. prom tickets, the 9th grade trip.
- We formalized a grant process for AP exam fees for students with financial need who do not qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch discounts.

- **Social-Emotional Learning**

- The GHS PTA partners with staff and students in producing a multi-faceted week of special programming, Diversity Week. We help shape and fund special keynote events that are learning opportunities with the ability to inspire conversation and thought with strong relevance to the GPS Strategic Plan. The varied events promote conversations and learning that reflect back into the classroom, with learning involved relative to various academic disciplines and the opportunity for growth in personal development and civic responsibility for our students.

- **Family & Community Engagement**

- In an effort to continue our goal of building community, we hosted the "Paint the Town Red" cocktail benefit in October which was not only a fundraiser, but also a way for parents to meet early in the school year and build a GHS community. Over 200 parents attended.
- Our PTA continued the work of providing parent education. Our programs offer information from experts on current topics and recurring needs to help members enhance best practices in teen parenting. This year's programs included *The College Process*, *Navigating Teen Relationships in the Age of Social Media: What Parents Need to Know*, *Pandemic Parenting and Pandemic Summer*. The programs were videotaped and made available on the Parent Resources page of our website.
- The GHS PTA reaches out to neighbors who live near the school to keep them informed of school events that might affect the neighborhood and to invite them to attend events at the high school.
- Parent engagement is a cornerstone of the National PTA. The GHS PTA encourages parents to become involved with the school as a way of engaging them and bringing them closer to the pulse of their child's education. We provide nearly 6,000 parent volunteer hours to the five Houses, the College and Career Center, the Media Center, Student Activities, and Student Employment. The number is even larger when other volunteer capacities are counted.

- **Facilities**

- During the BOE, BET, and RTM phases of the budget process we advocated for capital projects including the redesign of the front entrance at GHS and Cardinal Stadium.
- Our volunteers do amazing media center thematic displays each month to engage the students in literature available in the GHS Media Center.
- We purchased red picnic tables for students and faculty use. The tables are located in the courtyard behind the security desk.

- **Looking Forward**

- Goal setting for the GHS PTA and certain committees will occur over the summer among GHS PTA Board members and the respective committee chairs, as is our usual practice.
- We look forward to advocating for the GHS community, including students, staff, and parents.

- We will continue to help parents feel connected to the high school by expanding our New Family Program and creating Grade Level Ambassadors to help organize, publicize and facilitate grade level participation.
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