

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL PTA

GHS PTA Meeting Minutes General Business Meeting September 17, 2020 11:30 a.m. Virtual Meeting

PRESENT

See Attendance Sheet

Call to Order - Terry Lamantia & Stephanie Cowie

- Meeting called to order at 11:35 a.m.
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Voting Explanation

- All paid PTA members to input full name in the Chat feature
- Only paid members of the PTA can vote.
- Use Raise Your Hand feature to second a motion.
- Voting without Objection - object if question on the motion presented
- If no objection - the motion passes as presented.
- If there is an objection, the motion will be opened up for discussion.
- Following the discussion, a roll call vote will be required.

Votes are on the following three items:

- Approval of the 5/28/20 GMM minutes;
 - An increase of \$15,000 to the 2020-2021 budget line for school improvements;
 - A \$25,000 increase to the 2020-2021 Ventures in Education budget line for distance learning technology requests from faculty on a rolling basis.
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Approval of Minutes -Co-President Terry Lamantia

Motion 1 – Terry Lamantia made a motion to approve the minutes from the PTA General Membership meeting on May 28, 2020 as posted on the website.

–Stephanie Cowie 2nd the motion. No objections. The motion passed.

Approval of Increase to School Improvement Line

- The PTA has been working closely with school administration to identify needs to enhance the environment for GHS students and faculty.
- The GHS PTA Board approved, subject to membership approval, a \$15,000 increase to the budget line for school improvements.
- Goal is to create additional, safe, outdoor spaces.

Motion 2 – Terry Lamantia made a motion to approve a \$15,000 increase to the 2020-2021 budget line for school improvements.

Stephanie Cowie– 2nd the motion. No objections. The motion passed.

Approval of Increase the 2020-2021 Ventures in Education budget line

- At the 9/10/20 GHS PTA Board of Directors meeting, the Board discussed the likely need for additional distance learning technology needs for GHS teachers to enhance the learning experience of our children.
- After our discussion, the Board approved (subject to Membership approval) a \$25,000 increase to the 2020-2021 Ventures in Education budget line for distance learning technologies for our faculty on a rolling basis.
- It was noted that the Curriculum Enrichment budget for field trips and other similar experiences will not be fully utilized this year, therefore, we do not expect a net increase to our overall budget for these expenses

Discussion

- A PTA Member shared concerns regarding the reporting of these Covid related expenses to the district to accurately reflect budget needs and preparing future budgets.
- Clarification was made by VP Distributions that these expenses would be reported to the district and these expenses are not likely to fall in the typical Ventures in Education guidelines.
- Co-President determined the vote should be a roll call vote.
- Due to the time constraints of the Superintendent and Principal, it was decided to delay the roll call vote until after the updates from the Superintendent and Principal.

Update from Principal Mr. Ralph Mayo

- Thanked staff, students and parents.
- Athletics - games begin 10/1 with exception of football. Game attendance still in discussion- streaming games.
- Hybrid schedule - discussing with GHS leadership team switching days up.
- Addressing technical issues.
- Drop off/pick up - staggered dismissal working well.
- Virtual Club fair soon.
- Cardinal Field moving forward along.
- Front Entranceway - Committee being formed by First Selectman's office.
- Options for outdoor seating working well.

Updates from Superintendent Dr. Toni Jones

- GHS sports - following closely. Should be getting an update on football.
 - Traffic - working with the Greenwich Police Department
 - Starting on 2021-22 Budget
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Roll Call Vote (Continued from above)

- All PTA Members were asked to vote Yay or Nay on the Motion presented.

Motion 3 –Terry Lamantia made a motion to approve a \$25,000 increase to the 2020-2021 Ventures in Education budget line for distance learning technologies for our faculty on a rolling basis.

–Anne Gustafsson 2nd the motion. All in favor. The motion passed.

Board Reports

- **Treasurer’s Report - Treasurer, Anne Gustafsson**
 - **Proposed 2019/2020 Budget Overview – Wrap Up**
 - Net Revenue of \$216,000. This was \$57,000 over the projected budget due to increased membership donations, corporate gift matching and increased turnout for the PTTR benefit.
 - \$183,000 in total expense in line with budget projections. Due to pandemic related cancellations we were unable to spend down some excess funds by \$25,000.
 - Overall net surplus was \$58,000.
 - **Bank Balance -**
 - As of June 30, 2020 the total balance of checking and savings was \$216,000 (\$94,000 Checking and \$122,000 Savings)
 - As of September 14, 2020 the total balance of checking and savings was \$253,000 – the increase is due to revenues received from PTA membership donations.
 - **2020/2021 Budget – Looking Ahead to this year**
 - The approved 2020/21 budget from May 28, 2020 anticipates the following: Net revenue – approximately \$153,000 from 3 fundraisers – Membership, Letter Writing Campaign and Summerfare
 - Expenses – approximately \$168,000. Allocated to support students, staff and facilities with increased expenditures in School Improvements and Ventures in Education
 - **Pandemic Year -** Given the uncertainty of the year, we will continue to review the budget created during the spring and how we use our funds to best support our students, staff and school throughout this year.

Co-Presidents’ Report - Terry Lamantia & Stephanie Cowie

- **Volunteer Opportunities -**
 - As a result of COVID, PTA volunteers are not allowed to enter the building until further notice.
 - Once you join the PTA, you will be able to volunteer for virtual jobs. Sign up online through Membership Toolkit.

- Virtual volunteer jobs include, but are not limited to, becoming a buddy family for a new GHS family, Graduation Celebration committee members, and help with Teacher Appreciation week.
- **Flexibility in Prioritizing GHS Needs During the Pandemic School Year:**
 - GHS PTA will continue to work closely with the District and school administrators, and to attend BOE and PTAC meetings to help our school
 - 4 picnic tables purchased to help create safe outdoor spaces for students.
 - The Ventures in Education grant process will take place this fall to help our teachers bring innovative technologies to their classrooms.
 - We will continue to support virtual curriculum enrichment and outreach for our students to help them achieve their academic goals.
- **JOIN the PTA** - Please join the PTA and help support our students. Our goal is 100 percent participation from our faculty and our students. You can join online through MTK or download a form on the GHS PTA website and send a completed form with a check to 10 Hillside Road.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:30 p.m.
