

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL PTA

2020–2021 Annual Report

- **Goals**

- *Build Parent Engagement*
 - Given we were unable to meet in-person this year, the GHS PTA facilitated and provided access to all PTA Board Meetings and General Membership Meetings for our GHS PTA Board of Directors, Parents, Faculty and Administrators through Zoom.
 - Hosted a successful Membership Drive and relevant parent education programs at our general meetings along with grade-level meetings for 9th 10th, 11th and 12th grades in the fall and spring.
 - Established Grade Level Ambassadors to enhance and build parent engagement.
- *Increase and improve communications with parents, Greenwich Community and BOE.*
 - Successfully uncoupled our monthly newsletter from GHS's PLink, creating more definition between GHS and GHS PTA messaging
 - 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 and support the needs of GHS
- *Increase PTA Membership.*
 - Membership communications were revised and sent frequently throughout the year. Given our remote status for all volunteers, we had to rely on our direct marketing to parents for support and were successful.
- *Budget Allocation*
 - Due to the pandemic, GHS PTA was able to pivot from typical spending and create meaningful Distance Learning Technology grants
 - Due to the pandemic and need for social distance, GHS PTA created safe outdoor spaces for our students and faculty with additional picnic tables which include ADA compliant picnic tables.

Curriculum Enrichment & Supplementation

- Given the pandemic, the largest portion of GHS PTA spending is school improvement and curriculum enrichment through our Distance Learning Technology grants. This year we have funded grants for our music, science and math departments. Hundreds of our students at GHS will be supported by these grants. Our Ventures in Education program allows teachers to apply for funding for innovative programs for their classroom and this year we purchased advanced cameras, tripods, cases and lenses for our Video Production and Digital Media department.

- We provide outreach assistance for families with financial need. Due to the pandemic, this support was communicated to all GHS families, not just those that had previously been identified. Fees for ACT/SAT classes, yearbooks, cap and gowns, merit and need-based scholarships and field trips are partially paid by the PTA.
 - We support 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**
 - Grade Level meetings for 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th were established and were facilitated two times, fall and spring, providing families with applicable and timely information of milestones. In this pandemic, these meetings were a way to support our parent community and build on our engagement with families.
 - 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: *Post High School Planning & the College Admissions Process*, *Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health Resources*, *What's Next*, *COVID and the Future of our Schools* and *Building Character and Resilience in Teens*. 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. In a typical year, 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. During the pandemic, certain volunteers continued to support their positions remotely.
- **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, Cardinal Stadium, GHS Front Entryway project, and the Field Remediation project. We purchased additional red picnic tables for students and faculty use. The tables are located in the courtyard behind the security desk. Additionally, we purchased WiFi boosters to be positioned outside to provide outside learning opportunities as well as support safety and access between parents and their children when

waiting for them. We also purchased T.V. Monitors for each House, Science, Gym PAC, Black Box and Media Center areas, to support real time communication for students and faculty.

- **Looking Forward**

- Consistent with our usual practice, goal setting for the GHS PTA and certain committees will occur over the summer among GHS PTA Board members and the respective committee chairs.
- 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 supporting our Grade Level Ambassadors to help organize, publicize and facilitate grade level participation and to develop innovative ways to engage our parents in both large and small group settings.
- Support the Reimagine Student Center committee and provide financial support
- We look forward to seeing everyone in the near future.