



Report to Town Boards and Committees

October 2022

Shared with members of school boards, select boards, superintendents, the Budget Review Committee (BRC), and the budget and finance committees of Blue Hill, Brooksville, Brooklin, Castine, Penobscot, Sedgwick, and Surry, and anyone else who requests an emailed monthly version. As with all our earlier reports to School Boards, it will be posted on our website.

News from the GSA Board of Trustees

- At its September 1st Board Retreat, GSA's trustees endorsed a comprehensive "vision statement" detailing how GSA might more fully achieve its mission. *Getting there* will be a work in progress, requiring thoughtful, strategic planning, and along the way there will undoubtedly be revisions and refinements. You can read the vision here: [GSA Vision 2022](#)
- GSA Trustees will vote on the budget at the Board meeting **October 22**. After that, the budget summary will be posted on the website at [TownTuitioning](#).
- GSA's Board of Trustees will have the first of its three annual public meetings on **Tuesday, October 25, at 5 pm at GSA**. The first part of the meeting will focus on the 2022-23 budget, and the second on GSA Vision 2022.

Campus News

- We are introducing a Community Service requirement for all GSA students. Students will have the opportunity to complete some of their service during school sponsored events along with participating in projects/events outside of GSA.
- GSA Day is back! There is a long-standing tradition of seniors hiking together up Blue Hill Mountain in the fall. At the summit they met with a member of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust to learn more about the organization and how they impact our community. In addition, seniors discussed how they can support their communities. In conjunction with the senior hike, GSA day was an opportunity for 9th - 11th grade students to complete service projects and connect with each other while supporting the Blue Hill Community.
- We are thrilled to welcome fourteen boarding students this year from eight countries (Afghanistan, Austria, China, France, Mexico, Spain, Ukraine, and the United States).
- Be sure to read the article about our three refugee students at: [GSA welcomes refugee students | Community News | Penobscot Bay Press \(weeklypacket.com\)](#)
- GSA's Parent/Guardian Bulletin includes coming events, announcements, news, and more, and goes out most weeks during the school year. To receive the Parent/Guardian Bulletin directly in your email inbox, sign up [here](#).

Finances

- We have begun our collaboration with the newly-formed Budget Review Committee (BRC). We welcome the open sharing of perspectives, ideas, and skills to achieve our common goals. Over the summer, BRC reviewed a line-by-line draft budget and shared their feedback and questions with us.

- The next BRC meeting is scheduled for **October 4, 2022**. We anticipate the agenda will be presentation and discussion of the final version of the GSA budget for 2022-23.
 - BRC Town appointees: Sean Dooley (Chair, Blue Hill), Stephen Kazmierczak (Brooklin), Catherine Moore (Brooksville), Bobby Vagt (Castine), Jamie MacNair (Penobscot), Susan Ford (Sedgwick) and Jared Benner (Surry).
 - BRC GSA attendees: Terry Moulton (Chair, GSA Finance Committee), Brock Muir, GSA Director of Finance and Operations, and Trustees Mark Hurvitt, Rachel Grivois, & Sally Mills (Board Chair). Head of School Tim Seeley also attends.

From GSA's Advancement Office

A Celebration of Giving/Annual Report is on its way to print presently with many more details, but here is a brief summary of 2021-22 fundraising results:

- The total raised 2021-22 was \$638,228, a 45% increase over last year. This includes \$293,299 to the GSA Fund, a 15% increase over last year.
- Special gifts & initiatives:
 - \$22,900 for our steel drum initiative, which enables GSA to have its own instruments and expanded programming
 - \$51,376 to endow a new college and career counseling fund
 - \$22,867 in support of current use and endowed Food for Thought funds
 - \$25,000 in support of future facilities campaign objectives
 - \$5,750 raised by alumni volunteers for GSA's Alumni Sports Fund
 - \$113,463 in support of scholarships for GSA seniors
 - \$52,430 to endow a scholarship in memory of Deborah Brewster
- Development Committee: Trustees Amy Baker and Prudy Heilner, and community members April Chapman '91, Margie Gray '81, Christine Wanning, Lynne Yarusko, Sarah Clapp '02, Mary Tobey '93, and Carrie Clifford '94.
- Advancement Committee: Trustees K. Guinness, Sara Becton Ardrey, and Sally Mills '85, and community members Phyllis Taylor, Joyce Snow, and Larry Flood.

Facilities updates

- Supplemental tuition has enabled us to address several critical, immediate facilities needs. Projects already accomplished this summer include replacing the sewage pump, replacing one boiler and repairing two others; re-roofing the Butler Building; replacing the arsenic filters in the water system; adding a new single-occupant bathroom to the Academy Building. The McIntyre Building and front of the Academy Building have been repainted, and we plan to put a new roof on the McIntyre Building. The roof of the Academy Building is scheduled to be replaced this fall.
- Using other monies we upgraded the WiFi infrastructure to improve both safety and learning: new security cameras have been installed and connectivity has been upgraded to better serve the entire campus.
- As is true every summer, the gym floor has been resurfaced and the classrooms deep cleaned prior to student arrival.
- A master plan for the critically necessary comprehensive campus revitalization over the next ten to twenty years has been in exhaustive development for the past several years, and is in the final stages of review by Trustees and Staff and will be ready to be shared more widely in the near future.

Thank you for taking the time to read this, and for your service to the well-being of our shared peninsula community. We want to hear from you, and invite you to reach out via phone (207-374-2808), t.seeley@georgesteves.org, or in person.