

# GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL PTA

## 2024-2025 Annual Report

### *Parent Engagement*

The GHS PTA currently has 268 faculty (teachers), 150 other staff and 2597 students.

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 in person meetings. Depending on the meeting, we would videotape the presentation and offer that to our parent body via email.

- Hosted a successful Donation Drive (changed from “Membership” drive since we are ultimately really seeking money!) and relevant parent education programs at our general meetings along with grade-level meetings for 9th and 12<sup>th</sup> in the fall and 12th in the spring. ***We had, to date, 103 staff and/or faculty members and 754 families donate to the PTA.***
- Grade Level Ambassadors currently in their sixth year since first established to enhance and build parent engagement. The goals of these positions will be helpful in gaining support from each of these classes. The parents began assisting the class advisors on class fundraising,

### *Increase and improve communications with parents, Greenwich Community and BOE.*

- We added a second newsletter this year called BIG RED NEWS which goes out the last Tuesday of each month. It highlights volunteer opportunities, grade level, club and sports fundraisers, accomplishments by clubs, students and sports teams and more.
- Our regular monthly newsletter from GHS’s Parent Link (PLink) provided valuable information throughout the year. Additionally we included community events when appropriate.
- 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.
- Attended BOE meetings to convey PTA accomplishments and support the needs of GHS

### *Increase PTA Membership and Attendance*

- Membership communications were sent on a consistent basis. Membership funds raised over \$6,000 more than last year. Our in person Paint the Town Red Gala raised \$25,000 more than last year. We had amazing community support with donations towards our live and silent auctions in addition to sponsors this year which helped push us in the right direction.

## **Budget Allocation**

*This year's focus was on spending what was raised. Our BOD felt very strongly about supporting our students and faculty any way we could.*

- The money raised this year supported our students and faculty with department and house allocations, curriculum enrichment support, and so many amazing field trips.

## **Curriculum Enrichment, Teacher Grants and Outreach**

These line items account for the largest portions of our GHS PTA spending.

- Curriculum Enrichment - we spent **\$50,342** and funded numerous field trips *so far*. These included (but not all) a Broadway play, Decoration and Design Building in NYC, The Invitational Science Bowl in New Jersey, Yale University, American University in DC for the Model UN Conference, Financial district tour in NYC, Stamford Superior Court, Greenwich Botanical Center, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Morgan Library and Museum in NYC
- Teacher Grants - We have spent **\$14,026** *so far*.
- We provide outreach assistance for families with financial need and any who are identified by a GHS guidance counselor. Fees for ACT/SAT classes, yearbooks, cap and gowns, merit and need-based scholarships.
- We support a grant process for AP exam fees for students with financial need who do not qualify for Free and Reduced Meal discounts.

## **Family & Community Engagement**

- Grade Level meetings for 9th & 12th were facilitated in the fall, 12<sup>th</sup> in the Spring, and provided families with applicable and timely information.
- 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: College Admissions Q&A with the Counselors: Current Trends in Admissions, Guest speaker and Greenwich resident, Adam Alter. He is the author of Irresistible, The Rise of addictive technology. Our last meeting topic will be How to Communicate with Difficult People by Katherine Gentile - Conflict resolution specialist and GHS Parent
- The GHS PTA reaches out to neighbors via email in the fall, winter and spring 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. Over 400 in school, parent volunteers who provide over 7,000 hours to the five Houses, the College and Career Center, the Media Center, Student Activities.

## Facilities

- We continue to support the GHS facility through a budget allocation and this year that included a much needed (beginning) renovation of our schools fitness center by purchasing new equipment such as treadmills, bikes and weight lifting equipment. We also purchased a new 192 ounce blender and an ice cream machine for the Cardinal cafe, a new ipad for a teacher, a new laptop for another, camera and scanners for our photography classes, and voice amplifiers and headphones for another class.
- During the BOE, BET, and RTM phases of the budget process, we advocated for capital projects for all of our GPS who are in need including the much needed renovation at Riverside School.

The total approximate spend for the year on teachers, students and the school is \$198,843, broken down as follows:

School Improvements \$29,062 to date, *with another \$30,000 coming, hopefully before the end of year*

Students: \$140,515

Staff: \$29,266

**Looking forward to an even bigger and better 2025-2026 school year!**