

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL PTA

2017-18 Annual Report

- **Goals**

- *Community building* for GHS parents and families - Provide more opportunities for families to meet and build relationships, create more cohesion among GHS families
- *Improved communications* with GHS PTA members and all families - Develop thoughtful plan for targeted communications in order to enhance attendance at PTA, GHS and GPS events, increase engagement by educating families with deliberate, succinct communications

- **Curriculum Enrichment & Supplementation**

- The largest portion of GHS PTA spending continues to be funding for curriculum enrichment and student services. Once again, by the end of this year, we will have helped to provide an abundant and diverse assortment of learning opportunities, primarily class-specific field trips chosen by the faculty.
- Our Ventures in Education program allows teachers to apply for funding for innovative programs for their classroom such as new technological tools to facilitate learning.
- We provide outreach assistance for school-related expenses to families with financial needs.
- We provide funding for both need and merit-based college scholarships.

- **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 the first time this year, PTA volunteers (many full-time professionals and first time PTA volunteers) offered a day of mock interviews for Seniors in preparation for their scholarship and summer interviews. Many AVID students participated in this inaugural offering.

- **Family & Community Engagement**

- Our major focus this year was to improve family and community involvement. Our biggest effort was hosting 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. In the fall, we also hosted a PTA tent at the GHS Homecoming football game where we offered free snacks and drinks and visited with GHS families and increased the visibility of the GHS PTA. In March, we hosted the first ever SRO Parent Social which featured hors

d'oeuvres, a graduation boutique, a DJ, and a photo booth. This event was sponsored with the main purpose of providing senior parents a way to connect and reflect in their last year at GHS.

- 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*", "*Life Hacks for a Healthy Teen: Nutrition and Sleep*", "*Life Hacks for a Less Stressed Teen*", and "*It's Summer! Now What?*" The programs were videotaped and made available on the Parent Resources page of our website.
- 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**

- We advocated for capital projects including locker room renovations, Cardinal Stadium, and GHS turf fields during the BOE, BET, and RTM phases of the budget process.
- We purchased eight red Adirondack chairs for the front courtyard for the enjoyment of our students which were very well received and often utilized. We also purchased a recycling bin, akin to those on Greenwich Avenue, for the seating garden behind the glass corridor. We are exploring purchasing more for the front courtyard.
- Our volunteers do amazing media center thematic displays each month to engage the students in literature available in the GHS Media Center.
- We continue to work on a new front sign and entrance sign for the school which needs to proceed through the Architectural Review Board, Planning and Zoning, and other Town of Greenwich regulatory approvals.

- **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.