

## PFAA meeting minutes 11.14.2017

### Parent Senate meeting with Superintendent:

- Discussed having a schoology group for CREC Parent Senate to make it private so not anyone can take surveys or vote on proposals. They are working on a logo. Parents can give feedback on proposals, link to online surveys, link to Google docs, discussions.
- The Student Senate rep at the meetings is from GHAA. Tammy Joseph from GHAA PFAA volunteered to be the Parent liaison present at the Student Senate meetings.
- It was voted to change length of school day across all CREC schools, saving 1.6 million. There is a 3.6 million deficit. Superintendent will propose.
- Second proposal was voted 21 to table, 3 opposed regarding changing start times for next year. The Montessori school has MIT and UCONN doing research on optimization, those present want to wait for results.
- Third proposal was to charge tuition for Pre-K 3k per year increasing 5% per year aligned with typical rising costs for families making 84k for a family of 4. Will increase revenue by 60k p/year. Some taking advantage of 2 years free tuition and then leaving CREC.
- Next proposal was hiring bill collectors for parents (who do not qualify for free lunch) to pay unpaid bills going forward. CREC paid 50k in unpaid lunches last year. Other bills not being paid are before/after school and lost textbooks.
- There was a vote for sub-committees including Parent and Community Engagement, Budget and Finance, Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, and Student Life and Activities. They will report their discussions at meetings.
- Also talk about having a President, VP, Secretary, Sub-committee co-chairs, liaison to student Senate, and mission to CREC council. Some wanted different schools to take turns holding the meetings and taking minutes to report

### Paint Nite:

It was discussed that there were 10 RSVP for Paint Nite which was small, but we made \$50 but also community building oppty at same time. Would like to bring this to communities. For Spring VA Exhibit Natasha recommends PAint NITE with GHAA faculty and senior student.

### Lynn Hoffman fund:

It was discussed that some parameters need to be put around the account for 501c3 reporting etc. The PFA team will discuss offline, as a vote needs to take place on the proposal of: *creating a policy of how funds can be used, providing Lynn a determined amount of funds upfront so she can use at her discretion, and she can request more at year end. PFA would vote at that time,*

*based on budget health whether to reimburse more.* Questions arose regarding how to physically set up the account for the funds. **ACTION:** Brandy to check with CULI and MLC to solicit ideas on best way to get Lynn the funds upfront for use.

#### **Red Carpet Parking:**

An idea was suggested that VIP parking could be offered, perhaps 10 slots or one row in the garage, for a small donation to PFA...maybe \$10 to raise funds. A PFA person would need to be in garage to monitor and collect. In the past LAZ did Valet parking, but costs may be prohibitive at this time. Trinity Academy and The Montessori school would need to (and we'd need to be sure there are no scheduling conflicts) since they also share the garage. This idea may not apply to every performance, perhaps only big shows.**ACTION:** Kim Stroud to ask Superintendent for his thoughts. **ACTION:** Brandy to check with Principal, since he was absent for this part of discussion

#### **Holiday Movie Night:**

It was suggested that PFA run a holiday Movie Night after school in December, to bring students together for community, but also concessions could be sold. The video "ELF" was recommended. Good opportunity for parents to do holiday shopping after work and pick up students by 7:30pm. **ACTION:** Brandy to confirm with Jim Keller and arrange details Will send email blast to parents.

#### **Grad Night:**

Raegan is seeking help for Raffle prizes for Grad Night being held at Nomads June 11. In need of gift cards and teen hot items such as headphones, etc.

#### **Advertising Prospective Student Open House:**

Raegan seeking help connecting to parents in their town school PTO etc , to have those parents communicate to their community about GHAA and our programs, especially half day program. **ACTION:** Brandy to get flyer from Raegan for Open House dates and do email blast to parents.

#### **Mental Health Awareness:**

Raegan has connected with School Social Worker about Porco Foundation as a speaker for May Mental health awareness month, but no response yet. Bryan also mentioned Compass peace Builders may be good. They offer free presentations. They are grant funded and work with Hartford students, running at least 4 after school programs.

#### **Advertising:**

Tonya was in the process of looking into Billboard advertisement with LAMAR and OUTFRONT. It was discussed that costs will likely be prohibitive but will be good to know going forward as our budget health improves. **ACTION:** Tonya to reach out to both companies for quotes.

#### **Greater Hartford Arts Council:**

Brandy attended the annual celebration, good place to network. The program listed all the donors to the arts council. Will anticipate sending these people invitations to the Directors Reception, as they have \$ and interest in supporting arts.

**Aetna:**

May be an opportunity for GHAA students to perform at Aetna's holiday party on Dec 7.

**ACTION:** Tonya to followup within Aetna, and then Gene Bozzi/Kim Stroud to possibly coordinate field trip. Other corporations may offer opportunities for student performance onsite as well and members should ask anyone who they know works in such places.

**General updates:**

Radium girls has been selling about 60-75 seats in the Black Box (which holds 150). December 1<sup>st</sup> there will be two events at GHAA: Dream Role Cabaret in Recital Hall and Music Department Pops performance on main stage. **ACTION:** Judy, Concessions workers will be needed for both.

**Nick Chanese updates:**

- Reminder that In or Out of School suspension will exclude a student from extracurricular activities such as Dec/Feb Dance, prom, or Peacefest.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter grades have closed. Minimum grade capped at 50 for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, but going forward there will be no minimums. It was recommended that student don't think of failing grades as numbers, to think of grades as time (time spent in summer school, etc)
- GHAA has received a grant which will help with numerous initiatives:
  - Will be bringing Back Saturday Academy, 9-12 on Saturdays at Colt. 1 Arts and 1 Academic teacher will be present. Approximately 3 Saturdays per month.
  - Also, this grant will help pay for tutors needed. Nick has already spoken to UConn Hartford for tutor help, but music theory tutors are also needed. Pay \$20 per hour. **ACTION:** Brandy to inquire with Fine Arts at UConn to advertise this opportunity.
  - Late Busses will be available during rehearsal season.
  - 100 CT transit bus passes have been purchased for student needs for transportation
  - Wi-Fi hotspots were purchased to allow for filtered internet access at home for students who need it for homework
  - 2 intensive reading programs were purchased
  - Will be hiring a person to work with families whose students are disconnected

Next meeting in January will focus on Directors Reception, creation of committees.