

CREC Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts – Parents, Friends and Alumni Association (PFAA)

Minutes – April 17, 2018

Present: Donna Hamre, Brandy Ciraldo, Jim Keller, Nick Chanese, Tonya Brandy, Kim Stroud, Kirsten Engebretson, Bryan DeLaCruz

1. Director's Reception:

- Numbers of responses for the Director's reception are still coming in. As of this meeting there have been 23 tickets sold. There are estimated 25 comp tickets that include department chairs, administration, and various donors. It is estimated that we should plan for 60-70 event attendees in total. The RSVP deadline for CREC Administration is Friday, April 20th.
- Several food options were discussed. In previous years, food was donated by various restaurants. We considered several restaurants and catering options. Kirsten will contact J's Restaurant to ask if they are available to cater the event and what the cost will be. Aetna has donated a stipend of \$600 to sponsor the food for the event, there is money allocated in the PFAA budget to supplement the cost of food and wine if needed.
- Tonya will follow-up for dessert donations. She will contact Brenda's Kitchen and Susie Sandals to see if they are interested in donated dessert items.
- The table linens will be black and white and will need to be laundered following the event.
- Red plates and utensils will be purchased as well as balloons for decoration.
- There will be a selfie wall set up.
- Check-in table will be set up near the stairs with name tags for the attendee's.
- GHAA has wine glasses available for use and will need to be washed following the event.
- There are 3 volunteers confirmed to set-up tables and chairs for the event on Thursday, April 26th. They should check in with the Box office upon arrival for Kirsten and Jim to assist.
- We have volunteers for concessions on opening night. We will need to put a call out for volunteers for the remainder of the show's.
- Silent Auction: We were fortunate to get a lot of donations for the silent auction. The items will be divided. Some will be for the live auction during opening night, they will be purchased and taken home that night. The remainder of the auction items will be online for bidding to expand our audience to those who were not able to attend opening night. The online auction will initiate 4/27 and end 5/5 at closing night.

- Kim will contact Terrance to see if he is interested in providing piano music during the event. If he is not available, Kim will talk to Gene about students who may be interested.

2. Other Business:

- A Chorus Line cast will be traveling to Aetna on Thursday.
- Brandy passed out business cards for the PFAA to build our Friend's and contact lists.
- The Greater Hartford Council of the Arts will be holding an event named "Music Hartford" The event will showcase musical performances at various venues throughout the city. They have asked if we would like to be involved by either being a Host venue or have our students perform at another venue.
- Brandy attended a CREC wide PTA Meeting to discuss strategies for more parent engagement. There were many schools present and some of the highlighted suggestions are:
 - Live Streaming meetings. Although there are not very many live viewers, there are many who view the video on their own time. This is a great way to get information out to the families.
 - Having an in-person meeting every 3 months and holding 2 online in-between the in-person meetings. This would allow the group to break meetings, events, volunteer opportunities into a quarterly plan.
 - Having a Parent Ambassador for each section of CT where we have students. This could be comprised of 4 parents (1 for each region) who are interested and take the lead for arranging events in each region.
 - "There are parents who are involved with what their kids are involved with" We need to tap into parents as a resource with what their children are interested in.
- The Aetna space is available for future Director's receptions. Catering, linens, set-up/clean-up would all be included. This would help to have a continued partnership between GHAA and Aetna.
- We can showcase students with an event at Aetna "Taste of the Arts" The idea is to have multiple events throughout the year to showcase students in the various departments leading up to the Spring musical.

3. Administration Updates:

- Tim Sullivan, superintendent, reminder that nominations/elections for the Parent Senate elections will be held in May for Suburban Town Representatives, October for Hartford Representatives.
- Our May meeting has been changed to 5/22. During that meeting, we will hold elections for Parent Senate Representatives from the Suburban Towns.

- Our June meeting will be the nominations/elections for the PFAA board for next school year.
- Graduation will be held on June 19th
- Last day of school will be June 21st which will be a ½ day.
- Kim Stroud will be honored with an “Art’s Hero Award”

4. Parent Senate Updates:

- During the March Parent Senate meeting there was a proposal for No Homework. This proposal was amended by the students and staff and was passed at the April meeting. The level of homework was proposed to be on a sliding scale based on student’s progress. This is only the first step in making any changes. The Parent, Student, and Staff Senates act only as an advisory committee for the Superintendent to look into further.
- The Staff Senate also proposed less professional development days. By eliminating the monthly ½ day of professional development and have 3 consecutive days of professional development training in February, it would allow the staff to have more meaningful/conference style trainings.
- It was also discussed to have a uniform time for delayed openings. Unfortunately, the delayed openings are determined by the specific districts and set by the town where the CREC school is located in.
- There will be a Parent Recruitment Rally for parent support at the State Capitol and LOB. There is no date for the Rally yet but we can use our May 22nd meeting to organize parents who are interested in participating.

The next official PFAA Meeting will be held on May 22nd.

The Director’s Reception will be held on April 27th.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Hamre, Secretary