

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

Minutes – May 22, 2018

Present: Donna Hamre, Jim Keller, Nick Chanese (via phone), Kim Stroud, Raegan Bishop, Bryan DeLaCruz, Tammy Joseph, Terri (parent), Evelyn (parent)

1. Administration Updates:

- New Student Orientation will be held on Saturday June 9th, June 23rd and Aug 22nd. Orientation and Auditions will be held in June so students can receive their placements prior to the beginning of the school year to aid in their decisions to attend the Academy of Arts High School. The events will be held from 9am-4pm. There will be a parent's Q &A session from 3pm-4pm. PFAA members are invited to speak to share information regarding the PFAA and the need for volunteers and parent involvement. The orientation and auditions will be held at the Colt Campus.
- **Upcoming events**
 - May 23rd: Choral Concert in the Recital Hall
 - May 24th: Senior Dance Showcase and Percussion Recital
 - May 29th: Choreography Showcase
 - May 30th: Seniors Musical show
 - June 1st 9th grade Theater
 - June 5th: Peace Fest
 - June 7th our next PFAA Meeting

2. Director's Reception

- There were 53 paid admissions. There were more sales this year than usual, we usually average 40 sales.
- We will need to follow up with CREC to be reimbursed for the credit card sales. A check for the credit card sales is expected.
- Total revenue from the Auction Sales information was not available at the time of the meeting. The exact costs of catering, wine, postage and other expenses was also unknown.
- Paper goods and Laundry expenses were more than anticipated.
- Left over auction items that were not bid on will not be raffled off. The school cannot raffle items off without a special permit. It was suggested that appropriate items can be donated to the Nomad's Grad Night event. Other items can be saved for next year. This topic will need to be discussed and voted on by the board members. Not enough members were in attendance to do a vote.

3. Parent Senate Updates:

- Homework-free elementary schools proposal was approved by the Student, Parent, and Staff Senates. They will be working on a format. Nightly reading will continue to be expected as well as exam preparation activities
- Professional development day following February break proposal was not passed. It was voted no by both the student senate and parent senates.
- Uniform time for delayed openings for every school failed with all 3 senates. It is not logistically possible.
- Still pending a vote at a future meeting
 - Later start times for adolescents. This would reverse the start times for High School, Middle, and Elementary students. The elementary school would start earlier and the high schools would start later based on research that indicates that younger students are more alert earlier in the day.
 - The downsides to this proposal is that the younger students would be waiting at bus stops or walking to school in the dark at times during the school year. The high school students would have a later school day end time and presumably push back sports and rehearsals end times.
 - A mandatory Parent Family Engagement Specialist for every school . vote is still pending.

4. Parent Senate Elections:

- The vote for a Suburban Representative is on hold until our June 7th meeting due to lack of board members to vote.
- There is an Open House for Prospective 9th grade families from GHAA Middle School on May 23rd. Bryan DeLaCruz has volunteered to attend the meeting to talk to parents about joining the Parent Senate and to invite them to our June 7th meeting for the nominations/vote.
- The next Parent Senate Meeting will be on June 11th.

5. Candy Clearance Sale:

- The school cannot sell candy during school hours.
- Bryan has volunteered to open concessions during the Open House to sell the remaining stock that we have in the concessions closets.
- The Academy Awards will be held Thursday, June 14th. This is another opportunity to open concessions to sell our remaining stock.
- Graduation Night will be too hectic and would not be a good night for concessions.

6. Planet Aid Bin: Clothing Drive:

- We can send Reagan information about the ongoing Clothing Drive and she can include it in the Student Announcements.

- Will this bin continue to be at Colt throughout the summer? If not, when will it be removed?
- Next year, we can have a competition: Grade Wars to see who can donate the most.

7. The next official PFAA Meeting will be held June 7th. Our meeting will be held in the High School Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Hamre, Secretary