

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

### **Minutes – September 12, 2017**

**Present:** Donna Hamre, Brian Swanson, Kim Stroud, Marion Norma Irving, Tammy Joseph, Christine Diaz-Ocasio, Tonya Bradley, Carol Lorenzo, Marilee Luciuk, Becca Stevens, Terry Darr, Tricia McIntosh, Althilia Moore, Adam Hart, Brandy Ciraldo, Nick Chanese, Raegan Bishop, Judy Watt

#### **1. Welcome / Introductions**

A sign-in sheet was passed around for all attendees.

Introductions of name, student's name, program, and Ice Breaker: "What was your first concert?"

#### **2. Minutes from last meeting available**

Agenda and minutes from June meeting was passed around. Minutes were reviewed and accepted.

#### **3. Questions/Concerns from parents**

- Can Students switch Departments?
  - 9<sup>th</sup> grade students or new students to the school in 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> can submit and appeal letter to change departments within the first 2 weeks of school. Students will get a second opportunity to appeal for a department change in March. In addition to the Appeal letter, students will re-audition for the different department. Department changes are based on students need and take into consideration curriculum goals to assess the students best chance of success.
- Does Dance Intermezzo include Freshman?
  - Intermezzos are Department performances. All students will be involved in these presentations, they are required performances
  - Visual Arts has several exhibitions that students are required to participate in.

#### 4. Administration updates

Nick Chanese:

- Full Day students jumped right into classes
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade students had 2 on each campus to explore the different programs before auditions took place.
- Upperclassmen had Team building activities that were mixed grades
- Students had workshops and Auditions
- Alumni performances
- The big presentation of the season:
  - “Academy is Family” a message to all the students
  - “Act with Purpose” a theme to include all students and faculty.
- GHAA has a new website, [ghaa.creecschoools.org](http://ghaa.creecschoools.org)
- Buses/Dismissal Plan Change.
  - All students who take the bus are shuttled to the Learning corridor to board their buses. The students from Colt Campus start their Arts classes 8 minutes earlier and are released 8 minutes earlier than the Learning Corridor Arts classes to allow for time to board the shuttle busses.
  - At the Learning Corridor, there are 31 buses to load from 5 different bus companies. The goal is to get all the students onto the buses and moving by 4:30. They are getting closer to that goal. No buses leave the Learning Corridor until all the students are on the buses.
- Parent pickups
  - Learning Corridor parents can pick up students in front of the 15 Vernon St Building near the Main Office
  - Colt Campus students can be picked up in the bus circle near the High School entrance

Kim Stroud:

- September 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 is “Six Plays in Six Days”
  - Performance is open to all students to sign-up. There are no auditions.
  - It is a 1 act play.
    - Performance will include a playwright, director, actors, props. Students will rehearse and have a specific phrase that will need to be incorporated into the performance.
- October 21<sup>st</sup> Carlson’s workshops free for all students at GHAA and open to the entire Connecticut Community
  - 15 Vernon St Building in the Dance Studios
  - Hours 9am-5pm
- Lifetouch School Picture Day
  - October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Colt Campus

- October 4<sup>th</sup> for ½ students at the Learning Corridor
- October 12<sup>th</sup> Open House for all Current Students to be held on the Colt Campus from 6pm-8pm
- There is a link on the website that tells you how to access the parent portal PowerSchool for grades, attendance, and class schedules.
- Students having problems accessing Schoology should go to Reagan Bishop's office for assistance
- Lynn (College Advisor) has a sign-up sheet on her door at both campuses. All seniors are required to meet with her.

Christine:

- GHAA will be starting a Parent Newsletter that will be going out to all families.

## 5. Who PFA is and what we do

PFAA stands for Parents, Friends, and Alumni Association. Brandy passed out a brochure detailing who we are. The scheduled meeting dates for this school year are:

|                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, September 12 <sup>th</sup> | Tuesday, February 13 <sup>th</sup> |
| Tuesday, October 10 <sup>th</sup> , | Tuesday, March 13 <sup>th</sup>    |
| Tuesday, November 14 <sup>th</sup>  | Thursday, April 5 <sup>th</sup>    |
| Tuesday, January 9 <sup>th</sup>    | Tuesday, May 8 <sup>th</sup> .     |

## 6. Overview of the coming events

- We are here to support GHAA with fundraising and school spirit activities.
- Our biggest fundraising activity is running the concession stand at shows. We are always looking for volunteers.
  - Students can earn community service hours
  - Volunteers can receive complimentary tickets to see the shows
  - Baked goods to sell at the concession stand are always welcome and we get 100% of the profit. (Peanut & Nut Free Please)
  - PFAA Concession events sign-up sheets are available at the meeting
- Parent Involvement for our Fall Events
  - Back to School Bash & Ice Cream Social will be held on September 23 at the Learning Corridor Cafeteria from 5-7, prior to the Six Plays in Six Days performance
  - Color Run (3K) held at Colt Park on Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Check-in is 10:30am, Run starts at 11:00. \$30 to register includes T-Shirt and refreshments.

- Family Paint Night: Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> will be held at Colt Cafeteria from 7-9pm \$30 per person 12+
- All events will be posted on the Facebook page for reminders
- Prospective Student Open houses include parent/student's Q &A. Volunteers who are interested in participating can share their experiences at GHAA with prospective students and their families.
  - November 21<sup>st</sup>
  - December 20<sup>th</sup>
  - January 10<sup>th</sup>
  - February 10th

## **7. PFA needs some specific volunteers**

- We need a 1/2 day member on our Board as per our Bi-Laws
  - Tammy Joseph volunteered and was accepted by those in attendance.
- We are in the process of applying for 501c3 status. Our application is pending and we should be receiving word on our approval soon.
  - We are looking for volunteers who are familiar with Tax preparation because we will need to do our own taxes.
  - We are also looking for volunteers with Grant Writing skills as we will be applying for our own grants.

## **8. Parent Senate call for nominees**

- Tim Sullivan, Superintendent held an informational session for PTO presidents and sent out an email and voicemail speaking about forming the Parent Senate
- He would like 2 representatives from each school.
  - 1 Hartford Resident
  - 1 Suburban Residents
- Selection of the school representatives will take place at the October PFAA meeting for nominations and elections.
- The elected representatives will attend a the PFAA meetings as well as month Parent Senate meetings to be the voice of our school. The Parent Senate members will be an informed collective voice for magnet schools in general.

**9. Survey for parent's forthcoming**

- We will be surveying parents about what type of school spirit events they would like to see, and what kind of fundraisers they would be interested in. The survey will be online and results will be discussed at a future meeting.

**10. Next meeting October 10**

- We will be holding elections for Parent Senate
- Planning for Spring 2018 events
- Information about a Flyer Contest for students for our Paint Night event

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Hamre, Secretary