

**Call to Order:** 7:00PM by MS PTA Director, Tara Kelly; meeting held via zoom

**Handouts:** Meeting agenda emailed prior to meeting

### **PTA News and Events: Tara Kelly**

T. Kelly welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself as Middle School PTA Director for this school year and next. She shared her email, [middleschool@gcpta.org](mailto:middleschool@gcpta.org) should anyone want to reach her.

- Homecoming - special thanks to parents who donated time and supplies; great turnout; hope to continue this newly revived tradition!
- 2 recent 6th grade events: Field Day - much fun was had outside with various activities and inside with an academic bowl; Game Night - students and parents had fun and the event was well attended.
- 7th grade Party - last Friday; students had a great time dancing and eating.
- Photo Day and re-take day - thanks to parents who volunteered their time.
- Unity Day - 10/16 - PTA hosted 2 speakers; students were receptive.
- 8th grade end of year trip to Adventureland - permission slips were just emailed out.
- Yearbooks - order directly from Jostens.

### **SEPTA Update**

Making Connections - SEPTA Connect is up and running - go to [septa.org](http://septa.org) for link and more info - 2nd year the program is running - pairs 'veteran' parents with 'new' parents - this Friday, 11/22 is the deadline to sign up.

12/10, 7pm Ugly Sweater Party at Bowlero - go to [septa.org](http://septa.org) to register.

Check out the latest on instagram @gcsepta.

### **Health & Safety**

2 recent, successful events: Teal Pumpkin Display - to raise awareness about food allergies and Unity Day - orange bracelets were handed out to students.

### **Reflections: Hana Noble**

Nationally acclaimed program to encourage creativity at home; 100 more entries than last year; some information missing on some entries - please reach out to [reflections@gardencitypta.org](mailto:reflections@gardencitypta.org) to confirm contact information is correct for your student; December - GC winners will be notified, February - State will notify winners, March - winners will be recognized.

### **Digital Citizenship, Special Presentation: Dawn Dennis**

The mission of this newly formed committee is to raise awareness about the impact of electronic devices on mental health, guiding students and families to navigate the virtual world safely. Committee representatives will be meeting with Mr. Samuelson in December to discuss what can be done to make a larger impact. Upcoming events in the works: movie screenings, guest speakers, Apple workshops for parents, social media detox challenge, art contest to design a car magnet, collaboration with health and SS teachers to incorporate lessons into the curriculum. Parents are also encouraged to join the discussion of the book *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt. Several suggestions for what can be done at home: create tech free zones, no devices at bedtime, encourage free play, and model desired behaviors.

### **Middle School Updates: Mr. Samuelson**

Victories - A successful Fall sports season has concluded; Winter sport tryouts are concluding; new curricula to include new technology; musical auditions are wrapping up, successful parent/teacher

conferences, Unity Day was great with fantastic guest speakers and activities; 7th grade party was a success - thanks to those who donated time and supplies.

Areas for Attention - Safety drills - important to practice drills for student and staff safety; Attendance - please be sure to call the attendance office if your student will be late or absent; parking lot routines - please be safe.

Marking Period Ending - Communication - weekly Principal's messages, reach out with any questions or concerns; study routines - focus on what's working and what can be improved.

Concert Series - Band - 12/5, 7pm at the GCHS, Orchestra - 12/9, 7pm at the GCHS, Chorus - due to size of chorus and crowd concerns, the show will be split - 6th and 7th and 7th and 8th. Students know their performance dates and more information will be sent out shortly.

#### **Safety: Youth Detective Steve Roumeliotis, GCPD**

Project Shield - held in 5th grade, went over Internet safety, traffic safety, and drug awareness; Detective Roumeliotis discussed late Spring/Summer safety concerns on 7th Street: started during Promenades - information was posted on social media and many kids from out of town came; as a result, police increased portable lighting to improve visibility and increased police presence - situation improved towards the end of the summer. Some suggestions: police observed kids riding bikes in the street without helmets - advised limiting bike use, stressed helmets (18 and under is required as per Nassau County law); use crosswalks - kids were seen darting out between cars; backpacks filled with fireworks and/or alcohol became an issue - limit kids bringing backpacks to 7th Street; kids were on 7th Street until after 11pm - stores are closed and problems tended to occur later at night - pick kids up from 7th Street earlier.

#### **Special Presentation: Regionalization Initiative: Kristen Pappas, Board of Education member**

This plan was initiated on 9/9 and is slated to have a January 2025 implementation - strives to improve equity and operational efficiency and bring districts together. All districts, with the exception of NYC, must submit need data - this has created an extreme administrative strain to compile information the State already has. There is a presentation on the Board of Education website from 11/12 - Dr. Sinha presented to the Board and there is a Board discussion. BOE concerns: Board already communicates with local districts; Board feels this collaboration should be voluntary and done locally; they do not want this plan to compromise our district; loss of local control is a big concern. Action: Board is communicating our opposition - sent a letter to NY State Education Department and signed a letter with the Collaboration of School Board Members. Parents are encouraged to express their concerns as well - the time for public comments ends 11/24; on the district website, go to 'Documents' then "BOE Advocacy" to find copies of letter that were already sent and a letter template you can copy and paste - send to:

David Frank, Assistant Commissioner [regcomments@nysed.gov](mailto:regcomments@nysed.gov)

Dr. Betty A. Rosa, Commissioner [commissioner@nysed.gov](mailto:commissioner@nysed.gov)

Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York State <https://www.governor.ny.gov/content/governor-contact-form>

*Question: Are other states like New Jersey adopting a similar plan?*

I am not sure.

*Question: Are any legal actions being taken on behalf of the school districts?*

I believe some school districts on the Island are pursuing legal action, the Garden City school district is not. Please bring that question up at the next BOE meeting on 11/25, 8:15pm at the GCHS.

Meeting concluded: 8pm

**Important Dates:**

Band Concert, 4/18, 7pm, GCHS

3-8 Testing: Math - 4/30, 5/1 and Science 5/14

8th grade trip on 5/3

Chorus Concert, 5/9, 7pm, GCHS

Orchestra concert, 5/16, 7pm, GCHS

School is OPEN on 5/24 (Day 2)

8th grade ice cream social - date TBD

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm