

Garden City PTA
High School PTA Meeting
January 23, 2020
High School Library

DRAFT

Regular meeting of the High School PTA

Meeting Starting: 9:15 AM

Meeting adjourned: 10:50 AM

Handouts: Meeting agenda, Garden City High School Guidance Department “Resilience” flyer, Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards flyer, Garden City PTA ‘Let’s Get Social’ Membership Matters QR card, SEPTA Upcoming Events flyer, Community Support Services Fair & Parent University flyer, Harlem Wizards vs. Garden City All-Stars event flyer, GC PTA Health & Safety Awareness Day flyer, AAA Teen Driving Brochures, Parent Question/Comments card, “Active Parenting of Teens” letter/flyer

Sign-up sheets: n/a

General Membership Meeting and Vote

Meeting started: 10:04 AM

Required Quorum of 30: Met

Meeting adjourned: 10:04 AM

Approval of Minutes: September 20, 2019 and November 13, 2019 High School PTA Meeting minutes posted to the Garden City PTA website were presented for approval. No objections to posted minutes; minutes stand approved as submitted.

Updates

PTA News and Committee Updates: J. Turner welcomed everyone to the meeting. Sign-in sheet at the back table along with agenda, High School PTA committee reports and other handouts.

- Parent University is next Thursday, January 30. Online registration closes Friday, January 24
- Skit Night Rehearsals for Senior Parents are held on Mondays. Contact D. Mehling, Committee Chair, with questions
- Other events for Senior Parents are the Mother/Son and Father/Daughter Dances
- PTA Dinner will be held on March 26. Tickets go on sale on February 3
- All Schools PTA Meeting to be held on February 3 at 7:30 PM in GC MS Cafeteria with Internet Safety presented by John Groshans and Allergy Awareness and Education presented by Georgina Cipriano
- NYS PTA Youth Humanitarian Award applications available
- J. Schmitt, Health & Safety Committee Rep, spoke about Health & Safety Awareness Day @ GCHS on March 4; Offerings students can register for include AAA Defensive Driving Course, CPR/AED Training Class and Girls on Guard
- Question cards are available on the back table if want to ask any questions offline outside of meeting; J. Turner will follow up to get questions answered by appropriate person
- Next meeting is Joint PTA Meeting with Middle School on Monday March 16 at 7:30 at GC HS; Guest Speaker will be Randi Levin and he will present “Top 10 Mistakes Students Make on College Application Essays”

Guidance Update

- **Guidance Spotlight – ‘Current Trends and Concerns related to the College Process’** - presented by school counselors Mr. Doyle and Ms. Khan; Link to the presentation slides is posted on the GC High School website on the Guidance Department page under Mental Health Tab: [Mental Health in College Presentation Link](#)
 - Three main components colleges review during application process:
 - Academic (test scores, high school transcripts)

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- Character
- School and/or Community Involvement
- Colleges utilize predictive models to determine likelihood a student will enroll
- 10% of students that enroll in college do not graduate
- Qualities/skills that are key to being successful: Sensible, Resilient, Grit, Mature, Problem-solver, Time Management, Open-minded, Reasonable, Perseverance, Grounded, Logical, Independent, Initiative, Rational, Balanced, Reaction to set-backs
- Approximately 39% of students experience significant mental health issues; Two-thirds do not seek help
- 1 in 3 students write college essays about dealing with mental health issues
- Getting students college ready from a mental health perspective is the challenge
- College readiness programs at GC HS include:
 - Habit Program – 10th Grade
 - Interest Profile – 11th Grade
 - College Major Night – all grades
 - Alumni Return Days – 11th, 12th Grade
 - Senior Transition Day – 12th Grade
 - Financial Aid Night
 - Grade Level Parent Meetings
 - Daytime Mini College Fairs
 - Mock Interviews – 11th Grade
 - Grade Level Conferences – all grades
- Types of on campus mental health support available include: Counseling Centers, Disability Centers, NAMI on campus, Campus Mental Health Centers, Campus Advocacy Groups
- Off campus mental health support available include: Online Support Communities, Apps, Online Mental Health Education & Advocacy, Confidential Online Resource Centers, Treatment Locators
- Questions fielded by Ms. Stefankiewicz, Assistant Principal for Guidance and PPS –
 - *Why is this generation encountering this issue?* Level of rigor and stress exceeds amount brain can handle; expectations on younger and younger students are that much higher; social media, sensory input more than brain able to process; access to information; we are in high performing school district which adds additional pressure
 - *Can students, especially current juniors, see this guidance presentation so they can hear it from a source other than parents.* Information is presented to students in Health class during sophomore year. Will explore options for continuing to disseminate this information to students.
- Follow Ms. Stefankiewicz, on Twitter @stefangchs
- B. Spirakis & J. Schmitt, Health & Safety Committee Reps, advised that on April 27th mental health speaker, Carly Holleran, will be here to discuss struggles her sister, Maddy Holleran, experienced; Maddy's posting on social media was very different than the reality she was struggling with; Discusses knowing where to go for help, being able to share struggles; Students will see presentation during school day and parents invited to attend evening presentation; Copies of the book, *What Made Maddy Run: The Secret Struggles and Tragic Death of an All-American Teen* will be available for purchase
 - A parent suggested that all teachers and sports coaches attend presentation
 - A parent suggested that the book be an option for summer reading assignment
- D. Bombardiere, High School Social Worker, gave an overview of 'Active Parenting of Teens' pilot program: Evidence-based program designed to help parents of teens; To be held six Tuesdays mornings from 9:30 AM –

11:00 AM beginning March 3 through April 7; Topics include: The Active Parent Style, Winning Cooperation, Responsibility and Discipline, Building Courage, Teenage years issues; All sessions are confidential; Registration is on a first come, first served basis; Look for registration email from Ms. Stefankiewicz next week

Principal Updates

K. Steingruebner, Principal reported:

- Guardrail Parenting method - let kids work out issues themselves and provide guidance as needed
- Safety & Security update: Visitor Sign-in Kiosk was delivered, slated to begin using new system shortly
- Midterm week wrapping up with make-up midterms and remaining scheduled NYS Regents exams taking place today and tomorrow; Report cards to follow next week on January 30
- Overview of AP Exams at GC HS:
 - Registration at an all time high
 - 600 students registered to take exams for 2019/2020 compared to 400 students in 2009/2010 school year when Mr. Steingruebner first began coordinating AP Exams at GC High School
 - 1500 exams to be taken for 2019/2020 compared to 1000 in 2009/2010 school year
 - Over 250 students will be AP Scholars receiving a score of 3 or higher compared to 150 in 2010
 - Last year over 100 AP exams were given with accommodations compared to zero in 2010; Highlights inclusivity at GC HS where students of all abilities are taking AP Exams
 - 190 Students, two-thirds of the current Junior class, will be taking the AP English Language Exam which is the most ever; More students electing to take challenging coursework
- Upcoming Fundraising activities that Garden City Students will be involved in/volunteer for:
 - February 1 – Harlem Wizards event to benefit Garden City Scholarship Foundation
 - February 8 – Pedal for Pediatric Patients sponsored by the Miracle Club to benefit Charlie’s Champions
 - February 12 – Hoops for Hope Challenger Basketball game organized by Garden City Junior, Tim O’Hanlon, to benefit the Bobby Menges, I’m Not Done Yet Foundation
 - February 25 – Annual Dodgeball Game – hundreds of students participate and pay entry fee to raise funds to benefit the Bobby Menges, I’m Not Done Yet Foundation
 - Ongoing – Coat and clothing drives to benefit Mary Brennan Inn; Prom Dress collections
- 8th Grade Open House for Students and Parents held last week was well attended; Course selection process was focus of presentation
- Course selection process will begin shortly for current high school students; Elective choice forms are being distributed to students on 1/24 and are due back to Guidance office by 1/30; Counselors will begin meeting with students to discuss selections; Core course selections to follow
- Mr. Steingruebner thanked the PTA for donating “inspirational” pens during midterm exams; Pens had #BelieveYouCan inscribed on them
- Continue to look at ways to incorporate flexible furniture throughout the building; Mr. Steingruebner thanked the PTA for past donations towards purchasing flexible furniture
- Library to undergo complete overhaul this summer including movement of Innovations Lab, Circulation Desk redesign
- Question fielded by Mr. Steingruebner –
 - *Are engineering classes open to all students; all grade levels?* Yes, PLTW courses are open to all interested students. Cap on the number of students that can enroll in courses varies from year to year depending on interest. Introductory course can be taken at any grade level 9 through 12. In order to complete the four-year course sequence students must begin with intro course in grade 9.

Special Presentation:

One School One Book Overview by Ms. Calemmo, High School Librarian

- One School One Book program began three years ago at GC HS; Decided to give students a choice about which book was selected
- Committee began meeting in September to review titles suggested by committee members; Lexile on point so book could be inclusive and for every high school student; Book selected must be available in paperback; Program is voluntary for students
- Three choices selected for students to vote for during voting period 1/6 – 1/10:
 - *The Marrow Thieves*
 - *Girl in the Blue Coat*
 - ***The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* *winner***
- Ms. Calemmo pushed into classes to show the promo video and get students excited about the program
- Viewed trailer for upcoming Netflix release of movie, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind* based on book
- PTA purchased 139 copies of the book which are expected to be delivered this week; Students should listen for announcement that book is available for pick up in library; Book is also available at the GC Public Library and as a digital eBook or Audiobook on Overdrive on the GC HS Library webpage
- No annotating required! There will be a small Checkpoint during the reading time period
- Teachers are enthusiastic about One School One Book program which helps engage students in the program; Over 600 students voted this year; 150 students attended the end of the program party last year
- Questions about One School One Book –
 - *Is One School One Book program only at the high school?* This book selection is only for the high school. The middle school ran its own program last year and it is believed they will run again this year. K-5 students participate in PARP reading program.