

Garden City PTA
High School PTA Meeting
September 20, 2019
High School Library

General Membership Meeting and Vote

Meeting started: 9:24 am

Required Quorum of 30: Met

Meeting adjourned: 9:26 am

May 30, 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.

Regular meeting of the High School PTA

Meeting Starting: 9:27 am

Meeting adjourned: 10:53 am

Handouts: Meeting agenda, "Intelligent Lives" SEPTA/PTA screening flyer, Freshman Barbeque flyer with student contract, Cancer Center for Kids Annual Family Walk flyer, Stop & Shop A+ School Rewards flyer, Garden City PTA 'Let's Get Social' Membership Matters QR card, Parent Question/Comments card;

Sign-up sheets: Nominating Committee Volunteers, Interview Committee Volunteers, PVC (Parent Volunteer Corps) and SVC (Student Volunteer Corps)

Updates

PTA News and Committee Updates: J. Turner welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced herself as High School PTA Director along with T. Palmer as Assistant Director. Sign-in sheet at the back table along with agenda and handouts.

- Open positions on High School PTA Board include: Legislation (1), Photography (1), Staff Appreciation (2), Sportswear (2), Skit Night Committee (1)
- Membership: new membership store online at www.gardencitypta.org; or use QR card on back table to go right to the store
- Question Cards: available on the back table; complete and leave with J. Turner or T. Palmer and they will get question answered.
- Stop & Shop: J. Turner enrolled GCHS; register your card online at stopandshop.com GCHS school code is **07631**
- J. Sullivan, EVP GC PTA discussed open positions for Parent Volunteers on Interview Committee and Nominating Committee; Interview Committee members receive training, minimal time commitment involved; Nominating Committee meets approximately four times to fill open positions on GC PTA Executive Board.
- Senior Skit Night – D. Mehling, Committee Chair reviewed need for parent volunteers; parent meetings begin in January, committee meets on Mondays until perform skit at the Senior Party on February 28th.
- Freshman Barbeque is Friday, October 4th: D. Mehling, Committee Chair stated that most Freshman attend (contrary to what students may think); signed contracts due with check for \$20 payable to Garden City HS; athletes arriving late from a game/match will be admitted.
- Parent Volunteer Corps: sign-up located on back table; K. Walker sends out an email to volunteers with dates & details and volunteers respond if available to help.
- Student Volunteer Corps: sign-up located on back table; email is sent out when student volunteers are needed; examples include sportswear pick-up, school supply pick-up, etc.
- Homecoming Saturday, September 21st – parade begins at 1:00 PM with football game at 3:00 PM
- SEPTA/PTA will be presenting a screening of "Intelligent Lives" a film by San Habib followed by a panel discussion led by AP, Ms. Mandi Stefankiewicz, on Thursday, October 3rd at 7:00 PM in the GCHS Auditorium; register online to attend.
- Sportswear will be on sale at homecoming tomorrow and on Saturday, October 12th at St. Paul's.

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- Reflections: J. Watson/D. Bremer – “Look Within” is the theme for this year; submissions box located in the main office beginning Monday, September 23rd through deadline on November 4th.
- Photo make-up dates: 9th through 11th grade on 9/25 during lunch periods; Seniors 9/24 by appointment only – contact Island Photo.
- Upcoming PTA meetings: October 10th All Schools PTA Meeting at GCMS; November 13th Joint HS/MS PTA Meeting at GCHS library.
- Cancer Center for Kids NYU Winthrop Hospital Annual Family Walk on Sunday, September 22nd; Information flyers located on back table.

Curriculum Coordinators and Directors:

- **Science:** Dr. E. Cascio discussed importance of lab component for science. NY State Regents require 1200 minutes of lab work for students to be eligible to take NYS Regents Exam; lab reports are kept on file in classroom in lab folders; students have access to review grades. Honors level classes are difficult however, high school is confident that students can do the work and be successful. Students should not look to drop down a level right away and need to give honors level class a chance. Drops in level will result in major schedule changes.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW): classes are college level. College credit may be obtained through Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). Paperwork is distributed following the end of year exam. More information can be found on the GCHS website.

- **Guidance:** new Assistant Principal, Ms. M. Stefankiewicz was introduced in her new role as Assistant Principal for Guidance and Pupil Personnel Services; previously held the role of school psychologist. New position includes guidance, special education, mental health, transitions, support PPS. Ms. Stefankiewicz’s office is now located in the guidance department; situational awareness – “look up” observe what is around you; encourage students to advocate for themselves; Ms. Stefankiewicz will be leading the panel discussion following “Intelligent Lives” screening.

Upcoming Dates:

- October 2 – 7:00 PM Financial Aid Night
- October 16 – 7:00 PM Guidance Night for Parents of Freshman
- **Guidance Spotlight:** at each PTA meeting a guidance counselor will be a featured guest speaker - Mr. J. Malone discussed “Managing your child’s high school experience”: high school is a bridge to the next level - at Middle School students had a lot of support and high school is the time to invoke independence; self-worth is not tied to college a student attends; students should care about grades but not obsess about them; do not text students during the school day; questions or concerns should be emailed to teachers and give them time to respond, if problem not resolved then can reach out to guidance counselor; let students rely on school personnel and connect with teachers; students need to manage deadlines; students should be completing the college Common Application themselves and know that counseling staff available to answer questions; counselors look to encourage involvement in clubs and activities; counselors currently meeting with freshman students for 9th grade meeting.

Principal Update – K. Steingruebner reported:

- New administrative structure: three Assistant Principals with third, M. Stefankiewicz, becoming AP for Guidance and Pupil Personnel Services; Mr. M. Malone is currently interim Assistant Principal filling in Mr. Steingruebner’s vacancy.
- New hires include Mr. Kalberer for Special Education and Ms. Acierno for World Language/ENL and three new part-time librarians that split time in other school buildings. New psychologist to be announced at September 24, 2019 Board of Ed meeting.

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- Support students but do not overdo it – try to stop bringing up lunches, instruments and sports equipment as it is not helping students. Students that forget lunch can always get lunch from the cafeteria and pay back the following day.
- Library will undergo overhaul next summer that will include rug replacement, paint, new layout with larger Innovations Lab space and multi-use flex space.
- Spirit Week celebration today includes end of day Pep Rally at the high school and student athletes visiting elementary and primary schools. Saturday Homecoming Parade at 1:00 PM and football game at 3:00 PM.
- STEAM
 - AP Computer Science Principles (2 sections this year) new course offered in addition to AP Computer Science which will run every other year. Refer to course description guide for course specific details.
 - Media Arts – new full year course
 - PLTW – new class added; converted space to engineering specific lab space and look to expand lab space in the future.
 - New club – Girls Who Code
- Job Shadow Day – one day internship to take place in February and is open to 10th graders. Students were told about Shadow Day during grade level assembly. This year program expanded to include STEM jobs at hospital and Maritime College.
- Student population continues to increase. Currently over 1200 students at GCHS. No additional FTE's were added which has resulted in larger class sizes; ENL population continues to increase and resulted in the addition of third ENL teacher.
- Canvas – decision was made not to use this year. Canvas did not deliver integration with current school district systems. GCHS will continue to use Google Classroom as new features are being rolled out that match Canvas features. Teachers agree that Google Classroom is easier to use.
- All students have Gmail accounts. Athletic Department official communications will come via Gmail notifications. Remind at the district level is under consideration. Consistency is the objective.
- Freshman Barbeque is on Friday, October, 4th. Athletes arriving late from games will be admitted.
- Questions fielded by Mr. Steingruebner –
 - *Can the shadow day program be expanded to include more students such as 11th graders:* Openings are limited, however, looking to expand the program in the future. School counselors are looking to utilize local colleges to bring in other programs for students to prepare for job market. Private shadow day arrangements are acceptable and should be discussed with the organizer, Mr. Sclafani, in the Business Department.
 - Positive feedback and request for more presentations like Vaping presentation K. Steingruebner gave at May 30, 2019 PTA meeting. Vaping message will continue at grade level assemblies and with Peer Educators including at middle school.

Upcoming Dates:

- September 23 – Reflections “Look Within” Begins
- September 24 – High School Photo Make-ups for Seniors by appointment
- September 25 – High School Photo Make-ups during lunch periods for grades 9, 10, 11
- October 2 – PTA Membership Online Incentive Deadline
- October 3 – SEPTA & PTA Parent Event: 7:00 PM “Intelligent Lives” Screening and panel discussion at HS
- October 10 – 7:30 PM All Schools PTA Meeting in Middle School Cafeteria
- October 12 – 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM PTA Fall Sports wear Sale at St. Paul’s