

Garden City PTA  
High School PTA Meeting  
May 30, 2019  
High School Library

### High School PTA Meeting

Meeting started: 9:24 am

Required quorum of 30: Met

Meeting adjourned: 11:15 am

**Handouts:** Meeting agenda, PTA 2018-2019 Accomplishments, Committee Reports, Supply lists, SEPTA IEP meeting info flyer, GC Friends of STEM flyer, GC Friends of Music flyer, LGBT Network flyer, LI Gay PTSA membership information and membership form.

**Approval of Minutes:** March 19, 2019 Joint MS/HS PTA meeting minutes/notes posted to the Garden City PTA website were presented for approval. No objections to posted minutes; minutes stand approved as submitted.

### Updates

#### Curriculum Coordinators and Directors:

- **World Language:** Summer packets will be posted to HS website on June 25. Students/parents encouraged to read cover letter for instructions. Review packet due Monday, September 9; will count as two homework grades.
- **Science:** Honors placement/appeals discussed. Summer assignments are posted on HS website for classes that require them: Living Environment Honors, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics C. Science Research available to incoming Juniors and Seniors. Questions/answers distributed at Regents reviews are posted online. In addition, practice Regents are available on HS website; students are encouraged to take practice exams to prepare.
- **English:** The summer reading lists are being refreshed with new titles and will be posted to the HS website by end of school year. All students are required to read the book listed under their respective course. Additionally, it is recommended that more than just one book be read over the summer. To help in this decision, a list of suggested books is also included. The required reading selection will culminate in a Socratic Seminar with written reader responses to prepare for it. Seminars will take place in class in September. Changes are being made to the AP exams - more in line with SAT/ACT exams, rubric more analytical than holistic, eliminate vocabulary section, students will need to think like a writer and answer questions on passages. Parents were reminded that the Continuing Education department offers a college essay writing course over the summer.
- **Physical Education, Health and Athletics:** Family ID will open up on July 22 for HS Fall Sports. HS Football begins August 19; all other HS sports begin August 26. Contact Athletic office with any questions/issues.
- **Social Studies:** Summer assignments will be posted to HS website by end of school year. AP/Honors classes will have required reading. Current 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will take Global History and Geography Regents exam (old Regents) on June 20. NYS is still making changes to the new exam. Current 9<sup>th</sup> graders will take new exam in June 2020; this gives teachers more opportunity to prepare the students since there will be three Regents (June 2019, August 2019 and January 2020) to use as review.
- **Guidance:**
  - July Boot Camp - The District's Continuing Education Program is offering two courses for current juniors: Writing Your College Essay & Jump Start the College Application Process.
  - Fall – College Application workshops will be held during lunch
  - Smart Goals - In September, 9<sup>th</sup> graders will work in small peer groups to discuss adjusting to HS and create smart goals for themselves which they will review after the first marking period.
  - College “mini-fairs” have been successful – they will continue.
  - Naviance for 8<sup>th</sup> graders access to obtain career information
  - Guidance goal: widen scope of colleges for students; to ensure each student gets into the right school for them.
  - Exit meetings with students are happening now

Garden City PTA  
High School PTA Meeting  
May 30, 2019  
High School Library

- o 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade transition meeting: January 2020
- o College Major Night: March 2020
- o “Senior Sendoff” – provide seniors opportunity to talk with former GCHS students (January 2020)
- o Students receiving accommodations (extra time when taking exams) should know this does not automatically occur for standardized tests. Parents/students need to apply for accommodations: one time for SAT; each time for ACT
- o Reminder to 12<sup>th</sup> grade parents: college survey form is due; need that information to send transcripts to college they will be attending.

R. D. Antonio thanked the Curriculum Coordinators for their support and reminded parents that they are a great resource for them.

**Vaping Presentation** – K. Steingruebner, HS Assistant Principal and chairperson of district vaping committee

**Principal Update** – N. McLaughlin reported.

- May is Mental Health Awareness month
  - o HS put together a calendar of events for the month to bring awareness to mental health and provide tools to reduce stress (i.e. mindful breathing exercises, library posters with QR codes that provide mindfulness exercises with instructions)
  - o Monday morning connection – teachers ask students “what did you do this weekend?”
  - o Climate survey will be done next year; it’s important for students to be connected to someone in the school (i.e. teacher, hall monitor, coach, etc.)
  - o Mindful moments were held before AP exams
  - o Student athletes wore green ribbons one week in May to help eliminate the stigma of mental health issues
  - o Class of 2018 gifted \$4500 to HS; used to create “Headspace”. Stratford 4<sup>th</sup> graders were invited to HS to practice mindfulness with the HS students/staff. They recommended additional items that would be nice to have in the space.
  - o Art department “Tool Box” – students/staff were asked to write down on post-it notes “what positive tools do you have in your tool box to help you deal with stress”
- Honors appeals are complete; there were one or two stragglers.
- Section numbers are better than last year; class sizes will be better next year as well.
- Final exams/Regents schedule posted online
- Mr. Steingruebner will be interim principal for the upcoming school year (2019-2020). The hiring process for a HS principal can take months; Dr. Sinha felt an interim principal would be the proper way to go while the search for HS principal takes place.
  - o Mr. Steingruebner still holds his position of AP and will return once his tenure of interim principal is over. In the interim, his AP position will be filled for the upcoming school year. The BOE will be announcing that appointment within the next few weeks.
- Guidance Director – attempted to fill this position three times over the last year. Dr. Sinha and Mrs. McLaughlin will be looking to hire a new assistant principal for the HS: AP of Guidance/PPS
- Canvas will be going live in September 2019. Grading will not be included as part of initial roll-out; pilot with grades possibly scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.
- For any issues in the classroom, parents should contact classroom teacher. If they don’t answer questions/resolve issues, then contact Curriculum Coordinator. If further resolution is needed, contact building administration (APs).

**PTA updates:** R. D. Antonio welcomed all attendees and acknowledged all HS PTA Board members. Reminded everyone to sign attendance sheet.

Garden City PTA  
High School PTA Meeting  
May 30, 2019  
High School Library

- Prom-a-palooza volunteers needed:
  - Decorating - June 24 from 5pm-7:30pm; Food prep - June 25 from 5pm-8pm.
- Spring Sportswear pickup: June 1 at MS. Seven HS students volunteered through Student Volunteer Corps.
- Open PTA District Committee positions for next year: School Supplies, Arts in Education, Parent University and PARP. If interested, contact PTA President.
- R. D'Antonio and J. Turner attended the May 9 meeting of the Long Island Gay Parent Teacher Student Association (LIG PTSA). LIG PTSA flyers on back table; anyone can join.
- HS PTA Board has all positions open. Watch for Signup Genius to express interest in specific committees.
- District calendar for 2019-2020 will be the last year a printed calendar will be available to families. The district will be moving to an electronic calendar. Training will take place at PTA meetings next year to help parents configure the electronic calendar to meet their needs (i.e. display calendars of specific schools).
- May Sun Safety - B. Spirakis referred parents to H&S page on PTA website to view at their convenience. Information to educate parents and students on sun safety. Spanish version also available. UV bracelets, pamphlets, sunscreen samples available for parents to take.
  
- **Upcoming dates:**
  - June 1 – School supply and Spring Sportswear pickup at MS
  - June 6 – High School Senior Awards Ceremony (recipients notified by mail) at HS
  - June 7 – Stratford School and PTA Family Fun Night (evening)
  - June 25 – High School/PTA Pre-Prom event
  - June 25 – High School Senior Prom at Garden City Hotel
  - June 26 – Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal and Senior Breakfast
  - June 29 – GCTA/PTA Graduation Reception