

GHS PTSA MEETING NOTES-OCTOBER 18TH 2011

The GHS PTSA met on October 20, 2011 in the Media Center. Deanna Duff, PTSA President, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. The list of those in attendance is on file. The minutes from the September 2011 meeting were entered into record as approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT-Suzanne Walsh

General fund vs. Post Prom fund

Suzanne Walsh, Treasurer, explained that there are (2) sections in the Treasurer's Report: The Budget and what we've taken in. The bottom portion reflects the expenses we expect to spend and all expenses paid to date. A special thanks to Twila Taylor, Corresponding Secretary, for raising \$1100 to cover the cost of the student directories. Great Job!!

MCCPTA DELEGATE-Margaret Anderson and Sandra Davis

Nothing to report

CLUSTER COORDINATOR-Laurie Augustino, Carrie Bohrer, Kathy Lloyd

Nothing to report

NAACP PARENT COUNCIL-Angela Jones

The mission of the NAACP Parent Council is to provide a forum and assistance for African Americans, Hispanics, or anyone in need. The council is available to act as an advocate for and to provide assistance to those in need. The council also sponsors the ACT-SO program for gifted African American Youth. Local winners advance to New York to compete in a scholarship program. For more information on the NAACP and it's sponsored activities please contact Angela Jones at bobo461022@aol.com

AFTER PROM COMMITTEE-Teri Whittaker and Laura Ado

Sponsored by GHS PTSA

The committee is soliciting support to this free event to be held in May 2012 at Bohrer Park. Emphasis is placed on ensuring a Drug Free, safe environment for our students. A wrist band will be given to all students upon entry. Student will not be locked in. Should they leave early, however, the wrist band will be removed and re-entry will not be permitted. This wonderful PTSA sponsored event is expected to end at 4am. Please contact Laura Ado at lauraado@hotmail.com if you are interested in volunteering.

DIRECTORY-Judy Briggs

Directories will be sent out soon. Volunteers are needed to deliver the directories to GHS families.

MEMBERSHIP-Alice Houk

To date there 439 members. The dues are used to run the PTSA projects. Membership forms are always available at the monthly meetings.

NEWSLETTER-Elaine Jordan

Each year the GHS PTSA publishes 5 issues of our newsletter. Two issues are mailed to homes (September and March); the other 3 issues are posted on the GHS PTSA webpage (those without computer access can request a copy mailed to their home). Our PTSA website link is currently being updated.

BOOSTER CLUB-Lisa Warren

Learn about what's going on with the athletic clubs as well as other groups supported by The Athletic Booster Club including the After Prom event. A reminder that membership is free. Go to gaithersburgathletics.org.

LIST SERVE-Teri Abrahams

All parents are encouraged to join the listserve to stay current with the GHS happenings. Deanna Duff, PTSA President, places valuable information on the listserve daily! Stay connected!

CURRENT BUSINESS

GHS Magnets are still on sale for \$5

Post Prom Committee still needs volunteers—please sign on

NEW BUSINESS

Edline Coordinator-Kim Moore

Concerns addressed: Why are student requirements for graduation not posted on Edline in a timely manner? Ms. Moore stated that the posting is not controlled by GHS but by MCPS.

A request for snack donations/money for the study circle was offered.

Hot Topic-Shortening the student lunch period—shorten to 40 minutes to maintain order in the halls. Consensus—Parents do not agree with a shortened lunch-why punish the vast majority because of a few disruptive students. Dr. Handy Collins stated that students are done early and are sitting around inactive. Suggestion by parents: Down size from 47 minutes to 40 minutes, then add (1) minute to each class change (a total of 7 minutes) so that the students will have more time to get to the next class/locker.

Internship Coordinator-Joanne Allen

Local companies hire our students to work. Our GHS Students must meet course requirements. Academy of Information Technology, Academy of Finance offer paid/non paid internships sponsored by local businesses. Three current GHS students provided a very positive, informative take on their summer internship experience. It was noted that some students will leave for 2-3 hours during the school day to work at local companies. Internship sites include but are not limited to: Lockheed Martin, Hess Construction, Mantaro and NIH.

College Institute Coordinator-Susan Byrne

“Earning College Credit in High School”—Prepare to succeed in college: Strengthen transcript, courses taught by Montgomery College professors. Parents were shown a list of AP classes and a typical AP schedule. **GHS HAS THE LARGEST COLLEGE INSTITUTE IN THE COUNTY!!—followed by Wootton.**

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT—Dr. Handy Collins

PSAT-8 GHS students received a “letter of commendation” for being in the top 3% of students nationwide. Dr. Handy Collins addressed a few reasons why GHS’ Academic Yearly Progress (AYP) fell short. Concerns include limited English proficiency, higher drop out rate of Latino students and African American students, and special ed reading.

The homecoming “paint” incident was addressed. The admin was made aware of the students plan to have there own rally and the event was quickly thwarted and order restored! It took building services several hours to remove the glitter and paint that was dumped in the halls, however.

PRESENTATION

Dr. Handy Collins thanked the families who opened their home this summer for the GHS Back Yard Chat!! Certificates were given out. This event is always well attended by our parents/students and GHS Administration.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM

Respectfully submitted,
Twila Taylor