

**GHAMAS PFA (Parents, Friends and Alumni) Association Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2006**

Meeting called to order: 6:30 pm

I. Roll Call: Audrey Tucker, co-president; Sue Kelley, co-president; Walt Sadowski, treasurer; Cathy Bartell; Jojo & Guia Cuevo; Howard Thiery, director GHAMAS

II. Officer Reports:

A. Minutes: motion to accept May minutes made by Sue Kelley; seconded by Cathy Bartell; approved.

B. Treasurer's report: unavailable

III. Director's Report:

1. **Alumni Reunion:** Last year was the first alumni reunion. Sixty percent of all the alumni attended.

2. **Exciting New Year:** The school year is off to a great start. There are 238 students which is up from 203. 78 are freshman. 75 is a full freshman class so it is more than full. All districts are full with the exception of Glastonbury. West Hartford even sent a 10th grader to fill all their slots. 29% of the students are from Hartford. 52% of the students are female. Approximately 50% of the students are minorities. There was 98% attendance on the first day of school. Considering many districts hadn't even started classes, that was exceptional.

3. **New Faculty:** Rachael Manzer has taken the position of professional development and outreach coordinator. She previously worked with NASA on their digital learning network and was also a teacher in Granby. Joseph Lubenstein has taken the position of industry partnership coordinator. He is a retired aeronautical engineer. He will be helping get students out to industry and industry in to the students. He will also be mentoring students. He is currently in the process of finalizing visits to GHAMAS by both Chris Dodd and John Larsen.

4. **School Improvement Plans:** The plan is broken into three categories:

a. **Student Achievements:** Last year, lots of good ground work was laid. This year, new assessment tools will be used to be able to better evaluate the date.

b. **Diversity:** Last year, there were symposiums with the main focus being to help encourage upper and lower classes to mingle. This year, the focus will be on minority retention. This is a multi-year goal with the

ultimate goal being to have the senior class be as diverse as the freshman class.

- c. **Magnet Theme:** Last year, the idea was to increase research project involvement which went up from the typical 15 students involved to approximately 60% of the student population. This year, the focus will be on determining what to measure the students against, for example, the possibility of national tests.

5. **Social Calendar:**

- a. **September 30:** Hike.
 - b. **October 22:** Boston (Science Museum; Lunch at Quincy Market; IMAX at the Aquarium)
 - c. **November 11:** 3rd Annual Taste of GHAMAS
 - d. **December 8:** Movie and Pizza night
 - e. **January:** No event planned due to exams
 - f. **February 10:** Ski trip
 - g. **March 3:** Bowling
 - h. **April 13:** Movie marathon
 - i. **May 5:** Six Flags
6. **MIT day:** Freshman will again have the opportunity to visit MIT. This is tentatively scheduled for October 25.
7. **Open House:** To be held on September 27. Flyers have already been sent home.
8. **Career Symposium:** This is currently under development by Joe Lubenstein and is scheduled for the fall.
9. **Outreach:** \$100,000 in funding is now available as GHAMAS was awarded 4 out of the 4 grants for which the school applied.
10. **Professional Development Day in Science and Math:** GHAMAS will host the 5th annual statewide professional development in math and science day on November 7th. Rachael Manzer has secured a person from the Mars Rover Project currently at Arizona State University as the Keynote Speaker for this event.

IV. **Old Business:**

1. **Silent Auction:** Audrey Tucker will take the lead on this event. The first activity will be to create a mailer asking for donations for the Silent Auction. Once that is complete, the search for company contributions will begin.
2. **Picnic:** The GHAMAS family picnic is held in conjunction with the Silent Auction. The PFA is in search of someone to take the lead on this activity. The goal is work with companies (ie Big Y, Hood, Subway) to get them to donate food for the event so that as little internal funding as possible will be required.

3. **Open House:** PFA representation at the Open House is a must. Last year, we had a table at the event. A fundraiser was also active at the event and PFA representation was available and answered questions. This year, we need to be more of an active organization in the event in terms of being in the forefront. At a minimum, Audrey Tucker and Walt Sadowski will be attending. Any additional PFA representation will be appreciated. Audrey will be creating a flyer on the PFA to hand out at the event.
4. **Career & Resource Directory:** Previous plans were to create a student directory. This has expanded to be a career and resource directory of alumni and parents that will be available for the students to use in college planning. Cathy Bartell is taking the lead on this project. She will email with Howard to obtain alumni information for those alumni who have already said they can be contacted. Howard will email additional alumni to obtain more participation. The goal will be to have this available for purchase at the next College night in April.
5. **Cookbook:** Sue Kelley will take the lead on this one. This had been previously talked about but we were never in time for the Taste of GHAMAS. Sue will get a recipe form to Sandra Garcia to make sure that the kids have the form completed and submitted as part of their entry for the Taste of GHAMAS. Additionally, even those students not submitting food dishes for the Taste of GHAMAS will have the opportunity to include a favorite family recipe. After the form is available and the collection of the recipes is underway, the focus will be on selling advertising space in the book. The goal will be to have the cookbook available in time for Mother's Day.

V. New Business:

1. **Summer Resources:** Cathy Bartell suggested that we look at building a list of resources and activities available at colleges for students to try during their summer breaks. This would help them build college credits as well as give them a flavor of specific colleges.
2. **Meeting Night:** The determination was made to change the monthly meeting night to be the first Tuesday of each month from September through May.

VI. Meeting adjourned: 8:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Audrey A. Tucker (acting secty)

