

**GHAMAS PFA (Parents, Friends and Alumni) Association Meeting Minutes  
January 2, 2007**

**Meeting called to order:** 6:33 pm

**1. Roll Call:** Audrey Tucker, president; Lynne Axiak, secretary; Walt Sadowski, treasurer; Howard Thiery, director GHAMAS; Alicia Newton; Sue Smith; Alisoer Granger; Cathy Bartell; Jeananne McMahon; Jane Jylkka; Steve Burns; Jim Kelley; Sharon Hartstein; Ari Hartstein; Lynette Forman; Susan Griffiths; Vernetta Jefferson; Jannett Haughton; Colleen Palmer, Exec Deputy Director CREC

Special Guest Speaker Colleen Palmer, Exec Deputy Director CREC attended to speak on the process of choosing both an interim and permanent director for GHAMAS, as Howard Thiery is leaving mid-January.

**Process for choosing a director:** CREC is interviewing. Panel consists of members of CREC, 3 GHAMAS teachers and 2 parents. Howard states that we want to keep communications open to assist in providing a smooth transition. Mr. Thiery will be writing recommendations for those students who request them, even after he is gone. Colleen states that her door is always open and those who wish to contact her can do so at [Cpalmer@crec.org](mailto:Cpalmer@crec.org).

**Traits for the perfect GHAMAS director:** Submitted by everyone in attendance

1. Collaborator – faculty/districts/partnerships
2. Math/science background now and trends for future, either academic and/or industry
3. Reflective practitioner
4. Creative: able to think outside the box
5. Strategic Planner
6. Enthusiastic with relationships with students. Interactive
7. Experience with leadership position.
8. High level of commitment, dedication
9. Acceptance of the unique environment at GHAMAS: organized disorder
10. Able to communicate to students with honesty and respect
11. Person with proven record as a 'change agent'
12. Supportive to students in activities either in research or student life.
13. Experience in Curriculum/Assessment/Instruction mandatory
14. Responsible risk taker
15. Someone who can learn from failure.

**Some words from Howard:** There are challenges facing GHAMAS in the coming years. There has been a lot of growth in the diversity of the population of GHAMAS. Originally there was a much more

homogeneous student population and as the school grows there is need for more stratification in academics while still maintaining the high academic standards. Also, magnet schools are embryonic and always changing. There are political/academic and social environment concerns. The new director must be adaptable with ability to switch to back-up plans. The future trends show that there is going to be a major push for students with math/science backgrounds.

Next meeting: 2/6

Meeting adjourned: 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Axiak