

Grandview High School
GECO General Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2003

In attendance: Sharon Withrow, Trina Donovan, Maureen Lookabill, Mary Ann Neumann, Beth Spalding-Laverenz, Theresa Collins, Margo Miller, Bobbie Klein, Ron Hogan, Diane Loup, Alison Kelly, Jared Kent, Sandy Renne, Patty Boudon, Donna Steward, Josephine Moore, Jerilyn Floyd, Harry Bull, and students from Student Leadership.

Trina Donovan called the meeting to order. Everyone was welcomed and all introduced themselves.

Minutes: The minutes from the March 25 general meeting were presented and reviewed. Diane Loup made a motion to approve the minutes and Sharon Withrow seconded the motion.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Ann Neumann reported that expenses are on track; some After Prom expenses are beginning to come in. Financial statements were presented for all to review.

Guest Speakers: Ron Hogan from Grandview High School and Alison Kelly and Jared Kent from Cornerstone Drug Abuse Program spoke.

- Ron Hogan spoke about a survey that Cherry Creek schools give to students every other year. Results were from the survey given in April 2001 to 10th and 12th grade students. The survey deals with risky behavior that students participate in. Risk taking is considered as kids who like to try something new. High-risk behavior is the classification where there is more than the occasional drink, smoke, etc. While the survey is not scientific, it is felt that a good sample is taken making results reliable. The survey covered areas that included:
 - the importance on knowing those of different races
 - having good conversations with parents
 - trying hard in school
 - whether parents ask where they will be and with whom
 - whether they have used alcohol in the last 30 days
 - whether they have smoked cigarettes
 - whether they have used marijuana in the last 12 months
 - whether they drove after drinking
 - whether they drove with someone who had been drinking

The survey indicated that students feel safe at school and at extracurricular events. That is evident as the kids like to "hang out" at GHS. The school has a zero tolerance for drugs or alcohol at school.

- Cornerstone Drug Abuse Program is located in Westminster as well as a newly opened facility at Arapahoe and Jordan. They have 6-week

group, outpatient programs. Groups are for ages 13 – 17 and 18 – 25 years old. All the staff have been through the program themselves and have learned that sobriety is better. Because of their experiences they try to make sobriety fun. Parents are involved in weekly meetings to keep them informed. Recommendations to the program come from many sources – parents, churches, etc. The patient has to have some desire to get cured; their success rate is 60% - 70%. After the six-week program, there are two years of peer/support group activities. These are meant to keep the kids away from the friends who use drugs.

- Drugs of choice are pot, alcohol, methamphetamines
- Parents need to make a big deal about kids using alcohol or drugs
- Talking to the kids won't work if they have been using for awhile; a third party needs to be involved
- Pot users don't see that they need help
- Focus needs to change to fun things

Kids do drugs/alcohol because they are fun and to fit in with a peer group. You need to get kids out of that peer group to change their behavior.

It is illegal to serve minors alcohol even in your home.

Student Leadership: The committee working on the prom is doing an amazing job. It will be on May 10 at Wings Over the Rockies. Tickets are \$30 each and there will be 2 weeks for registration. Invitations will be handed out during English classes.

They were planning an awareness day called "Dead for a Day" taking a look at the results of drinking and driving. However, that fell through but they will try again next year to do it.

Other things coming up include the Leadership banquet, Senior Day on May 9 with games and food, the senior exit assembly (Mrs. Fox will be here for that). The prom is the biggest item right now.

Principal's Report: While the budget for next year for the school district has been cut \$4.1m, they are looking at more cuts that will be done this year. The state is looking to eliminate one time costs; however, that won't solve the long-term budget issues.

Wednesday, April 23 will be a late start day for all except juniors. They will be taking the ACT. The state is looking at eliminating the ACT and some CSAP tests as a way to reduce expenses. The ACT test taken on the 23rd can be used for college admission but not for NCAA eligibility.

Today they started the process of looking for a new assistant principal. Frances Woolery-Jones is leaving. They have 10 candidates to interview and should have a decision in about 2 weeks.

Field usage for sports will probably be impacted next fall due to the drought. AstroTurf would cost about \$200k for the low end product.

Due to all the snow days, Friday, June 6 will be the last day of school. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday will be exam days. Seniors finish on the previously determined schedule. There will be no makeup day scheduled for exams; any makeups will have to be arranged with the teacher. More details on this topic will be available soon.

Next year class periods will be 2 minutes longer; the day will end at 2:46 rather than 2:40. The final exam schedule will be across 3 days; the changes are happening to help with transportation with other schools. GILT (Grandview Instructional Leadership Team) is still working to clarify all the details.

After Prom: Josephine Moore and Jeri Floyd, co-chairs of the event were present and reported that things were going very well with The Island. Tom is great to work with. The food, flooring and facility use will cost \$5200. Fun Productions did the floor plan outlining where the games and casino will be set up. The committee persons will be there at 10 p.m. that night to help with set up. Check in will be inside where the students will be roped off lines. A caricature artist and a fortune teller have been hired in addition to a DJ who will be in the center of one side of the facility. ALICE radio is coming for a couple hours during registration to play music and hand out prizes.

Security will be tight. There are 4 security officers and one police officer already lined up for the evening. Invitations will be with the prom invitations. May 2 is the cutoff for registration although there will likely be a late registration day.

Parking will be extremely structured; there will be parents wearing identifying vests helping with traffic. Cones will be used to mark out parking; parents will escort kids to cars and use walkie talkies.

Each student will receive a souvenir Polaroid photo. There will be prizes for the carnival games and raffles for all the other prizes. We are coming in right about the budgeted amount. There will be a volunteer drawing at the end of the night.

We have reserved The Island for next year already but no money has been put down. The deposit will be made after we see the results of this year's event.

Other Business:

A reverse 911 system is being put into place by the district for next year

Web page – www.geco-ptco.com is GECO's web address. No names of students should be printed on the site.

Nominating committee – the committee met and has the ballot for next year's executive board ready. Additional candidates may be added from the floor. The vote will be held at the May general meeting.

Volunteer Breakfast – on May 22, 2003 from 7 – 9 a.m. a casual breakfast will be held to thank all volunteers for helping with GECO sponsored activities this school year.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Lookabill
Secretary