

Grandview High School
PTO-GECO General Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2003
7:00pm

Present at the meeting were: Kurt Wollenweber, Trina Donovan, Sharon Withrow, Carlyn Canady, Margo Miller, Garry Brewer, Alison House, Monica Baham, Mary Ann Neumann, Berthie Ruoff, Diane Loup, Effie Maniatis, Joan Swartz, Jane Applegate, and Robert Krueger.

Sharon Withrow called the meeting to order. GAIT and PTO-GECO are meeting together for the first part of the meeting and will split into two meetings after the Principal's report. All of the attendees introduced themselves.

GECO stands for Grandview Educational Community Organization; it supports the Grandview Mission Statement: "To inspire academic achievement, responsible citizenship and individual development in a supportive environment". PTO-GECO helps with Registration, Student Planners, Student Directory, After-Prom, Community Caring, Senior Scholarships, Staff Appreciation, and CSAP Support.

GAIT is responsible for Academic Achievement. It has been CSAP driven in the last few years. The committee is responsible for climate, safety, and curriculum. Presentations are given at each of the monthly meetings. GAIT is working on a School Improvement Plan; they discuss how well goals are met, how to improve, and set new goals. They are looking for volunteers.

Budget and Bond Election: Bob DiGiorgio discussed the upcoming CCSD Budget and Bond elections. All Cherry Creek schools are built using funds from Bond elections. There are several potential new schools that need to be built, including two elementary schools and two middle schools in the eastern part of the district. The last two elections have been successful, but administrators are nervous about this upcoming election because it is both a Budget and Bond election, the economy is not good, and the election is only by mail. Make sure to register, if you did not vote in the last election or have moved. The bond election will also support building improvement, while the budget election supports teacher salaries and classroom size. The cost to the taxpayer for both the Budget and Bond elections is \$20 per year for each \$100,000 of assessed home value. The money is spread throughout the district. A public relations firm has been hired to spread the word about the vote. About 70% of voters do not have children, so it is important to spread the word. Volunteers are needed to distribute literature, to display yard signs, and to help with the phone bank. Please call Bob DiGiorgio, 303-699-4855, if you can make phone calls on October 14th or October 23rd.

Leadership: Two student body leaders, told about the Leadership Retreat which was a successful start to the new school year. Twenty-one seniors, 15 juniors, some sophomores, and a few freshmen are in Leadership. The younger students learn from the older students. There are event committees for Homecoming, which is October 18th. The theme is "Sweet Dreams" with a "Candy Land" atmosphere. There will be a barbecue and parade on Thursday or Friday, with the football game and dance on Saturday. Bruce suggested having a bonfire, like Eaglecrest HS.

GAIT: John Walker, Accountability Chair, wanted to know what is going on with the students. The Leadership students said that the school is crowded and many students are not eating lunch because they are no longer able to eat by the stairs. There are not enough tables in the cafeteria for all of the students. Only Junior and Senior students with an orange sticker on their IDs are allowed off campus. These students have parental permission to be off campus. The security guards are checking IDs for the orange stickers.

Principal's Report: Bruce Janson and Kurt Wollenweber

- Harry Bull's father passed away on Saturday. He will have a Fireman's funeral on Friday at 10:00am at the South Suburban Christian Church in Littleton. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Shrine Burn Center.
- There are 2537 students at Grandview HS, which is more than the 2465 projected.
- There will be a meeting at Heritage Eagle Bend to discuss the potential development of a retail and daycare center in Saddle Rock South, close to Grandview.
- Thank you to the parent volunteers who helped at Registration and Back to School Night. Not as many parents attended Back to School Night as last year. There is a good climate among the students and staff and a good feel in the classrooms. The Link Crew did a great job helping the freshmen. The Freshmen Barbecue was well attended and students were able to meet coaches and find out about clubs.
- Friday, September 19th is a staff development day and is a non-contact day for students.
- Mid-term grades will be sent out September 23rd.
- Homecoming is October 12th – 18th. The football game will be at the new stadium, Legacy Stadium.
- Fewer students are dropping AP courses.
- Class sizes are not bad, averaging 27-28 students per class. There are a few classes with over 30 students.
- CSAP data is a cause for celebration. Scores increased in 5 of 6 tests, 9th grade scores increased in all three areas, and Grandview is the only school in CCSD to improve in 10th grade math. CSAP scores have shown steady gains over time.
- SAT scores gained 54 points combined, which is unbelievable because more students are taking the SAT test.
- There are some test data concerns. CSAP writing dropped in 10th grade from 66% to 64% proficient and above. Teachers will target writing this year. Another concern is the "No score" for students who do not take the test. Four to five percent of Grandview HS students do not take the CSAP test which results in a negative score (worse than a "0"). In the CCSD 3-4% of students do not take the CSAP test.
- Another area of concern is the performance of ethnic students. A small percentage of ethnic students are in advanced level classes, and teachers are moving motivated students to higher level classes. The percent of ethnic students with a 3.5 or above GPA is not acceptable; 7-9% African American, 15% Hispanic, 25% Asian, 25 – 30% White.
- October 1st is Count Day. Please make sure that all students attend on this day.

E-Books: E-Books are still for sale. Each book costs \$10, with \$7 going to the school.

Door Prize Winners: Carlyn Canady, Garry Brewer, and Ann Atkinson each won 2 tickets to a Rockies game. Sharon Withrow kindly donated the Rockies tickets.

Grandview Gazette Information: The newsletter is going to be late because a new person is putting it together and she is also teaching 4 classes. The newsletter will be on the school website, www.ghs.ccsd.k12.co.us.

Co-Treasurer: Monica Baham is nominated to be the PTO-GECO Co-treasurer. Berthie Ruoff motioned to accept Monica Baham as the Co-treasurer, and Mary Ann Neumann seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Ann Neumann

- Mary Ann motioned to accept the \$1559.07 over budget for After Prom 2003. Diane Loup seconded the motion. The motion was approved.
- \$10,000 of the \$48,910.22 balance is allocated the marquee.
- Mary Ann went over the proposed budget. Diane Loup asked about a contribution to Citizens for Cherry Creek. Mary Ann had not been contacted by anyone asking for support. PTO-GECO will contribute \$300 to Citizens for Cherry Creek. A \$300 gift was given to the new high school, Cherokee Trail. The Cherry Creek Schools Foundation will vote on Thursday whether to give about \$1250 to Grandview. PIN does not fund Red Ribbon Week. PTO-GECO contributes \$150 to the PIN representative to use for speakers, ribbons, etc. The school also contributes to the Red Ribbon Week budget.
- Mary Ann Neumann motioned to approve the 2003-2004 PTO-GECO Budget with a change of \$300 for the contribution to Citizens for Cherry Creek and a corresponding \$300 decrease in the Unanticipated Expenses/Grant expenses. Sharon Withrow seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Meeting Minutes: Sharon Withrow motioned to approve the May, 2003 minutes. Garry Brewer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

By-Laws: Today's date, 9-16-03, will be added to the By-Laws. Sharon Withrow motioned to approve the changes to the By-Laws. Trina Donovan seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Student Planners: PTO-GECO has run out of student planners. Two years ago, 1800 student planners were ordered, which was too many. Last year, 1000 were initially ordered, which was not enough, and an additional 500 were then ordered. This year 1500 student planners were ordered, but were not enough. PTO-GECO will order 1800 student planners for next year. Many incoming students have been using planners since elementary school and want to use this organizational tool. Next year at registration, a PTO-GECO representative will be at the bookkeepers table to hand out the student planner to students as soon as they pay for it. Many students did not stop at the PTO-GECO table to pick up their planners during registration.

Student Directory: The student directory was finished today and Sharon Withrow will take it to the Printer tomorrow. Volunteers will be needed to hand out the Student Directories during the lunch period. One problem encountered was that many parents did not sign the form indicating their approval to include their child in the directory. These parents needed to be called by volunteers to get verbal approval. This problem arose because many parents do not attend registration with their child.

Homecoming: PTO-GECO will give away Poms at the Pep Assembly and Parade. Larger poms will be for sale during pep week at lunch. Another group is selling tattoos; therefore PTO-GECO will not sell them because we don't want to compete with other school groups.

Marquee: About \$28,000 has been collected by various groups so far. The committee is still waiting on a possible \$10,000 donation. When this donation comes in, then construction can begin on the marquee. The marquee account is still receiving individual donations, and Patrons has left their \$5000 contribution in the account. Cindy Nelson will remain as the Marquee Committee Chair, if the \$10,000 donation is received. She is also the Fundraiser and After Prom Chair and may not have time to commit to the marquee if a large amount of money still needs to be raised. The Marquee Committee may be looking for a new chair.

Student Directory Advertisements: \$280 was raised selling advertisement space in the student directory. PTO-GECO only had 2 weeks to sell advertisements; hopefully, next year there will be more advertisements.

Fundraiser:

- A "Taste of After-Prom" fundraiser will be held at Grandview on Saturday, November 15th from 6:00 – 10:00pm.
- Attendees will be able to donate to other programs that PTO-GECO supports, including Senior Scholarships and Teacher Grants.
- The cost is \$10 for a reservation and \$10 for dinner catered by Bambino's. Those who pay at the door will pay \$15, which does not include a dinner.
- Grandview has a raffle license and Trina Donovan is the Game Manager. There will be a raffle at the fundraiser. Two hundred and fifty tickets will be sold for \$100 each. \$8000 in prizes will be awarded, with a top prize of \$2500. If all the tickets are sold, then the profit will be \$13,000.
- Attendees will be able to donate to individual games that will then be available at After-Prom.
- There will be a Casino with \$5 cash buying \$500 Casino dollars. There will be teacher and celebrity dealers.
- Invitations and raffle tickets went to the printer today. Every family will receive an invitation.
- There will be 10 live auction items. Mike Nelson will be the emcee.
- There will be some silent auction items, including parking passes, athletic passes, department baskets, and booster club baskets. The committee did not solicit items for the silent auction, but will accept donations.
- There will be inflatable attractions, adult tricycle races, a coffee bar, and a Frank Sinatra impersonator at the Fundraiser.
- Decorations are mostly in lighting. Mike Nelson is looking for male volunteers to help hang lights. The commons, one gym, hallway, and stairs will be decorated.

More Raffle Information: To get a raffle license, an organization has to be in existence for at least 5 years. PTO-GECO pays \$62.50 plus an excise tax equal to a percentage of the raffle sales. The raffle is heavily regulated; prize money must be in a separate account prior to the sale of tickets and only a set number of tickets can be printed. Information about the raffle will be in the October Newsletter. Trina Donovan will get the information to Kurt Wollenweber.

Legislative Network: Sue Sandstrom could not attend the meeting and called Sharon Withrow to report that a bus tour of the Cherry Creek School District will be Tuesday, October 21st from 8:30am to noon. Meet at the ESC building. Sue has a class during the PTO meetings. If anyone would like to attend the Legislative Network meeting and report back to the PTO, please let her know. Sue is also running for the Aurora City Council; watch her on channel 8 on October 1st from 6:30 – 8:00pm.

Parent Council: Diane Loup reported that Parent Council will have Treasurer Training this Wednesday. She also reminded everyone about the fundraiser to benefit Art programs in the CCSD. The fundraiser is Friday, October 17th at the Marriott DTC from 6:00 – 10:00pm. The cost is \$25. There will be a Silent and Live Auction, student artwork will be sold with bids starting at \$25, and there will be student performances throughout the evening. Proceeds will be distributed to all school, allocated as an amount per student. Diane also is selling raffle tickets for \$1 each. The top prize for the raffle is two Frontier Airline tickets.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Berthie Ruoff