

***Grandview High School***  
PTO-GECO General Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2004  
7:00pm

Present at the meeting were: Harry Bull, Trina Donovan, Sharon Withrow, Carlyn Canady, Margo Miller, Garry Brewer, Alison House, Monica Baham, Mary Ann Neumann, Berthie Ruoff, Louis Fine, Sue Sandstrom, and eighteen leadership students.

Trina Donovan called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. She welcomed everyone and all of the attendees introduced themselves. Trina invited the students to attend future meetings.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the November meeting were not available to be approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Mary Ann Neumann

The Fundraiser profit is slightly less than \$20,000. There are still a few bills to be paid. The AVID program still needs to pay \$578 for student planners. The Poinsettia Sale profit was \$875, which was slightly less than budgeted. Marquee donations of \$776.73 collected at Conferences was transferred to the Marquee Account.

**Student Leadership:** Winter Spirit Week is February 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>. There will be lunch time activities on Tuesday and Thursday. The “Singled Out” Game Show will be on Monday night. About 150 students attended this event last year. “Pack the Den” will be Wednesday night at the Boys’ Basketball game and on Friday night at the Girls’ Basketball game. Both teams will be versus Eaglecrest. The Pep Rally will be during 8<sup>th</sup> period on Friday. Students will take a “Data Match” survey to see with whom they are most compatible. Cultural Awareness week is coming up and activities will be planned. Prom plans are going well. A retreat is planned for the end of February to bring the Leadership class together.

**Spirit Week:** PTO-GECO will sell pom-poms and window clings during lunch time on Wednesday and Friday.

**Principal's Report:** Harry Bull presented information on Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Grandview is a “High” achieving school based on CSAP scores that does not meet “No Child Left Behind – AYP”. AYP states that 100% of children will be proficient by 2014. This includes ESL and Special Education students. Schools that do not meet AYP must narrow the proficiency gap by 2014. No one wants to say that your child may be left behind. In Florida, 90% of schools did not meet AYP, while in Colorado many High performing schools did not meet AYP. A minimum of 30 students must be in a category for that particular category to be assessed. AYP is all or nothing regardless of the number of categories that failed. For example, a school that achieves in 127 of 128 categories is rated the same as a school that achieves in only 1 of 128 categories.

The categories for the Reading and Math Proficiency include Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, Hispanic, White, English Language Acquisition (ELA), Economically Disadvantaged, and Students with Disabilities (including Special Education). Grandview reached the performance target for all groups except Special Education students. The Legislature has decreed that all handicapped students will be proficient in reading and math regardless of their ability level. CSAP-A can only be given to 1% of students with disabilities, even if more qualify.

Grandview achieved AYP for Graduation Rate.

The Democrats in Congress have pointed out the challenges of AYP, but the Republicans do not want to point out problems until after the election. Schools should be accountable, but children should not be used for political agendas. Hopefully, the flaws will be changed. Federal legislators need to be told about concerns. Title monies will be tied to AYP eventually. Cherry Creek School District has about \$2 million in Title monies.

The school is penalized if a student does not take the CSAP test even if the parent does not allow the student to take the test. The parents are exercising their right to not have their children take the CSAP test. Many parents of ELA and Special Education students do not want their children to take the CSAP test. Parents of a blind student had their child take the Braille ACT which took 6.5 hours because that test was needed for college, but said no to taking the CSAP. A student who participates in the test by signing their name, but not completing the exam, scores a "0" which is better than a "- 0.5" score for not taking the test.

In order to meet the AYP targets for ELA, 1% of students need to be advanced. However, advanced students are not allowed to be in the ELA program.

Freshmen and sophomores are preparing for CSAP. The focus will change to ACT and SAT preparation afterward.

**Marquee:** Harry Bull

The CCSD School Board met last night and approved the Marquee construction. The two sided electronic sign will be near the eastern entrance and can be seen from Arapahoe Road. There will be no business advertising space. PTO-GECO, Patrons, Booster Clubs, Class gifts, and individual donations have paid for the marquee. The sign should be up in 6-8 weeks depending on the weather. The message board will be run by computer and coordinated by the Activities Office. Mary Ann Neumann motioned that \$11,000 in additional funds be given to the Marquee fund by PTO-GECO. Garry Brewer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**Teacher of the Year:** Trina Donovan

Brad Humphries (Social Studies) and Tod McKercher (PE) are the recipients of the Teacher of the Year award. Parents and students have been sending in letters. The banquet is in May and tickets will be available in April.

**Senior Scholarships:** Sharon Withrow

Scholarship applications for graduating seniors will be available February 2<sup>nd</sup> and will be due March 16<sup>th</sup>. The Senior Scholarship is not based on GPA, but on leadership, citizenship, and community service. The applications will be reviewed and 10 finalists will be interviewed. Five scholarship winners will receive \$1000 each for higher education.

**Teacher and Department Grants:** Mary Ann Neumann

PTO-GECO will review the requests at the April Executive Board meeting. Teachers will receive a letter the third week of February which should give them enough time to write a grant proposal. Approximately \$8400 will be given to teachers and departments. Items that have been funded in the past include classroom equipment, speakers, and a CPR mannequin.

**After-Prom:** Trina Donovan

After-Prom will be held at Grandview on May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. Volunteers are still needed for some Chair positions. Call Trina Donovan, Sharon Withrow, or Cindy Nelson if you are interested. There will be special lighting and students always have a great time at the event.

**Legislative Network:** Sue Sandstrom

The last meeting was December 3<sup>rd</sup> and had a good turnout. The Grandview area legislators are John Andrews, Bruce Cairns, Nancy Spence, and Debbie Spafford. Education funding is at issue because of the conflict between the Tabor amendment, Gallagher amendment, and Amendment 23. This conflict caused the funding formula to change and the amount of money for education was less than if the formula had been left alone. It is the responsibility of the legislators to fix this problem. When economic times are good, there is no problem. When there is an economic downturn the amount of money available is less, but education does not receive a smaller portion. This accounting has hurt higher education compared to K-12. Higher education will be bankrupt in 8 years if left as it is. Please feel free to call Sue Sandstrom with any concerns.

**General Meeting – February 10<sup>th</sup>**

A representative from the Ranch will speak. The Ranch is an alternative setting for Special Education off campus.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Berthie Ruoff*