

Grandview High School
PTO-GECHO General Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2004
7:00pm

Present at the meeting were: Kurt Wollenweber, Sharon Withrow, Margo Miller, Mary Ann Neumann, Beth Spalding-Laverenz, Berthie Ruoff, Orvin Breningstall, Effie Maniatis, Sue Sandstrom, two Leadership students, and two Youth Advisory Board students.

Sharon Withrow called the meeting to order. She welcomed everyone and all of the attendees introduced themselves.

Minutes: All reviewed the minutes from the November and January meetings. Sharon Withrow motioned to approve the minutes. Margo Miller seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Ann Neumann

There were not many transactions this past month. The Marquee contract was approved and she is waiting to write the check so that the contractor can start construction. Sharon Withrow motioned to approve the minutes and Margo Miller seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Student Leadership: Winter Spirit Week was a huge success. The nighttime activities were well attended and all 200 shirts were sold. Between four and five hundred students attended the Winter Dance. This attendance was much better than the usual 100 – 200 students. The increase in attendance was attributed to the low cost of admission and the canned food drive for discounted admission. The Winter Dance followed the Girls' Basketball game which Grandview won in overtime. It was a very exciting game. The Pep Assembly was great. There were lots of fun contests like pickle spitting and pie eating/bubblegum blowing. The students even collected change to shave a teacher's head.

Multi-Cultural Awareness is this week. There are various activities during lunch time. Monday was European, Tuesday was Middle Eastern, and Wednesday is Latin American awareness. A belly dancer performed on Tuesday. There are activities planned for Thursday and Friday.

The Ranch: Orvin Breningstall, the team leader, gave us an overview of the program at the Ranch which is located on Gartrell. It is a part of Grandview High School and serves Grandview students. Each high school in the district has an off campus I-team. Orvin has worked 22 years for I-teams. Cherokee Trail will be having an I-team in the future. The Ranch serves 11th and 12th grade students in special education. The students receive their entire academic program through the I-team. The program is funded through vocational and special education and has 4 teachers. Many students would not graduate without the program. The students like the smaller setting of the Ranch and receive a

Grandview diploma. There are 45 students in the program and about 15-20 will graduate this year. Former graduates include a graphic designer and a lawyer. Students are encouraged to attend college, community college, or vocational school such as cosmetology. The program has an expeditionary component which includes Wilderness field trips and visits to colleges. The Ranch provides the opportunity for special education students that Cherry Creek Prep does not. Every student at the Ranch has an ILP and teachers are able to provide personal care. Students take the ACT and/or SAT and discuss what they will be doing when they finish high school. Many students work and receive school credit for their jobs. The Ranch enjoys its autonomy but doesn't want to dissociate from Grandview. Students like the smaller campus, but still want to attend sporting events and dances at Grandview. The Ranch has requested funds from PTO for scholarships for students who cannot afford to attend the expeditionary field trips. The proposal will be reviewed in April with the other teacher requests. All of special education took a hit in their budgets this year. The activity fee that Ranch students pay does go to the I-team, but fundraising is minimal. The Ranch receives a small profit from the pop machine. Many students have issues to deal with such as jail, drugs, alcohol, family conflict, and gang activity. The students may have emotional and behavioral problems or have learning disabilities, but they are not mentally retarded. The GAP program at Grandview tries to catch students that can benefit from the program at the Ranch before they drop out of school. Sixteen sophomores will move to the Ranch during 4th quarter. Everyone is welcome to visit the Ranch, but please call ahead to let them know that you are coming.

Youth/Adult Summit: Two students from the Youth Advisory Board told us about the Summit which will be held on March 13th at Grandview High School from 8:00am – 1:30pm. The event is designed to build relationships between youths and adults. Parents and teachers are encouraged to attend. There will be 3 breakout sessions which include Healthy Relationships, Helping the Community, and Team Building. Breakfast will be served and attendees receive a t-shirt. \$20,000 needs to be raised to fund this event. \$16,000 has been raised through City Councils and community asset projects. All Cherry Creek schools are represented, as well as, Regis and Kent. The event is free, but you do need to sign up in advance. The Youth Advisory Board is selling asset signs with the purchaser's name on it for \$150 each to raise the remaining \$4000. Mary Ann Neumann motioned that PTO-GECO purchase an asset sign. Beth Spalding-Laverenz seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Grandview will sponsor Asset #6 – “My parents are involved in my schooling” or Asset #7 – “Our community values teenagers” if either is available. Mary Ann Neumann will send the check to Brenda Holben in the Prevention office. About 600 people will attend the Summit.

Principal's Report: Kurt Wollenweber shared the results of the PLAN test. Grandview High School improved in all areas of the test from last year. More emphasis is being put on test scores for college admissions due to grade inflation at other schools. 8th grade student/parent night was well attended. The administration will try to spice it up next year with a multi-media presentation about the school. The Marquee is moving forward. A conduit may need to be repaired before construction begins. The wolf head and wording fell off of the Grandview High School sign due to a problem with the glue.

Teacher of the Year: Sharon Withrow

Please write a letter for Brad Humphries (Social Studies) and/or Tod McKercher (PE) if you know them for the Teacher of the Year award album. Volunteers are needed to help Trina Donovan and Monica Baham put the portfolios and albums together.

Senior Scholarships: Sharon Withrow

Ten applications have been picked up from the Post-Graduate Center. The applications are due March 15th. The Senior Scholarships have been advertised in the Gazette since January. Kurt Wollenweber will make sure that they are advertised on the TV announcements and over the PA. 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

Teachers will receive a letter this week in their mailbox describing the request for grants procedure. The proposals are due Friday, March 26th, before Spring Break. PTO-GECO will review the requests at the April Executive Board meeting. Approximately \$8400 will be given to teachers and departments. There may be a little more money depending on the After-Prom expenses. Mary Ann will prepare a list of what proposals have been granted in the past. There may be some money available from past grants that were not used. Should the money be rolled over into the Grant budget or to the PTO-GECO budget as a whole? The Board will discuss this issue.

After-Prom: All committees have a chair except the Decorating Committee. About 15 people attended the After-Prom meeting. The Lighting Committee is separate from the Decorating Committee. The invitations are very nice and the theme for the event is "Hollywood". There will be a red carpet, celebrity cut-outs, and a photographer. After-Prom will be held at Grandview on May 22nd – 23rd from midnight to 4:00am. Volunteers are needed to help set up on May 22nd from 11:00am – 2:00pm and from 2:00 – 5:00pm. Sharon Withrow and Trina Donovan are in charge of the prizes and Beth Spalding-Laverenz is in charge of the food for the volunteers and students.

Nominations for 2004-2005 Executive PTO-GECO Board:

Volunteers are needed for 1st Vice President and Treasurer. Effie Maniatis volunteered for the 1st Vice President position.

Legislative Network: Sue Sandstrom

They met this morning and Jared Polis was speaker. He discussed AYP and charter schools. March 16th is Cherry Creek's Annual Day at the Capitol. A bus will leave from ESC at 8:30am and return at 2:00pm. Nancy Spence will join Cherry Creek parents for lunch. There will be live internet at the meeting so that parents can listen to what is going on, review past initiatives and bills, etc. The website is www.leg.state.co.us. The website has many links and is user friendly. There will not be a meeting next month because of Day at the Capitol.

The northbound lane of Liverpool near Grandview High School was never intended to allow a left turn into the school because there is no left turn lane. The school district would need to construct a left turn lane before left turns are allowed.

Parent's Council: Sharon Withrow reported that the Youth/Adult Summit was discussed. Dr. Moses discussed AYP and felt that the program needs to be fully funded, instead of the current 40% funded. Not one school from the Denver metro district achieved AYP. Cherry Creek School District will implement Power School so that parents will be able to check their child's attendance and grades. Grandview will be the first large high school to start Power School. College requirements are getting tougher, for example students will need 3 years of math starting with Algebra I and 2 years of the same language. High schools will match the tougher requirements.

Next General Meeting – March 16th

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Berthie Ruoff