

Grandview High School
PTO-GECO General Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2004
7:00 p.m.

Present at the meeting were: Trina Donovan, Sharon Withrow, Margo Miller, Monica Baham, Berthie Ruoff, Bruce Jansen, Kurt Wollenweber, Leon Lundie, Robert Krueger, and two students from Leadership

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

Student Leadership: The student leadership representatives gave a report on the upcoming Senior Graduation activities. They especially would like to receive pictures for the slide show to be presented during the Senior Breakfast. Pictures may be turned into the Activities office by Friday, March 26th. Pictures will be returned if name, address, and phone number are written on the back.

The Battle of the Bands will be held on Thursday, April 15th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium. The concert is a fundraiser to benefit One Life Revolution, an organization to help AIDS victims in Africa.

Prom is going very well and plans are ahead of schedule. The invitations are already printed. The DJ and the caterer are already booked. The facility to hold the prom will be Invesco Field. Some prom details are kept secret so that they will be a surprise for the seniors. The prom will be held on Saturday, May 22nd.

Finally, Student Leadership had a potluck dinner last night.

Principal's Report: Principal Harry Bull was ill. In his absence, Assistant Principal Bruce Jansen gave the report. Mr. Jansen reported that the drug and alcohol forum has been expanded. All schools are invited and the forum will be held on Thursday, April 29th, at 6:30 p.m. It was noted that it is a good time to hold the forum as we are entering prom season. The event will be held as a panel forum. The impression is that the alcohol abuse issue among teens is getting worse. Some kids' parents consider drinking a "rite of passage". There is a need to make parents and students aware of the dangers of underage drinking.

A marquee meeting will be held tomorrow as the school looks at the different ways to hook up the phone service. The main issue is getting the connection from the building to the sign. It is approximately 1,000 feet from the school to the sign. The first option, a phone line, was too expensive and would have cost the school \$5,000. There is also the possibility of putting an antenna on top of the building and the sign. This would cost approximately \$2,500. However, there could be problems with vandalism and poor weather. The last option would be to key in the information into a disk and run the disk down to the sign. This would defeat the whole purpose of having a digital display sign

that could be controlled by wireless methods. We might be able to tap into the existing phone line which would reduce our costs. Otherwise a trench has to be dug to put into a new phone line. The sign will be at the corner of Liverpool and Arapahoe Road. It is the only available place as the sign has to be a certain number of feet away from the road and sidewalks.

The CSAP tests were held last week. There are approximately 1,300 freshman and sophomore students that took the test. Twenty-one freshmen missed the test due to suspension, illness, or parent refusal. Twenty-eight or thirty sophomores also did not take the test. This could pose a problem for the school to achieve annual yearly progress (AYP) as we need to have 95% participation in the CSAP test. There is the concern that some schools could purposely allow underachieving students to not take the test. The school is working on getting as many students as possible to make-up the CSAP test. Also, the school is trying to get letters from parents who refuse to allow their children to take the test. Unfortunately, there is no accountability for the test. Some students do not take it seriously. There are always two proctors in every room when the students take the test. Assistant Principal Kurt Wollenweber is organizing teachers to look at the test results. Overall, the impression is that most of the students worked hard on the test.

Bruce Jansen also thanked GECO for organizing the parent volunteers who worked during the CSAP lunches. Hospitality put on wonderful lunches for the teachers.

The ACT test will be administered to juniors on Wednesday, April 28th, from 7:30 a.m. to noon. There is better participation for this test as the students can see the value for taking the test and doing well.

Next school year there will be a net gain of 75 students who are coming here under the school of choice option. The net projection for the school population is 2,610 students. The school will add two more mobiles to handle the additional students.

The school is in the middle of registration for the advanced placement (AP) tests which will be given in May. The number of students taking AP exams has been rising. About 600 kids will take 1,200 tests. Last year 500 students took 1,000 tests.

Leon Lundie has been named the new Assistant Principal. The continued growth of the school means that we are entitled to a third assistant principal.

Four students participated in the Knowledge Bowl. At stake were \$1,000 scholarships for Denver University (DU). The students took second place.

Bruce Jansen commented that we have one of the premier athletic programs in the state, perhaps in the country. The school continues to do well in athletics. Tod McKercher, one of this year's Teachers of the Year, does a wonderful job in athletic training.

2004 – 2005 Calendar: Kurt Wollenweber handed out a tentative calendar for the 2004-2005 school year and asked everyone to review it and comment on its readability. Back to School Night Open House is set for Thursday, September 2nd.

Cherry Creek Drug and Alcohol Forum: Leon Lundie handed out information on the event which will be Thursday, April 29th from 6:30 – 9:00pm at Eaglecrest HS. All district high school students and parents are invited. There will be a keynote speaker and break-out sessions.

Youth/Adult Summit: Robert Ritter (GAIT) commented that the Youth/Adult Summit was a great success and a worthy way to spend a Saturday. About 80 Grandview students attended the event.

Minutes: All reviewed the minutes from the February meeting. Sharon Withrow motioned to approve the minutes. Trina Donovan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Monica Baham

\$4400 has been paid for After-Prom expenses so far. Staff Appreciation and CSAP Testing Support expenses need to be paid. \$5000 for Senior Scholarships will need to be paid. \$8500 will be available for Teacher Grants. The deadline for grant requests is March 26th. Trina Donovan motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report and Berthie Ruoff seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Executive Board Meeting Date Change: PTCO-GECO Executive Board will meet April 6th - 9th depending on Harry Bull's schedule.

After-Prom: The After-Prom Committee will have a Star Cutting Party on April 6th at 7:00pm. Please e-mail Cindy Nelson, if you are able to attend. The stars will have pictures and biographies of Senior students. Rolling Hills Elementary has donated a popcorn machine and cotton candy machine for the event at no charge. The DJ has been hired and there are plenty of volunteers for the event. One of the volunteers works for food service and will be able to open the kitchen for the event. The invitations are at the printers and will be included in the Prom invitations. The PTCO-GECO Executive Board approved \$500 in additional funds for the After-Prom.

Senior Scholarships: Sharon Withrow reported that PTCO-GECO did a better job of advertising the scholarships this year. Forty six applications were picked up, however, only 19 completed applications had been returned so far. Sharon called 8 students who just need a teacher endorsement and gave them until Thursday to turn in the letter of recommendation. Five of those have already come in. Sharon hopes that there will be a total of 27 completed applications.

2004 – 2005 Executive Board Nominations: The Nominating Committee met on March 2nd and has nominated the following:

Co-Presidents: Carlyn Canady and Margo Miller
Co-1st Vice Presidents: Alison House and Effie Maniatis
Co-2nd Vice Presidents: Garry Brewer and Mary Ann Neumann
Co-Secretaries: Berthie Ruoff and Sharon Withrow
Treasurer: Monica Baham
Past President: Trina Donovan

There is still a Co-Treasurer position that needs to be filled. This information will be published in the April Newsletter.

Community Caring: PTCO-GECO approved two \$50 gifts to the Memorial Funds for two students who each lost a parent.

Next General Meeting: April 20th

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Berthie Ruoff and Sharon Withrow