

Grandview High School
PTCO-GECO General Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2004
7:00 p.m.

Present at the meeting: Harry Bull, Kurt Wollenweber, Sharon Withrow, Carlyn Canady, Mary Ann Neumann, Monica Baham, Garry Brewer, Martina Manzone, Berthie Ruoff, Sanny Montgomery, and Gretchen McGoffin.

Carlyn Canady called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. PTCO-GECO met with GAIT for the first part of the meeting. John Walker, GAIT chairperson, was out of town and unable to attend the meeting.

Principal's Report – Principal Harry Bull thanked GECO-PTCO and the hospitality committee for the wonderful staff meals during the parent/teacher conferences. Principal Bull reported that the eastern bloc schools have made a proposal to return to the old final exam schedule which consists of three exams on the first and second days and just two exams on the third day. It was found that the new model was not really conducive to what they were trying to achieve. Also, another change to the CSAP schedule has been proposed which would allow the school to implement a three-day test schedule. Under the new format, the CSAP tests would be administered on March 16, 17, and 18th. It was thought that the two-day schedule made it too difficult for the students to remain focused. This year, sophomores will have nine hours of testing but, in 2006, they will undergo 12 hours of testing when the science test is added. Principal Bull is optimistic that both proposals will be approved by the central office and, once approved, parents will be notified by letter and the Grandview Gazette.

At Falcon Creek Middle School, there will be a presentation given to parents of the changing landscape of colleges and the requirements for acceptance. Colleges will not accept more students; rather it will just become more competitive to enroll. Therefore, it will become harder and harder to get in. It is hoped that the presentation may also be given at Liberty Middle School, but so far there has not been an invitation.

Tomorrow night, November 10th, the boys' soccer team plays for the state championship versus Smoky Hill High School. The girls' volleyball team has also qualified for state and is ranked #1 and is undefeated.

The dates for the school play, "Stage Door", will be November 18, 19, and 20th.

December 1st is the date for the sophomores to take the PLAN test. Case managers will determine if special needs children will take the PLAN or CSAP tests.

It was also noted that the Beezer Homes sign has been moved in line with our marquee so that it is no longer blocking it.

Student Leadership – There was one representative for Student Leadership. She reported that there are several different committees for Student Leadership, including the Winter Dance Committee, the PR Committee, and the Community Service Committee, and they are all busy on various projects. The Community Service Committee plans a different community service project for each month, such as the Senior Prom at Shalom Nursing Center and gingerbread houses for Children's Hospital. The Prom Committee has also begun planning for next spring's prom.

Poinsettia Sales & Raffle – Carlyn Canady announced that the parents may still purchase poinsettia plants for the holidays and that we have \$5.00 raffle tickets available for sale. The prize for the raffle is a 65” high definition television set. Only persons over the age of 18 may buy a raffle ticket but they may put down the name of a person under the age of 18 on the ticket stub. Raffle tickets are also available in Activities and the Main Office. The drawing will be Monday, December 6, 2004.

At this time, GECO-PTCO and GAIT separated for their individual meetings.

Minutes – All reviewed the minutes from the October general meeting. Carlyn Canady asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Garry Brewer motioned to approve the minutes and Mary Ann Neumann seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Monica Baham reported that some raffle proceeds have already come in. We also have some expenses coming in. At this point, we still do not have an October report from the GHS bookkeeping department. We are about \$1000 short in what we believe we should have for our planner income. The bill for the student directories has come in. Monica Baham will check with Sharon Withrow to ensure the accuracy of the bill. Berthie Ruoff made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report and Martina Manzone seconded the motion. The treasurer’s report was approved.

Parent/Teacher Conferences – The parent/teacher conferences went well. GECO-PTCO had several tables, including a directory distribution and After-Prom sign-up table, a poinsettia sales table, a raffle ticket sales table, a Teacher of the Year nomination table, and a Fundraiser table. It was noted that the attendance at the parent/teacher conferences seemed lighter than usual. Principal Harry Bull believes that this may be due to the implementation of PowerSchool. He also mentioned that Eaglecrest has tried spring conferences in the past, but the numbers attending were abysmal. Grandview will always at least do fall parent/teacher conferences. It was also noted that teachers should not discourage the children’s parents from coming to conferences if the child has a good grade in the class. Some incentive to get the parents to attend was suggested, such as extra credit could be offered to the students of parents who come. Also, there could be a pop-up announcement on the PowerSchool website to remind parents that parent/teacher conferences are coming up soon. GECO-PTCO is also concerned that if parents do not come to conferences, then fundraising opportunities will be lost. It was suggested that conferences could be on just one night, but some teachers were very busy both nights, while others were not busy at all. It was difficult to determine why some teachers were extremely busy while other teachers were not. Another suggestion was that parent/teacher conferences could be moved to a time just before fall break. Then some students could use fall break to make up missing homework. Harry Bull believes that students should be given some credit for turning in late homework as a greater incentive for completing it, even if it is only for 50% credit. He would like parents to know as soon as possible if their child is failing, preferably before they receive the quarter grades. Carlyn Canady also noted that there is more email communication from some teachers than ever before. This helps parents to be more aware of what is going on in their child’s classroom so they can be better prepared to ask questions of their child’s teachers at conferences.

Vacancy – Carlyn Canady informed Principal Bull that Margo Miller is resigning from GECO-PTCO and, therefore, there will be a vacancy for the position of co-president.

Raffle – Gretchen McGoffin reported that 351 tickets have already been sold and another 225 tickets are out to parents who are trying to sell them. One hundred of these are at the school in the Main Office or Activities. We have scheduled several dates for selling raffle tickets, such as the school play and other off-site locations. Gretchen mentioned that parents are more likely to volunteer to sell tickets at the school rather than at off-site locations. She is canceling the sales for the off-site locations on the weekend after Thanksgiving as no one wants to work that weekend. Gretchen will email the approximately 380 volunteers to ask them if they would be willing to at least buy one ticket themselves, if they are unable to volunteer for selling tickets at this time. The raffle ticket sales were good at parent/teacher conferences, with approximately 255 tickets sold.

Teacher of the Year – Monica Baham is giving students and parents until tomorrow, November 10th, to turn in the nomination forms. The deadline was originally November 8th. The selection process meeting will be next Monday, November 15th. Monica believes that Margaret Lisecki will be willing to do the teachers' photo albums again.

Poinsettia Sales – It was noted that the wrong prices for the poinsettia plants were put on the forms and in the Grandview Gazette. Parents that have ordered poinsettias at the wrong price will be called. Berthie Ruoff recommended that parents should be given three options: money will be refunded, the parents may reduce their order, or they may send an additional check for the difference. It should be emphasized to the parents that GECO-PTCO is a non-profit organization. Susan Grandchamp and Maggie Turner need to print off new forms with the correct prices to be placed in the teachers' mailboxes.

Staff Appreciation – The committee has about \$3.00 to spend on a holiday gift for each staff member. They are speaking to teachers about what they would prefer to receive. Carlyn Canady will get the names of the volunteers who worked on the staff dinners during parent/teacher conferences in order to thank them in the Grandview Gazette. Approximately \$900 was spent on the meals.

Winter Fundraiser/Auction – A planning meeting has been set for Thursday, November 11th, at Joan Ryan's house. The menu and the theme for the fundraiser have been set. The committee is busy getting donations and selling tickets for the event which will be Saturday, February 5th, 2005.

After-Prom – Parents were already signing up at parent/teacher conferences to volunteer to work at the After-Prom. Carlyn Canady has spoken to Rose Linger and will meet with her soon.

Student Directories – Sharon Withrow reported that there have been problems with the GHS bookkeeping department that provided an incomplete list of names of students who had already prepaid and preordered the directories at registration. Also, it is believed that we have not received from the bookkeeping department all of the money that was paid by

the students at registration. An After Action Report may be given to Principal Bull regarding the bookkeeping discrepancies.

Legislative Network - A volunteer, Terry Bradshaw, went to the last legislative network meeting. There was concern expressed at the meeting over the new cigarette tax and where the money would actually go. The legislature will no longer fund the health program as it will come from the cigarette tax now. Martina Manzone will try to go to the breakfast with the legislators which is coming up in December. Also, the annual school district bus tour is coming up November 16th.

Parents' Council – It was noted at the last parents' council meeting that the past election may cause some changes in the education landscape. Mary Ann Neumann also reported that the Fitness Festival raised \$68,000 for Brenda Holben's Prevention office.

School Tours – It will be mentioned in the next Grandview Gazette that parents may call Gisele Freed if they would like to have a tour of the school.

Web Page – Carlyn Canady would like to see poinsettia sales information and Winter/Fundraiser information on the main page.

Marquee – Mary Ann Neumann reported that a parent mistakenly understood that one anonymous donor had paid for the entire marquee. A correction should be put in the Grandview Gazette dispelling this rumor.

Community Caring – Kurt Wollenweber asked that something be done for four staff members who have been on extended leaves of absence due to illness: John Dunlavy, Keri Melmed, Shellie Chambers, and Todd Vogel. Sharon Withrow will see that GECONPTCO remembers these teachers in some way.

New Business – Mary Ann Neumann nominated Sharon Withrow to fill the vacancy on the executive board for co-president as Margo Miller has stepped down. Sanny Montgomery is willing to fill in as co-secretary.

The next general meeting will be Tuesday, January 10th, 2005. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Withrow