

GPA Meeting  
September 22, 2009, 6:00pm  
Gateway Library

Meeting started at 6:09pm

**Welcome and Introductions**

Ginny opened the meeting by especially welcoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade parents. Attendees: Ginny Gjested, Jackie Quella, Mario Morales, Chris Loughran, Bonnie Kalbrosky, Jude Deckenbach, Sandra Proctor, Pat and Bill Watson, Bella Krupetsky, Helene Doran, Terri Ahuruonye, Martha Fulmer, Daisy Hernandez, Cristine Boldeon, Angela Grimes, Tina McGovern, Cynthia d'Amato, Julie Hagelshaw, Elia Pochron.

**June Minutes:** Moved for approval by Jude Deckenbach; seconded by Sharon Olken

**Principal's Update: Sharon Olken**

Welcome to all old and new parents. Examples of parent involvement include: office help, tutor, auction, pick up snacks for learning center, newsletter.

Carwash: Thanks to all who helped make it happen, especially Ginny. She worked with students and staff. Event raised \$600; Daisy made nachos for students.

Gateway has another strong Freshman class. They are focused and fun and understand why they are here. Also, there is more senior class involvement than in past years.

Enrollment for next year is already started; shadow visits start in next couple weeks. Demand for Gateway continues. (ran out brochures at a recent event, with 500 brochures passed out per Jackie Quella.)

Staff: almost all returned from last year. 1 full time teacher and 1 counselor did not return. New counselor just started this week.

Test scores: We don't teach to test, but scores went up 25 points.

Announcement to teacher about International Night and Swamp Soiree already happening. Goal is to increase teacher enthusiasm and participation.

Student dance not happening yet. Dances are coordinated by Student Council.

Typically there are 2 dances per year; last year only one. School leaves it to the students to plan.

Ginny asked if there would be a Talent Show this year? Last year's event was amazing, but not well attended. Expectation is that more people will attend the next talent show.

Bonnie asked how the state budget cuts affected Gateway? Gateway is in good financial position. 4 million dollars was raised by the Endowment in past years. No plans to cut staff. For this school year there were cuts, but not staff. No textbooks replaced this year. 2 sources (fed stimulus) and city funds helped offset state funds. This next year will be a tough funding cycle. Next year we'll have to see what happens. Thought the school is in a strong position. We have a strong development office and fundraising is even more important. We are financially secure & that makes a big diff.

Daisy would like to thank Mr. Fuller for the excellent computer training.

Thanks to parents (and Ms. Olken's brother) for directory distributed at Back to School Night.

**Logowear Update:** Elia Pochron

New order came in 2 weeks ago.

Sold \$200+ at Back to School night and work weekend. \$1328 freshman pre-order; \$688 at Freshman/Sophomore BBQ. Now have full stock and long sleeved shirts are now in.

**Upcoming events:**

College Night: October 7, 6pm. Open to all families. One meeting will be for 11/12 grades with specific process; other will be introduction to college for 9/10 grades.

International Night: October 15: Bring dish to share. Ginny has a grill. Mexican theme. Everyone is invited to attend. Not a fundraiser. Still need a Chair for it. Needs to be done: get here early to set up, place to sit; send email reminder. Pat and Bill Watson volunteered to do it.

**Other upcoming events:**

Swamp Soiree: November 14<sup>th</sup> at the Gift Center (888 Brannan) from 6-11pm. A 15 piece band, dinner, drinks, dancing included with entry. 21 and over only.

Grandparents' Night (December 12 or 13)

Fall play (A Midsummer's Night Dream): December 3-5 or 4-6. Dates to be finalized soon by drama instructor, Mr. Petrocchi. Entry: \$7 per person; on grandparent night, there is no charge to the grandparent.

Jackie Quella spoke for Iris Smith on Enrollment events. Ms. Smith is looking for parent volunteers for the following open houses: October 5 and 19, November 16, December 2 and January 6. Contact Ms. Smith at school if you can help. (Attached description of what is expected.) Ms. Smith has a specific need for volunteer help at the SFUSD Enrollment Fair, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday October 13

**Gateway Middle School discussion: Suzanne Herko**

Suzanne Herko- Middle school presentation

Trustees and admin agreed to open a middle school

What it should look like: Submit by December for Charter app.

This is the first of 2 evening events; other is Thurs Oct 8 at 6pm

Open not fall of 2010 but following year. Major endeavor

Location: can't deal with it until charter is approved next spring.

Would it be feeder? Would there be automatic to High school? Yes.

Bonnie: what other charters are out there? Creative Arts K-8; Would it be a stand alone?

Or part of the high school. A combination of each. Absolutely need more administration.

Model? 6-12 or 2 schools? There's a growing movement to go the route of 6-12.

How big are we looking at?

Cindy not liking the impact of new kids.

Concern of lack of focus on high school when interest on middle school.

Feeder school; option of continuing.

Number of applications, why you get so many; separate from SFUSD.

Need for high performing middle school for special needs.

What does right? Struggles with teachers; not bad kid only 1 class. Support and responses quick.

**Adjourn: 7:39pm**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Julie Hagelshaw, Secretary