

GPA Meeting January 13, 2009

Attendees: Amy Joseph, President; Ginny Gjedsted, Vice-President; Terri Ahuruonye, Secretary; Sharon Olken, Principal; Jude Deckenbach; Martha Fulmer; Antonella Goldsborough; Gary Goldsborough; Chris Loughran; Tina McGovern; Elia Pochron

Approval of November Minutes. The December 16, 2008 minutes were approved.

Principal's Update- Sharon Olken

There is a different feel at school because finals are after winter break. Project week starts next week (week of January 19). The second semester starts February 2. School is closed on Monday and Tuesday, January 19 and 20. All students who were asked said they planned to watch the President's inauguration on January 20.

State Budget. State budget news is getting more worrisome. A budget cut is predicted for this academic year which will probably be half of what it will be next year. The Gateway Board has an endowment fund of \$4 million to fall back on. Gateway will have hard choices to make next year. This year the textbook budget was cut by half. We are trying not to make changes to the program and the goal is to make the impact on the students as invisible as possible. The state has disbursed 1/3 of the funds this year. Gateway has plenty of cash assets but would show a deficit when we are required to show a balanced budget.

The budget process starts in January for next school year. Usually a rough version goes to the Finance Committee in March. It goes to the full Board in April, and in June the Board approves the final budget.

Clubs. Students run the clubs and the activity depends on the students. Some clubs are more structured than others. Clubs do have staff sponsors. Every Monday club activity is flashed on the screen. Student Council maintains a list of existing clubs. Sharon will see if she can get an updated list of clubs posted on the website.

Logowear/Treasurer Update - Elia Pochron

There is still a lot of inventory and 50 scarves have been purchased. Elia went to the Alumni basketball game but no sales were made. It was suggested that logowear be sold outside of the auditorium at the Project Week gala on January 29. She will also sell at International Night.

Historically there was a Treasurer, but the only thing that generated money was logowear so the Treasurer and logowear roles were merged. The GPA is not a separate non-profit – it falls under Gateway High. Gateway has an operating account and a separate account for clubs. The only class with expenses is the Senior class. Classes do not start fundraising when they get here. Events like the picnic and the root beer social are built into the schools budget. Fundraising is linked to the operating budget. Traditionally, outside fundraising is discouraged in order to take pressure off the parent group.

International Night

Aaron Watson is the teacher representative and he will plan activities in the school. Volunteers are needed, a theme should be developed, and invitations need to be sent out for the pot luck. There is a binder that documents past International Nights and includes a timeline, previous flyers, and budgets. Joanne Wells can get the binder. In the past, International Night has included live bands and music on a boom box; index cards on the tables with explanations of the food.

We need to build excitement about the event by continuously sending out communications, and make sure parents know it's for the whole family. Typically families bring dishes related to their cultural heritage. Each person should bring enough food for 10 people. It was suggested that students could sign up to help setup and clean up for community service hours. This can be coordinated with Joyce McMinn.

KIPP's principal agreed to let Gateway set up early in the cafeteria.

Fundraising- Tina McGovern

The following is a breakdown of the funds that need to be raised:

<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Board	\$130,000	
Parents(Annual Fund)	\$145,000	Includes Auction*
Alumni	\$ 5,000	
Founders' Day	\$310,000	
Individuals	\$160,000	
Luncheon	\$160,000	
Theater Event (New)	\$ 20,000	Letterman Digital Arts Theater – 3D animated film about the environment. Seats 298 people. Possibly at the end of April.
Corporate	\$ 40,000	Separate from Corporate Luncheon
TOTAL	\$970,000	

*Auction netted \$43,441 and checks are still coming in.

In February we will discuss competing fundraising.

Garage Sale/Carwash

Will be discussed at February meeting.

February and March Meetings

The next GPA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2009. The March meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, March 3, 2009.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terri Ahuruonye, Secretary