

GPA meeting January 15, 2008

Present: Gary Goldsborough, Eve Goodman, Elia Pochron, Lloyd Silverstein, Michael Johengen, Martha Fulmer, Suzanne Feyock, Amy Joseph, Sharon Olken, Joanne Wells, Leon Schmidt, Madelyn McMillian, Mabel Chen, Chris Loughran, Jenny Hart.

Agenda

November Minutes

Approved

Principal's Update

Sharon Olken

Guest Member, Leon Schmidt, past GPA President.

Second semester started yesterday after a month hiatus. Report cards are being mailed on a staggering basis. Grades are up on Powerschool, Project week just finished, extraordinary and packed with energy! Sharon was a judge on the Iron Chef panel, and the Video Shorts.

Basketball season has started!

Gateway Parent Mobilization and Communication – Hard to get in touch with all parents for inclusive communication or specific parents for specific needs. Main communication is the CommuniGator, and it's only in English. No poly-lingual phone tree currently.

We want to:

- Ensure equity and inclusiveness
- Response quickly to emergencies
- Continue to build positive and accurate public perception of Gateway in order to attract mission-consistant families to our school
- Publicize Gateway's successes
- Refute public affronts to Gateway's policies

Forcefully demonstrate high levels of parent commitment to Gateway for:

- Charter renewal
- If district tries to move us
- Funding in SF or beyond - current governor's proposal will cut \$350 per student; still some question whether charter students will benefit or not from this proposal, or the parcel tax.

The diversity of commitment by the parents at Gateway helps make this school successful. How can we continue to bring other parents in to find jobs that suit them and their talents? – outline some of the ways to help:

- Reading the CommuniGator carefully,
- Helping communicate in more than one language by revitalizing the multilingual phone tree,
- Helping with enrollment events.
- Helping at public speaking events
- Become a Gateway writer
- Be ready to attend meeting and public hearing as needed
- Helping build our database of personal contacts in the media and in local politics; talk to people you know in the media or local politics about Gateway and encourage them to visit.

Right now the CommuniGator is the main form of communication, so a computer and internet is needed to be in communication with the school.

We need more parent involvement and the right venue for them to be involved. Outreach should extend beyond the SF city borders: our students come from the East Bay, San Mateo County, etc.

Gateway is not a “special ed” school, it is a special school: it is an inclusive school that addresses all learning styles and differences. That message needs to get out. We may not have a football team, but we have Project Week and a boys’ championship soccer team! Think about speaking at middle schools in the city, spreading the word to families at your previous middle school, having older sibs spreading the word, marketing the school through word of mouth.

Auto-dialer at Gateway (Yahoo group or Google group)? Get student or parent reps at SF middle school high school info nights. Auto-dialer can be used for emergencies, reminders, plus it can be used in multiple languages.

Suggestions were made for mandatory parent volunteer hours? Right now there is a self-selection of parents who are already involved at this point, wearing multiple hats. Senior exit letters are a great source of inspiration, maybe publish those letters to inspire more parents to get involved in activities that suit them.

This will be revisited at future meetings. Send Sharon your thoughts via email.

Logowear/Treasurer Update,
Amy Joseph

10th anniversary sweatshirts were made that will be sold this year only: red vs. black with the year Gateway was established 1998, Tag line: "Honoring differences and inspiring achievement" with the Gateway logo on the sweat shirt. Teachers got long sleeve t-shirts as holiday gifts. Sweatshirts will be for sale at various events for \$40, money from previous sweatshirt sales went to paying for the 10th anniversary sweatshirts, leaving \$250 in the budget.

Logowear is our main source of funds for Gateway. In the past logowear has been sold to buy more logowear. We need to think of new ways to fundraise to fund other events at Gateway, i.e. Frosh/soph barbeque, Back to School Night, Grandparents Night, International Night, etc...to have a budget for other events. Up to this point, most events are underwritten by the parents chairing them.

Secretary Update,
Ginny Gjedsted

GPA minutes will be on the Gateway website, a great PR site for Gateway. The website is a public website except Powerschool link, which requires a log-in. We hope to reach more parents through the website and let them know all the wonderful things that are happening and being planned at Gateway!

International Night Potluck
Suzanne Feyock, chair

January 31, 2008 6-8pm at the school. Volunteers are needed for set up and clean-up. A budget is proposed, by the chair. A flyer went out already, an eblast will go out. No entertainment is set up yet, a proposal is floated for student performers. A raffle is proposed.

Graduation Committee business will be tabled until February.

Next meetings
February 12th, 2008.
March 4th
April 15th
May 13th

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginny Gjedsted