

GPA Meeting October 21, 2008

Attendees: Amy Joseph, President; Ginny Gjedsted, Vice-President; Elia Pochron, Treasurer; Terri Ahuruonye, Secretary; Sharon Olken, Principal; Carolina Campos; Helene Dorian; Pearlie Hicks; Gary Goldsborough; Tina McGovern; Jackie Quella; Martha Fulmer; Ricardo Marceles

President's Welcome and Introductions

Amy said the Gateway 10/10 silent and live auction brought out a great mixture of people including alumni, current and former Gateway staff, parents and those with no affiliation to the school. She thanked Ginny Gjedsted and Tracy Pore for organizing a fabulous event. Amy also thanked Tina McGovern and Bani Cheema for their contributions to the event. Amy then read a letter of gratitude from Tracy Pore, who was unable to attend the GPA meeting. The letter indicated that about 400 people attended the 10/10 event and \$34,028 was raised so far. Ginny added that there are still funds being collected and all bills have been paid.

Tina McGovern reported on the annual Meeting of the Minds Luncheon: There were approximately 370 attendees. The featured speaker was David Sheff. The luncheon raised \$128,000, which was low compared to last year, but considering the economy it did well. Generally, around \$150,000 is raised.

Amy said we need to think about whether the timing of the auction and luncheon should be changed next year. Do we want to have one in the fall and one in the spring? We also will have to organize an auction committee soon for next year.

September Minutes Approval. The September minutes were approved.

Principal's Update – Sharon Olken

Sharon thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for all the hard work that went into the auction. It was Gateway's 10th anniversary and the current parents took on the task of celebrating for all. She added that the auction was touching, fun, and well thought out.

Friday is the last day of the 1st quarter. On Monday, October 27, teachers are making sure grades are done. Powerschool will be down over the weekend and be back up on Tuesday. For the benefit of new parents, Sharon explained that quarter grades don't show up on the progress report, so students have another 9 weeks to improve their grades. Teachers will provide written comments for every class. The report card will show the students grade and process of learning (POL), which includes how well the student completes homework, attends class, and works with classmates and individually. Parent - teacher conferences are held after the 1st and 3rd quarters. Parents can choose up to two teachers to meet with in 15 minute blocks. Parents should call Joanne Wells to set up

conferences with teachers. This is a great opportunity to meet with teachers whether your child is getting A's or is struggling. Conference date is Wednesday, November 5 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Now that fundraising events are done the focus is on renewing Gateway's charter. The 1st draft is due next Friday. The plan is to turn it in early and have the charter approved before the new school board is in place in January. There are no major changes to the charter. This is the 3rd time Gateway's charter is being renewed. There are four criteria that must be met and there is not a single factor that should cause any worry. Legally we are in good shape. Sharon would like everyone to reach out to parents to support Gateway at meetings in late November, early December.

In its official capacity Gateway is not allowed to endorse anyone for the School Board. There are 4 board spots and only 2 incumbents are running. On October 30 there is one more candidate forum at the San Francisco Community School in the Excelsior.

Sharon discussed the letters sent home to parents regarding student safety in the neighborhood around the school. She said she did not want to cause general alarm. There have been a series of incidents and the Gateway is talking to high levels of the police department to make sure students are safe. There has been a police presence at the school every day. To keep students safe we have added a 2nd guard in the evenings, so now there is one in the front and one in the back. Students are allowed to wait on the front stairs to be picked up.

When Gateway first moved to Scott there was a security guard all night, but the decision had to be made where to focus resources. The priority is to keep people safe and Gateway will continue to work with the police and community leaders. Sharon added that Gateway's presence needs to be good for the community.

Logowear – Elia Pochron

We are over the \$1,200 mark. About half of the shirts have been sold. People have expressed interest in sweatpants. If we order less than 50 they cost \$21.95 apiece. Order over 50 and they cost \$17.00 each.

Amy Joseph said sweatpants are something new so sales may be different. She suggested getting 5 pairs so we can see the sizing and let people see them. The budget is limited so we need to take it one step at a time. The biggest selling times for logowear happen with incoming freshmen and at the picnic.

Amy thanked Elia for the banner and other decorations at the 10/10 celebration.

Upcoming Events

School Play. The school play is on November 14, 15 and 16 in the evening. The plays being performed are *The Lottery and Chamber Music*. Grandparents/Special Friend night

is either November 15 or 16. Invitations are sent to grandparents or special friends. They have coffee/tea and dessert to celebrate the Gateway community and then they attend the play. The event starts at 7 pm and the play at 8 pm. Actors' families sell food at intermission. Mr. P will let us know what help he needs, such as props, costumes, stage prep, help before play and during intermission.

Open House. Open house is tomorrow night (October 22) for incoming freshman for next year.

Parent/Teacher Conferences. Food donations for teachers will be organized through the Communicator.

Other

School will be closed on Monday, November 10 to observe the Veterans' Day. School is open on Tuesday, November 11.

The question was asked if teachers had wish lists for what they need in their classrooms. Ms. Olken said that generally teachers have wish lists for Project Week.

Respectfully Submitted,
Terri Ahuruonye, Secretary