

GPA Meeting September 9, 2008

1. Welcome and Introductions: Amy Joseph, GPA President

GPA Officers:

President: Amy Joseph
Vice President: Ginny Gjedsted
Secretary: Terri Ahuruonye
Logowear: Elia Pochron
Past President: Tracy Pore

Amy started introductions and welcomed all to the first meeting of the 2008-09 school year. She gave a brief overview of what the GPA does and how it is the core of the Gateway Community; she stressed the importance of being involved in your students' lives, especially at this stage, and ways the GPA makes that happen. It was especially exciting to see so many new faces at the meeting. She stressed we are going to be hitting the ground running with the Gateway 10th Anniversary Celebration October 10th coming up soon, in addition to the many school activities for new and returning families, this fall alone!

2. June Minutes were read and approved by Elia Pochron and seconded by Sharon Olken.

3. Principal's Update: Sharon Olken

Sharon welcomed all and talked about the palpable excitement in the air these first few weeks of school. The students are now settled in their classes, picture day was Monday and Powerschool will be up and running by the end of first quarter, September 19th (where did the time go??). The school is up for re-chartering this year. The last re-charter was 5 years ago and Sharon does not anticipate any problems with the re-chartering process this year. There will be a lot of opportunities for parents to volunteer and share their enthusiasm for Gateway during the re-chartering process. The 10th anniversary for Gateway is coming up and will be celebrated at the 10-10 event on October 10th at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. This fun event with music, live and silent auctions, food and drink, will celebrate who Gateway was, and who it is today, ten years later.

Sharon then presented a slide show of Gateway students and parents from the end of the 2008 school year to the beginning of the 2008-09 school year. It was visual proof of the necessity for parent volunteers, parent involvement and how the school and community could not function without that support. The slides covered graduation from 2008, to parent workday during the summer, to the new freshman class on field trips to Cal and Stanford. Ms Olken also highlighted events at Gateway that are both traditional and new, and how they happen or are created, only because of parent support and involvement. All this was set to a Jack Johnson song and the blend of visual and melody brought a lot of Ohhhs and Ahhhhs and a few tears to the group....

Sharon then answered a few questions:

The bonfires at the beach are NOT Gateway sponsored activities

The API scores did go down a bit from last year, but the scores do not take into account all the different types of students at Gateway, and the fact the Gateway teaches to the student, not the test. She will have a longer discussion on the API scores and what they mean for Gateway in the long and short run in the near future.

Valid PE hours are activities with some type of instruction or supervision; shooting hoops by one's self does not count but working out in the gym with a class does. Also log those PE hours as you go, do not wait until the end of the school year to log the hours and get the sign off from the instructors, do it as you go. It saves wear and tear and stress at the end of the year. You can also log your PE hours over the summer, or in one concentrated activity.

4. Logowear: Elia Pochron

An astounding \$777 was collected for logowear at the frosh/soph picnic! Black is back! The new sweatshirts are black with the red Gator logo. Sweat pants with the logo are being ordered, very cool! We are all out of the red t-shirts, those of you who have them have a collector's item now. Elia also sold another \$130 at the freshman family night last week. A discussion about whether students could design the logo was answered by Sharon stating that the seniors do design their own t-shirts, senior year, and that we want the logo to be consistent and recognizable, year after year, so that someone who sees it says "That's the Gateway High school sweatshirt/pant" It also gives a sense of tradition to the students who wear it.

5. Gateway Celebration, 10-10 Party and Volunteer Needs: Tracy Pore, GPA immediate past president and Tina McGovern, Development Director extraordinaire (Tina had to leave early, before this came up)

Tracy gave an impassioned plea for parent volunteers:

We need an overall volunteer to coordinate parents who have already signed on to help with the event. This would include contacting the parents who have already volunteered by emailing or calling them and setting up or confirming their duties.

We also need a technology/multimedia/powerpoint and slide show person to put together all the photos of Gateway from 10 years ago to now. Sharon and Tina have archive pictures, but we need someone who can step forward and put these photos together for a presentation for the celebration.
We also need someone to do a powerpoint presentation for the Live Auction, but as I write this there may already be a volunteer!

We need help with signage for the silent auction and the tip jar. There are 9 categories that need a sign and 2 tip jars; all the tips go to Gateway.
We would also love help with a banner for the site: "Gateway Step Up. Do Right. Dream Big."

We need set-up volunteers, please contact Tracy at: tpore@sfspace.org
More bartenders are needed and parents stepped up to help with both the roving bartenders and as an assistant to the catering staff, but we need more help here!
We need 3 more bartenders too,

There will be a check-in/out meeting at Gateway on September 15 at 6pm. If you have experience or would like to help, especially as a runner/monitor, please come!! We will have an in-service on how to use the check-in/out software and streamline the whole process. Martha Fulmer and Tina McGovern will chair the meeting. We are thinking about having parent volunteers as monitors to stand at the silent auction tables and hand over the items to the winning bidder when they show their paid receipt. If you can help there please let Tracy Pore or Tina McGovern know.

We need shift captains to help coordinate parent volunteers during set-up from 10am to 4pm. We have 2 captains already who have volunteered, YAY!: Chitty Eisenberg, and Pearlie Hicks.
So to all out there: Step Up! Contact Tracy Pore at: tpore@sfspace.org

6. Back to School Night is September 16:

We will need help with logowear sales, door greeters, refreshments and someone to answer questions at the 10-10 Celebration table. Please let Amy Joseph know if you can help at: amyjoy58@msn.com

7. Sophomore, Junior and Senior Family Night is October 1, 2008.

We need parents, especially of upper classmen to talk to the lower class parents about what to expect in the upcoming year. Volunteers can contact amyjoy@msn.com or solken@gatewayhigh.org. This only takes a few minutes of your time and can be coordinated so you don't miss out on your own class highlights.

8. Volunteer Coordinators Gary and Antonella Goldsborough

They are doing an amazing job, but will need help with the upcoming GPA events which include:

- Enrollment Open House
- Family Meetings and Teacher Appreciation Nights
- International Night
- Graduation Committee
- House Mentors
- School Play Support
- Grandparents Night
- Annual Fund
- Senior Garage Sale
- Gateway Car Wash
- Work Weekends
- School day assistants
- Project Week Parent Liaisons
- Translators

As you can see, there are many opportunities to volunteer at Gateway and it will take more volunteers to help coordinate all the parents with all the jobs that need filling. Gary fills a huge need at Gateway and could use some support. Please consider stepping up to help coordinate our parent volunteers. It usually involves phone calls that can be made in the evening, after work. Help support our wonderful support! Email Gary at: garybg@gmail.com

9. Gateway School Play

November 14, 15 and 16. The word is out about the one-act plays and already freshmen are planning on auditioning. This will be a stellar year for young thespians! The GPA needs to assist Mr P., our esteemed director and acting teacher, with props, costumes, concessions, ticket sales, programs, sets, etc...

We also need to dove-tail one play night with Grandparent's Night. Volunteers, anyone?

10. The Future GPA Meeting Schedule:

Second Tuesday of every month with the exception of October: Mark your calendars!

October 21
November 11
December 9
January 13
February 10
March 10
April 14
May 12
June 9

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginny Gjedsted
Vice-President, GPA