

# GATEWAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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## PTF MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 4, 2008

### Welcome

Rich Boyd opened the meeting at 7:10 pm with the pledge of allegiance, and Doc Beale prayed.

### Minutes Review and Approval

Rich Boyd asked for a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Jami Price and Debbie Sharp motioned and the minutes were accepted.

### PTF Announcements

- **School Uniforms**

Debbie Sharp announced that there have been many smaller-sized uniforms donated, and that they would be left out for two days. Remainders after that time will be donated to charity.

- **Spring Auction Fundraiser (Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>)**

Debbie Sharp announced that the auction is coming along nicely, with several generous donations received; however, the school is still in need, and no donation is too small. Room Mom's will be contacting everyone to coordinate classroom-sponsored themed baskets. Mrs. Sharp sent home letters to parents with ideas, such as airline mile vouchers, window washers, and time shares. We are still looking for table hosts (\$200 per table, seats 8) and ticket sales (\$25 each). A banner will be made to advertise at the intersection of Fairview and Sand Creek Road, and advertising will be placed in the Brentwood Press as well. Flyers can also be placed in vendor's windows.

Help is still needed with decorations. Arrangements are still being made for childcare (last year it was \$10-\$20/child and included pizza and a movie, hosted by a few adults and several teenagers, at the LH campus). The deadline to determine whether a child care option will be available, or whether parents would need to find child care independently, would be made by March 19<sup>th</sup>. A question was raised as to whether non-potty-trained children would be allowed to attend the school-sponsored child care (probably not).

- **Lion Roam-A-Thon Fundraiser (Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>)**

Jamie Harrison announced that the Roam-a-thon is the biggest fundraiser of the year. Children are asked to send 25 letters to family and friends to solicit sponsorship (per lap or in total) for the walk-a-thon around the field at the LH campus. Students will earn rewards for out-of-town donations, most donations, top fundraisers, etc. Lynn Stahli will be doing the mailers again this year. A carnival also surrounds the roam-a-thon, operated by Room Moms. As this event is on a school day, children will bring money for lunch and play carnival games. A disc jockey will play, and it's a good time of fellowship. Donations are still needed for a jump house and a dunk tank, and clean-up volunteers are needed.

## **President's Message**

### **• Team Building**

Rich Boyd shared information from a seminar called Building Healthy Teams. It fits in well with what we're doing at Gateway. We work with teams at work, but we also work in teams here.

A team is not merely a group of individuals – it is an interdependent group of people who agree that the best way to achieve a goal is to work together. Vince Lombardi stated, "Individual commitment to a group effort ...that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

Each of the PTF Board members has talent, as do the parents, and the teachers. Any healthy team can be characterized by these 12 points:

1. Clear sense of purpose – a mission, goals and objectives
2. Informal climate – enjoy being together, incorporate humor, offer help and share in the success of the team
3. Participation – everyone working diligently to achieve a common goal
4. Listening – the most distinguishable trait of a healthy team; taking in what is being said without passing judgment; using eye contact and being sincere
5. Healthy disagreement – team members feel free to express opinions; resolving conflicts builds cohesion  
As Henry Ford stated, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."
6. Consensus – requires unity but not unanimity; it is not a majority decision, but everyone supports the outcome
7. Open Communication – requires trust, which builds over time; team members encourage this by being dependable and cooperative
8. Clear roles and assignments – roles are clarified and all members must fulfill their responsibilities
9. Shared leadership – everyone takes responsibility for meeting the team's needs, because if the team fails, everyone fails  
In the words of a Swahili proverb, "It's amazing how much people get done if they don't worry about who gets the credit."
10. External relations – Resources external to the team can provide feedback and assistance
11. Style diversity – the team members have diverse skills and personalities
12. Self-assessment – good teams assess their strengths and weaknesses every so often

So, what makes working in a team so difficult? The same thing that makes it so effective – the people who make up the team! Ephesians 4:1-6 discusses the Unity of the Spirit, wherein it states, "I implore Euodia and Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord"...we may have different personalities, but we must honor the uniqueness of each other and honor the Lord. He is at hand, He died to make us one. Allow him to permeate our teams. Amen to that!

## **Administrator's Report**

Doc Beale thanked Rich Boyd for his discussion of successful teams, because his experience is that the staff, faculty and Board are all great teams. He quipped, "I am past the age of retirement, but I am having the time of my life."

Doc mentioned that Gateway lost two students this year, but gained four more. We weren't helping those students, so he recommended they go elsewhere, and God blessed us by doing what is right.

Doc Beale re-wrote our Tardy Policy, putting more “teeth into it”, explaining that you can’t just have 10 tardies per quarter. He further stated that he has a hard time giving a detention to a youngster who is late, when it probably isn’t his/her fault. The policy will be enforced once everyone is notified.

Doc expressed his belief that you can get so much work done with a light and happy attitude. He talks with parents, encourages the faculty, and meets with students. He shared that there are now 20 students who would like to lead worship time, and 2-3 bands – from famine to feast! “We want it to be meaningful, so the students pray beforehand, and I am thrilled at what God is doing in these students’ lives.”

Doc recently contacted some other schools to see what kind of discounts were given to families, and found that, on average, Gateway charges \$2,000 more per year (for a family of 4 students) than our competitors. The Board will be looking into improving family discounts.

Doc opened the floor up to questions.

Diego Darquea asked about the status of the ten-plex (the ten modular classrooms behind the LH church). Doc replied that the fees have been paid to the City for water, and they will be working with LDS to get the waterline to the property (LDS recently got their plans approved through the City). To get the water from the street to the church is \$57K and the church is willing to finance that cost and invoice the school. Doc mentioned that it would be beneficial for the school to operate in one location by the beginning of the next school year.

When asked if the school was modifying the schedule, Doc indicated that not everyone can be pleased. Chances are that the year will begin a little earlier, to be consistent with other schools in the area.

Doc pointed out that the decision to close the high school was not a financial one, but rather related to the quality of the education and the need to hire more faculty.

## **Open Floor**

Rich Boyd mentioned that there is need for a chairperson for the Golf Tournament which will be in the Fall, around September 2008.

Jami Price noted that although it is the Parent-Teacher Fellowship, that few teachers attended the meetings. Kathy Boyd offered to do programs that would encourage participation and attendance. For example, a reading night for the children, where a short meeting would be followed by reading to children in pajamas with pillows, broken into age-appropriate groups. Kathy added that the key would be that Christ is at the center, and if the meeting meets a need, then people will come. Other ideas included highlighting the school band, and displaying other strengths of the school.

Matt Costerbader inquired as to whether the reward of casual dress may have drawn parents to meetings in the past, but no one knew the answer to that question. It didn’t seem to make a difference.

Diego Darquea added that he preferred to keep his children at home, in a routine, on a week night, but perhaps one approach might be to make PTF attendance an obligation, with the goal being keeping the parents involved to keep communication open.

Doc Beale agreed to have Peggy Collins send out a preliminary version of the PTF meeting minutes in an “email blast” to parents, so there will be more timely communication, and so parents would recognize the current volunteer needs right away.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm.