

Geneva High School
PTO Minutes
March 8, 2018

The meeting was called to order by PTO president, Candy Bengson at 7:10 pm. The following were in attendance: Chrissy Swanson, Tom Rogers, Deb Dickinson, Candy Bengson, Cindy Anderson, Laura Finley and Kris McPheron.

Presidents' Report:

Candy Bengson said thank you to everyone who has volunteered over the course of this school year. She also extended a thank you to Mr. Rogers and the GHS staff for their proactiveness in dealing with all that occurred in our school community during this school year. She mentioned that there are several PTO committee openings for the 2018-2019 school year – so please think of people that could be tapped to fill them.

Principal's Report:

Mr. Rogers reported that lots of time was spent on planning the drug and alcohol presentation by Tim Ryan. The presentation was very successful, with a full auditorium of approximately 500 attendees. He is hoping to keep the momentum going from the conversation presented. Mr. Ryan was very blunt about what today's youth are partaking in and alerting the community of what to look for and be aware of. Mr. Rogers noted that the deans are keeping the GHS staff aware of all of the new ways that kids are vaping and the latest tools they are using to do so. They also have been informed of what smells to be looking for. The conversation opened people's eyes and got them talking. School social workers and counselors are hearing from families and are getting more engaged and involved. Since this presentation took place, there have been concerns expressed following the school shooting in Florida about what is being done for school security. Mr. Rogers presented an article from NPR that addressed ways in which society can help – it talks about not hardening our schools but rather improving social and emotional health. The best preventative medicine is to improve the school climate. The staff at GHS tries to get to know students and there is a problem-solving committee that meets to track any students that might need assistance. The district is also hiring an additional social worker for next school year, as an added layer of trying to address the social/emotional issues. It is important to get students to speak up if they hear or see anything that does not seem right. Then a threat assessment can be made based on what is reported. Mr. Rogers is not certain if our district would want to go the route of arming staff – that this is not necessarily the answer. The better solution seems to be trying to help those who appear to be struggling.

As a board we discussed the Teacher Wish List requests. After evaluation and discussion, a decision was reached as to the items that would be approved.

Approximately \$5000 worth of items were approved across various departments and benefitting most of the GHS students.

The musical – Into the Woods – is coming up next weekend. On Wednesday 3/14 there is anticipated to be a large participation in the nationwide school walkout at 10AM, in peaceful protest to the school gun violence. It is planned to be a 17-minute event. The administration has been working with our Democracy student group to prepare for a unified and positive walkout, not a divisive event. Some thoughts re reading the 17 names of those who lost their lives in Parkland or 17 seconds of silence. Supplies will be available on the Monday prior for students interested in making posters. The schedule for the school day will be altered for students to feel welcome to participate. 10:00-10:17 will be declared an assembly period. There will be specific parameters in place and the expectations for students will be clearly laid out. Students will have a choice to participate in the walk out or go to the cafeteria instead. The administration has worked with the school law firms in order to get advice on the best way to guide and manage the process. In addition, Geneva police department will have officers present to ensure the safety of all students.

The heart screenings went well with approximately 77% of the student body getting tested. The Larsen family was very pleased with the success of the event.

Secretary's Report:

Kris McPheron presented the minutes from the 1/18/18 PTO meeting for approval. A motion for approval was made by Candy Bengson with approval by Deb Dickinson.

Treasurer's Report:

Chrissy Swanson presented the PTO budget as it currently stands – reflecting budgeted amounts versus actual amounts. Current balance as of 3-8-18 is \$26,283.48.

Deb Dickinson proposed dropping the cost of Senior breakfast tickets to \$5 from the current \$8 in order to hopefully boost attendance. This change was approved.

Committee Reports:

Viking Vendor: The Viking Vendor is busy every full day of school serving GHS with school supplies, drinks and snacks to get them through their busy days! We appreciate all of our volunteers who work in the store each day and share a smiling face with our students and staff. As the school year comes to an end we are closely monitoring our stock and trying to diminish supplies before summer arrives. You may not find your favorite item in stock but be adventurous and try something new!

Thank you to all who purchased a yummy treat from the Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory during our special Winter Wonderland event. The Vendor was able to donate \$100 to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital from the proceeds of the sale.

General Volunteers: We continue to add new volunteers to our list of over 100 parents who help out with events throughout the year. Thanks to all for sharing your time, talents and enthusiasm during one day events to year long activities. This Spring we will be looking for volunteers to help with Post Prom events, GIVE Hours tabulating, Senior Breakfast, Finals Treats, Baking/Buying committee, Senior Awards Night and preparations for Registration in the Autumn! If you are interested in joining us check out our SignUp Genius page for more details.

Social Media: Be sure to follow us especially with Post Prom just around the corner!

Old Business: None

New Business: Motion to remove "students" under General Volunteers committee – handled now by Kristine Toldness.

Add in committee for International Week – chair will be Candy Bengson.

Motion: Deb Dickinson; Seconded by Chrissy Swanson

Next PTO Meeting will be on June 7, 2018 at 7:00pm at Deb Dickinson's house.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM, motion made by Candy Bengson and seconded by Chrissy Swanson.

Respectfully submitted,
Kris McPheron, Secretary 2017-18
FINAL