

**GARFIELD HIGH SCHOOL PTSA
BOARD MEETING
November 13, 2008
GHS Library**

Attending: Kathy Barker, Liz Berggren, Liz Bottman, Tiffany Cielos, Ken Courtney, Nancy Eiselt, Jane Fellner, Corinne Fligner, Jayn Foy, Judith Gille, Ted Howard, Debra Harris-Branham, Gretchen Jacobsen, Sandy Johnston, Barbie Kelly, Kim Kemp, Kathleen Lemly, Barbara Thoreson Linde, Lori Markowitz, SPD Asst. Chief Nick Metz, Melanie Perez, Rebecca Sadinsky, Kristi Skanderup, and Shelly Sundberg and Gretchen Wilkinson.

Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Kristi Skanderup.

Welcome/Introductions (Skanderup)

- The general meeting will be held Monday, November 17. Coaches and students will speak about Garfield's clubs and activities.
- The next board meeting was changed to Thurs., Dec. 11 at 6 p.m., so that we wouldn't be meeting in the last week before winter holidays.
- Next general meeting is February 2 (no January meeting is scheduled).
- We have an opportunity to organize a Garfield visit for Randy Dorn, newly elected Sup. of OSPI; we need a volunteer to make the connections. (No volunteers yet.)

Treasurer's Report (Thoresen Linde)

Barb will email the Treasurer's report in the next few days; the budget is in good shape.

Moved/seconded/approved to accept minutes for October Board Meeting minutes as corrected (Ted Howard's name added to those attending.)

Upcoming events/reports

Annual Fund Report (Eiselt)

- Donations to date total \$41,377, 36% of our total goal, and 72% of prior year to date.
- We have sent out 1400 letters to Garfield families asking for donations.
- We have 350 Family and Friends letters for the first mailing (last year was 400).
- 122 Garfield families and 100 Families and Friends have donated to the Annual Fund.
- About 50% of the elected PTSA board, and 30% of the appointed board have made contributions; all members are encouraged to donate.

Auction Committee Report (Gille)

The Auction is now scheduled for Fri., March 20 at the South Lake Union Armory; the GHS Dance Team will perform. We have an amazing team in charge of planning!

Jan. 20 Science Parent Meeting (Barker)

- Karen Quinn Shea will speak at the next board meeting about plans for the meeting. A question is whether WASL science test should be discussed at the Science Meeting.
- Board members think parents would be interested in a PTSA general meeting about science: Kathy Barker will look into that.

Feb. 2 General Meeting Topic (Skanderup)

- The next general meeting will be held in February; no January meeting is scheduled.

Safety Forum followup (Skanderup and Sadinsky).

Principal Update (Howard)

- At the Veteran's Day Assembly, there was a brief acknowledgement of Quincy Coleman's death. Although a special assembly was not held, an announcement was published in the Garfield Notes and posted on the website. This was a way to acknowledge Quincy's death without glorifying it.
- The day after the shooting, the Superintendent walked Garfield's halls with Ted. The students tell Ted that they feel safer now; police officers are standing at bus stops with students after school now, not just sitting in their cars.
- Some black students want the Black Student Union to recreate SAVE, Students Against Violence Everywhere. This would have to be supported by parents.
- The Counseling Office has asked community therapists to work with students who are identified as gang-affiliated, as shown by attire and attendance. The therapists work as volunteers; there's no money to pay them.
- The School District told Ted not to release the name of the shooting victim. Ted did feel comfortable making a personal phone call to Quincy's house because he has known Quincy and his sister since they were children.
- Ted attended Quincy's funeral. Many Garfield students attended; so did a number of gang members. Many people spoke eloquently about the need to stop fighting each other. Ted had conversations with students there about what they saw as problems with Garfield and what needs to be done. Ted believes the best way for students to deal with Quincy's death is for them to talk with the counselors in small groups, and for Ted to link them up with mentors to keep them out of harm's way.

- Students tell him that they have more freedom than they know what to do with; they're not ready to handle that freedom. The girls feel that they're pressured to dance inappropriately. Ted will work on a new policy about what's appropriate at the dances.
- A Japanese teacher has been approved for hiring. Ted's building update: the priority now is the installation of doors, lighting and wiring. The workers are hooking up the speaker systems in 15 classrooms that still need them.
- Ted wants to hear from parents about what we think is working well at Garfield, and what needs work. For example, are classes challenging enough?

• Counselor Update (Courtney).

- Ken discussed the Counseling Office's response to the shooting of Quincy Coleman on October 31. On the morning of Mon., Nov. 3, Ken posted an announcement on the Counseling Office webpage. He also posted a brief note from the Counseling Office on the Garfield Home Page, stating that the Garfield Community was united in grieving for the loss of a member of the community. A letter from Mr. Howard was distributed to students on Tuesday during fifth period, and a Personal Safety letter was distributed on Thursday.
- On Mon., Nov. 3, a general announcement was made over Garfield's loudspeakers.
- Teachers saw the announcement on the school website and told their students they could go to the Counseling Office if they needed help. Students who needed to be alone were brought into private rooms in the Counseling Office.
- The counselors asked various people from outside the school to meet with students who are involved in the street culture. We're fortunate to have Marcus Hairston and Rosie Moore, the Teen Health Center counselor, working with kids.
- In walking Garfield's hallways this year and meeting with students, he doesn't see a lot of gang activity. Students who come to school regularly aren't affiliated with gangs; they don't have time. The students know gang members and walk by them on the street and buy drugs from them. That's the reality.

□ Board members discussed ideas for improving safety in and around Garfield. It was pointed out that the culture of "non-tattling" among teenagers gets in the way of reporting crime. Also, students who see a crime committed may be afraid of reporting it, because they fear for their safety. Harris-Branham reported that a goal of the Black Parent Association this year is to have parents come to Garfield after school to be present. Rebecca Sadinsky pointed out that the PTSA should get out the word to students not to "frosch" this year, because it feeds into the culture of "not telling" among students.

Ongoing programs (Skanderup and Sadinsky).

- The PTSA Board decided to hold the Safety Forum to address the increase in crimes around the school. The Forum has helped to place the issue on the School District's radar. The next step is to persuade the District to support Garfield, and to persuade the City to increase its police presence in the Garfield neighborhood.
- The Safety Forum increased parents' awareness of crime in the neighborhood, and conveyed the message that we won't tolerate crime.
- The PTSA is working on setting up a "walkabout" at peak times, such as after lunch and after school; parents would walk around outside the school.

□Several Board members said they've notice more bicycle police and police cars in the neighborhood after the Safety Forum.

Safety Forum Followup (Sadinsky)

- Neighbors say they see more parents in the Garfield area. That may be a short-term change. As a long-term goal, we want to tell students how they can protect themselves. Rebecca heard the message at the Safety Forum that these problems are bigger than Garfield.

Safety Forum Followup Discussion

- Fellner: one of the issues is the culture of self-monitoring among kids; the culture of "non-tattling" gets in the way. Also, the students may see something happening, but feel they can't say something about it, because they fear for their safety, and also feel you just don't do that.
- Harris-Branham: One of the goals of the Black Parent Association is to have parents come after school this year to increase presence in the neighborhood.
- Sadinsky: in relation to this, we should get out the word this year to students not to "frosh," because it feeds into the culture of "not telling" among students. At the Safety Forum, we found out how many people in the community are working with kids, so we won't have to start from scratch on this issue.
- Skanderup: it was a very intense meeting. Kristi asked for parents who are interested in brainstorming about what we, as adults, can do around this issue of safety.
- Courtney: looking at Garfield, and in the hallway, and meeting with his 9th-graders, he doesn't see a lot of gang activity. Students who come to school regularly aren't affiliated with gangs; they don't have time. The kids who are involved in gangs aren't in school.

The students know gang members and walk by them on the street and buy drugs from them. That's the reality.

Report by SPD Assistant Chief Nick Metz

- Asst. Chief Metz commands the Patrol Operations II Bureau, which oversees the East, South and Southwest Precincts and Traffic Enforcement. Right now, the Garfield area is the SPD's first priority. Overall, this is a very safe area and a safe school with a great principal and faculty that works closely with the police. However, everyone agrees that the SPD needs to focus the most attention right now on this neighborhood.
- Every week, they have a police meeting to talk about crime. SPD is assigning Officer Bernie Radford to be in Garfield full time until the end of the school year; he knows Garfield students well. Metro Transit police have been on the buses, and police are patrolling around Garfield in marked cars, so Mr. Howard hears that students feel safer.
- SPD is working with the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office because they hear that gang members are trying to make contact with Garfield students. A number of SPD specialized units have been working in the area to create a police presence, to deter those who come to the area to commit crimes. SPD's goal is to get this area stabilized so that Garfield faculty and local residents can get more control.
- Parents can help reduce crime by having lunch at Garfield, tutoring, and walking in the area after school. Call 911 if you see anyone with a gun, or other problems.
- Kids can report to the police anonymously by texting from a cell phone to Crimestoppers if they're afraid of giving their names. SPD can text back and forth with the person who reports; all identifying information is removed so the caller can't be identified by police.

Auction Update (Gille)

- The Auction is officially March 20 (not March 21, when Bubblin' Brown Sugar is set). The location is the Naval Reserve Building on South Lake Union; Rover's and St. Cloud's will cater.
- Most lead positions are filled, but we still need a Procurement Head.
- This year's goal is \$150,000. Judith and Tammy Luthy (co-chairs) are asking people to think about what they want to donate: a stay at a second home, tickets. They will ask the teachers to donate some student art.
- Judith asks board members to tell her if they know anyone who wants to volunteer.

Student Support

Class Parent Reps (Cielos – Senior Class): We have made reservations for the Senior Party! Tickets are underway, and we hope they will be available to buy soon, so that parents can get them as holiday presents for their students.

Cultural Relations (Markowitz)

The retreat was “the best ever.” They will have two more retreats and some school-based workshops. Working with CORE to do some long-term planning.

Post Grant Monitor (Sundberg)

Post has had three successful trips this year: biking on Lopez, backpacking, and rock-climbing near Leavenworth. This weekend will be the three-day Survival trip.

Parent Outreach

School District Rep. (Fellner)

Due to the budget cuts, there may be some major changes to AP. Jane anticipates that this could affect Garfield, because the budget cuts probably will affect the programs that feed into Garfield. She thinks the budget cuts will be very painful.

The Bark (Berggren)

The December deadline is tomorrow.

Garfield Black Students Association (Harris-Branham)

The BSA presented to the staff on their We Got Your Back meeting with students last spring, and it went well. Working on starting a mentoring program.

Membership (Perez)

The PTSA has about 794 members (our goal is 900). She 's not sure how to increase the membership. Jane suggested stocking stuffers.

Family Directory (Johnston)

Sandy needs volunteers to help put together the Family Directory.

Teacher Support

Faculty Appreciation (Lemly, Fligner, Foy)

A Teacher Appreciation lunch was held on October 10th; people contributed delicious food. There will be a faculty appreciation breakfast on Friday, Dec. 12th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

"GHS_PTSA board minutes FINAL corrected_11.22.08"