



“Success Begins Here!”
Gateway Elementary School
GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

PTA Meeting Minutes from August 1st, 2017

Persons in attendance: Vanessa Simmons, Ashley Blackstone, Shelley Boone, Paige Longest, Cristi Dover, Sandy Whitaker, Mrs. Stublely, Ashley Painter, Jamie Whitman, Katie Drennon

Meeting called to order at 10:30am

Principal's Report (Mrs. Stublely)

Mrs. Stublely has started a Gateway Instagram page to information and help keep parents connected with the school. The Instagram page is gateway_elementary_school. It will be promoted on the Facebook page.

There is an effort to work on school branding this year. The school motto will be included as well as other positive phrases on the school walls. Mrs. Simpson will be working on a large mural on the wall.

Gateway will be 1:1 for students to Chrome Books in 2018//2019. Greenville County Schools takes care of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade, but our goal is to have all grades 1:1. We need 120 more to reach our goal, and they cost approximately \$350 each.

The teachers are working hard in Professional Development, especially to learn the best practices to introduce technology into the classroom. Two committees have started: 1.) Personalized Learning Academy (PLA) where they model classrooms and learn to use technology as a tool, not a babysitter and 2.) Digital Learning Core where teachers go to other trainings and come back to teach others at Gateway.

Mrs. Stublely also announced the new faculty members that will be joining Gateway for the 2017/2018 school year.

Raegan Bachour – 5th grade

Blair Hardin – 2nd grade

Kelli Wallen – 1st grade

Kelly Powell – 4K

Katie Drennon – Instructional Coach

Kim Craig – Special Education Paraprofessional

President/Vice President (Ashley and Cristi)

Ashley and Cristi announced a new fundraiser for the 2017/2018 school year. Gateway Elementary will be the first school in the Upstate to do the Book Pro Game Show. This fundraiser has a strong emphasis on reading and literacy. The theme for 2017 will be “Castle Quest.” The fundraiser is easy to incorporate into the classroom as it includes elements that are already happening in the classroom but providing a fun, new twist. The students will ask for money to achieve their reading goals. Book Pro Game Show will last ten days with a kick-off pep rally, team huddles throughout and a celebration trivia game show at the end for each grade level. This fundraiser will take place October 25th – November 3rd and will be followed by the Grandparent/Special Friends lunch and book fair the next week.

It was announced that everyone has to go through the volunteer I and volunteer II process again this year. Those



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that have the paperwork completed prior to school beginning will be able to check-in through the office on the first day of school. Everyone else will have to wait to be escorted to their child's classroom and back out. The doors will open at 7:15am on August 22nd. Long lines are to be expected. At this time, Greenville County Schools does not have the new volunteer forms on their website.

Two new copy machines have been purchased by the PTA. One is in the workroom and the other is in the mail room for the teachers to use. This is a wonderful and much needed purchase for Gateway.

A “Celebration Rock” has been placed outside the school. The rock is able to be painted and will be rented on a first come, first serve basis. The idea is that parents/guardians can rent the rock and paint it to for celebrations (i.e. birthdays, passing tests, etc.). It is \$20 to rent the rock. You can sign up on Sign Up Genius and pay through Paypal. Those renting the rock will be able to come paint it from 3pm-8pm and the rock will be covered with their chosen paint until 3pm the next day (or until the rock is rented again). If there is inclement weather, the date can be changed or a refund will be given. All funds from the Celebration Rock will go towards the purchases of Chrome Books.

Committees

President/Vice President (Ashley)

Ashley and Cristi announced that Back to School night is Thursday, August 17th. Membership will have a table, as well as a table to sell shirts and Gators. Rulers will be the free gift for students that night.

The PTA will be provided a Back to School breakfast for the teachers on Wednesday, August 16th. Chick-fil-A will donate a portion of the breakfast. Remotes for the promethean boards will be given to all of the teachers as a gift from the PTA.

Treasurer's Report (Justin)

Justin was not in attendance.

Membership (Paige)

A table will be set-up at Back to School night, and Ashley has updated the membership form and sent it to Mrs. Bunch to be included in the back to school folders that will go home with the students. Membership will kick-off at the beginning of the school year.

Birthday Book Club (Shelley)

Nothing new to report.

Fundraising/Small Sales (Cristi)

Nothing new to report.

Student Recognition (Ashley)

Nothing new to report



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Volunteer/Classroom Help Coordinators (Sandy and Ashley)

Nothing new to report.

Box Tops (Cristi)

Cristi has made a new Box Tops form that will be given to the students at the beginning of the school year. An additional drive may happen in the spring.

Grandparent's/Special Friend's Luncheon (Elizabeth and April)

Nothing new to report

Teacher Appreciation Week (Vanessa)

Vanessa discussed some feedback from Teacher Appreciation Week in May, such as food was not needed every day of the week and the teachers enjoyed having a duty free lunch, the appreciation wall and King of Pops. An idea given was to spread out the appreciation throughout the year and have a couple of smaller lunches at different times.

New Business

Ashley stated the volunteer form needed to be updated and work would begin on that immediately.

The Board Members for 2017-2018 are as follows:

Ashley Blackstone: Co-President/Student Recognition

Cristi Dover: Co-President/Small Sales/Fundraising/Box Tops for Education

Vanessa Simmons: Vice President/Teacher Appreciation Week

Justin Forrester: Treasurer

Paige Longest: Secretary/Membership

Shelley Boone: Birthday Book Club

April Allen: Grandparent's Lunch/Special Friend's Luncheon

Elizabeth Wingard: Grandparent's Lunch/Special Friend's Luncheon

Sandy Whitaker: Volunteer/Classroom Help Coordinators

Ashley Painter: Volunteer/Classroom Help Coordinators

Jamie Whitman: General Assistance

The next PTA meeting will be Tuesday, September 19th at 1:15pm.

The meeting adjourned at 12:38pm.