

GRE Advisory Team Minutes September 10, 2012

Attendance: Richard Schaefer, Chairperson, Will Morton, Principal
2 Parents and 1 Staff Member (see Attendance List)

Principal's Report:

TCAP Results – School-wide TCAP results from 2011-2012 were presented and discussed in detail. Current year scores were compared to prior year scores in assessments of status, growth, and gaps and to view trends. For the most part, GRE student scores compare favorably versus the District and the State. Some of the growth trends were very impressive. An action plan will be established as part of the Unified Improvement Plan to improve science test scores by changing instruction and review processes.

Snack Policy – In an effort to help parents select and pack daytime snacks for their children, Coach Gary Anderson is developing a school-wide healthy snack policy that will include suggestions for appropriate snacks (and identify inappropriate snacks).

Discussion Topics:

Coffee Talk – It was agreed that we would continue to offer three meetings with the principal this school year. Dates will be established before the next meeting. These are informal meetings redesigned to foster interaction with GRE parents. Parents may initiate discussion with the principal on any school related concern or topic.

Great News at GRE – This year, GRE started highlighting student and staff success stories in the monthly GRE newsletter. The September newsletter showcased two students as examples and with some publicity it is anticipated that there will be plenty of submittals from which to choose. Principal Morton agreed to include a solicitation in his weekly voice mail updates.

Staff Changes – This year's staffing changes are:

1st Grade – three classes this year with Shannon Arnold, Tammy Frainier, and Sara Clark.

6th Grade SLIC – Regina Gartner retired this year. This class is being taught by substitute staff until a replacement can be hired.

Art/Music – Kate Wheeler and Erica Brinkman are the new art and music teachers.

4th/6th Grade – Michael Varney (4th Grade) will join with Karen Anderson (6th Grade) and Kristen Vanosdoll (6th Grade) to teach their three classes on a rotation schedule. Mrs. Anderson will teach reading/word study, Mrs. Vanosdoll will teach writing/social studies, and Mr. Varney will teach math/science.

Paraprofessional – Donna Dannen and John Gaborek will replace Juley Allee and Emily Holley.

Raccoon Run – The event will be held on October 5th. Monies raised will be used to purchase technology equipment for the school with 20% of the funds raised (up to \$2,000) allocated to Coach Anderson to purchase gear for his PE classes.

Halloween – GRE will hold the parade and class parties starting at 8:00 a.m. It is hoped that having students wear and show off their costumes early in the day will reduce the anticipation and excitement that causes disruption during the school day.

Watch D.O.G.S. – A kickoff event was held on September 6th. Ed Paul is our new Top Dog.

GRE Advisory Team Minutes September 10, 2012

Open Forum:

Staff Background – it was suggested that the background/interests of the staff be highlighted in the monthly GRE newsletter so that everyone can get to know the staff better.

Accelerated Reader – the PTA purchased the entire AR program for the current year. This increases the number of books with AR points from several thousand to tens of thousands.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Attendance List

Richard Schaeff	Chairperson
Will Morton	Principal
Kathy Pyrc	Staff
Evvv Purdy	Parent
Kate Strauss	Parent

GRE Advisory Team Minutes October 8, 2012

Attendance: Richard Schaef, Chairperson, Will Morton, Principal
3 Parents and 1 Staff Member (see Attendance List)

Principal's Report:

GRE on Goolge – Principal Morton showed that the GRE web address name on Google had been compromised. The District office is aware the issue, has deactivated the link, and the inappropriate content has been removed.

Parent Survey – In preparation for the current Welcoming Environment Survey that will be offered in conjunction with the Parent-Teacher conferences, last year's survey questions were reviewed. No changes were recommended. Laptop computers will be provided outside each classroom to encourage parents waiting for their conference time to take the survey. Principal Morton will also issue an email to inform parents of the survey's availability online.

Staff Update – Candace Ballantyne, Teacher Librarian, will miss more time due to a head injury sustained right before school started. Theresa Martinez, Cafeteria Manager, is recovering from a leg injury and will miss several more weeks.

School Performance Framework (SPF) – The data used to makeup GRE's SPF was reviewed in detail. GRE continues to receive the "Performance Accredited" rating – the top rating available.

Discussion Topics:

Coffee Talk – Dates for this year's Coffee Talk with the Principal have been set as: Wednesday, November 14, 2012; Wednesday, December 12, 2012; and Wednesday, April 17, 2013. Meetings will be held in the Teacher's Lounge starting at 8:00 am. These are informal meetings to foster interaction with GRE parents. Parents may initiate discussion with the principal on any school related concern or topic.

Grants – Several teachers secured grants for the school to use this year including: a Financial Literacy Grant awarded to Kathy Pyrc; a Lexia Reading Program Grant awarded to Sara Gill and Molly Bachrodt; and a Literacy Grant awarded to Shannon Arnold.

Open Forum:

Accelerated Reader – the meeting members recognized that Alex Ryckman needs to be thanked for all of her hard work in updating GRE's AR Reading Program.

Attendance List

Richard Schaef	Chairperson
Will Morton	Principal
Kathy Pyrc	Staff
Evvy Purdy	Parent
Tim Ryckman	Parent
Kate Strauss	Parent

GRE Advisory Team Minutes November 12, 2012

Attendance: Richard Schaef, Chairperson, Will Morton, Principal
3 Parents and 1 Staff Member (see Attendance List)

Principal's Report:

GRE Parent Welcoming Environment Survey – Results from the survey completed last month were presented and compared to last year's results. 128 people responded to the survey (154 people responded last year). Results were very positive and showed a measured improvement from the prior year in that many more people rated items as “Strongly Agree” versus “Agree”, “Disagree”, or “Strongly Disagree” across nearly every question.

Unified Improvement Plan (UIP) – Data from the UIP were reviewed and goals were identified for the current school year to address Academic and Achievement Growth and Growth Gaps identified from the School Performance Framework (SPF).

Wellness – As part of the UIP, a wellness goal was identified. GRE has begun a vehicle idling reduction campaign in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency's Idle Free Schools program. Data on vehicles idling during after school pickup were collected by 5th Graders earlier this year. The campaign will now shift to issuing information to parents and requesting their participation in reducing the air pollution around the school during the after school pickup time.

Attendance List

Richard Schaef	Chairperson
Will Morton	Principal
Kathy Pyrc	Staff
Jamie Cook	Parent
Tim Ryckman	Parent
Kate Strauss	Parent

GRE Advisory Team Minutes January 14, 2013

Attendance: Richard Schaef, Chairperson, Will Morton, Principal
4 Parents and 0 Staff Member (see Attendance List)

Principal's Report:

Governor's Award – GRE was awarded the Governor's Distinguished Improvement Award for a second straight year. This award is based on academic growth demonstrated in the latest TCAP testing. In celebration of the award, the Advisory Team provided doughnuts and muffins to the staff on December 13, 2012.

Staff Returns – Both Candace Ballantyne and Theresa Martinez have returned to full time work from their extended medical leave.

Parent University – On January 23, 2013, the BrainWise smart choices program that GRE has implemented will be presented. Dr. Patricia Gorman Barry, the founder of the program, will be in attendance to discuss the details of this problem solving approach.

Choice Enrollment – The choice enrollment period has opened and GRE is accepting applications for enrollment.

Child ID – The child identification card processing event was very well received and a second day will be scheduled to help those who would like to obtain a card for their children.

Spelling Bee – GRE's Spelling Bee for 4th, 5th and 6th Graders will be held on 1/18/2013 – two winners will be selected to go to the Columbine Area Spelling Bee competition which will be held on 1/31/2013 at Normandy Elementary School where one winner will be selected to go to the State competition.

Columbine Area Band Festival – will be held at Columbine High School on January 28, 2013.

School Days – The previously scheduled furlough days have been cancelled. The school will be open and students will now attend school on April 10, 2013 and May 3 2013.

School Safety – GRE and Jeffco are reviewing current school safety and emergency response training provided to the staff. Some changes have already been made to better protect the students and staff, and other measures will be implemented as they are made available.

Attendance List

Richard Schaef	Chairperson
Will Morton	Principal
Jamie Cook	Parent
Evvy Purdy	Parent
Tim Ryckman	Parent
Kate Strauss	Parent

GRE Advisory Team Minutes February 11, 2013

Attendance: Richard Schaef, Chairperson, Will Morton, Principal
3 Parents and 1 Staff Member (see Attendance List)

Principal's Report:

School Marquee – GRE will have a new sign installed in the landscape in front of the school on February 12, 2012. The sign is a gift from the PTA.

Front Entry Security Door – Jeffco has released the dates for elementary/middle school installation of secure front entrance systems. The system will include a camera and a buzz-in/intercom. GRE is scheduled for a November/December 2013 installation. Staff will still be able to use the key fobs issued earlier, but all others will need to “buzz-in” in order to gain admittance to the building. Procedures have not yet been finalized.

Staffing Update – GRE plans to hire a few staff positions for next school year in anticipation of creating a third Kindergarten and 5th Grade classes. GRE will also be looking to make permanent, two positions that are currently identified as “temporary”. Other staffing changes are expected from realigning 2nd Grade with three classes and 3rd Grade will two classes next year.

6th Grade Continuation – Continuation was moved from the evening of May 28 to the morning of May 29, 2013 to allow the event to be more of a school function. It is planned that students from 4th and 5th grades will be invited to attend the ceremony. Younger siblings of 6th grade students will be excused from class for the event, as well. A small reception is planned for afterwards.

Open Forum:

Common Core State Standards – Kathy Pyrc presented the new state standards which will be adopted for K-12 education next year. Colorado will be moving toward use of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) designed standards and testing. Instead of presenting small bits of several ideas during a year and adding to that knowledge base each progressive year, students will be expected to develop expertise in certain key elements at predetermined grade levels each year. To assess student knowledge and skills, benchmark testing for grades 3 and above will take place during the school year – the results will be used to consider where additional instruction is needed. Year-end assessments (replacing the current CSAP/TCAP tests) will take place in May each year. The computerized test will be very different from the “fill-in-the-oval” CSAP test. It will be interactive with several correct answers possible. Some sample mathematics test questions were presented. [Additional discussion and sample questions from language arts will be presented at the next Advisory Meeting.]

Attendance List

Richard Schaef	Chairperson
Will Morton	Principal
Kathy Pyrc	Staff
Evvy Purdy	Parent
Tim Ryckman	Parent
Kate Strauss	Parent

GRE Advisory Team Minutes March 11, 2013

Attendance: Richard Schaef, Chairperson, Will Morton, Principal
3 Parents and 1 Staff Member (see Attendance List)

Principal's Report:

Cancelled Furlough Days – The previously scheduled furlough days for April and May have been cancelled. School will be open and students will attend on April 10 and May 3, 2013.

Idle Free School – GRE is nearing the second data collection phase of the campaign to reduce auto emissions around the school during the after school pickup time. 5th Graders will be used to collect the data. It was suggested that a short article on the subject be included in the next newsletter to remind everyone of the program.

Open Forum:

Common Core State Standards – Kathy Pyrc presented the English language arts/literacy portion of the new state standards which will be adopted for K-12 education next year (an overview of the standards, the new testing program, and the mathematics portion were presented at the previous month's meeting). Common core standards for reading and writing and Parent Roadmap documents detailing grade level learning expectations were examined. Sample language arts questions, including multiple choice questions and narrative writing prompts, were reviewed. It was suggested that the Parent Roadmaps be posted to the GRE website and parents be directed to them for their own consideration. Discussion of GRE's need for educational resource materials to teach to the new core standards and technology implications followed.

Attendance List

Richard Schaef	Chairperson
Will Morton	Principal
Kathy Pyrc	Staff
Evvy Purdy	Parent
Tim Ryckman	Parent
Kate Strauss	Parent

GRE Advisory Team Minutes April 8, 2013

Attendance: Richard Schaefer, Chairperson, Will Morton, Principal
2 Parents and 1 Staff Member (see Attendance List)

Principal's Report:

Cancelled Furlough Day – The previously scheduled furlough day for May has been cancelled. School will be open and students will attend on May 3, 2013.

Coffee Talk – The Advisory Team will host the final “Coffee Talk with the Principal” for this year on Wednesday, April 17, 2012. The Coffee Talk is an informal meeting with no set agenda to foster the exchange of ideas and open discussion.

6th Grade Continuation – will be held on May 28th at 5:00 pm. Consensus of the previously announced change in the date and time indicated the change was not workable, so the date and time have been reset to the original schedule.

A Day Without Hate – April 26th. Student activities will be scheduled for the day. For 2013, Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper has proclaimed this to be a state-wide event.

2013 – 2014 Calendar – The “preliminary” school calendar was presented:

08/16/2013 – Teacher Meet and Greet/Drop off supplies

08/19/2013 – First Day of Classes

11/25 – 11/29/2013 – Thanksgiving Break (one full week)

12/24 – 01/08/2014 – Winter Break

01/13 – 01/17/2014 – 6th Grade Outdoor Lab

02/14 – 02/17/2014 – Long Weekend – No School

03/24 – 03/31/2014 – Spring Break

09/27, 10/23, 11/20, 12/04/2013 – Early Release Days [12:10]

01/29, 02/26, 03/21, 04/23, 05/14/2014 – Early Release Days [12:10]

05/28/2014 – Last Day of School [Early Dismissal 12:40]

Staffing – Changes to the staff for next year were discussed:

Sharon Williams will not be returning in 2013-2014 so a ½ Day Kindergarten teacher will be hired as well as a second Full-Day Kindergarten teacher.

Shelley Walton will move to the 2nd Grade to fill the third 2nd Grade class.

A second 3rd Grade teacher will be hired.

Eileen Bauer will retire at the end of the current year.

Cathy Price will move to the 5th Grade and a third fifth grade teacher will be hired.

Sally Clodé will replace Kathy Shannon as the 5th/6th Grade SLIC Teacher.

JEM – GRE will be piloting the Jefferson County Early Mathematics Assessment (JEM) program. The goal of this program is to develop an assessment which will determine performance scores for Kindergarten through 2nd Grade. It is hoped that these scores can be used to measure growth for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grade students.

GRE Advisory Team Minutes April 8, 2013

Make Your Voice Heard Survey – GRE decided to issue this biennial Jeffco student survey during the current “in-between” year and to assess student responses. Due to scheduling issues, only about one half of the students were able to take the survey. Results were presented in detail. Responses to questions which were sorted into three main categories (Relationships, Climate, Rigor/Relevance) were reviewed and discussed.

New Business:

Governor’s Distinguished Improvement Award – Principal Will Morton and Accountability Chairperson Richard Schaef attended the Jeffco District Board of Education Meeting on April 4, 2013 where GRE formally received the Governor’s Distinguished Improvement Award from Board Member Dr. Paula Noonan. The school received a certificate and a banner, which will be placed inside the school at a later date.

Accountability Chair Selection

Tim Ryckman has agreed to be the Accountability Chairperson for the 2013-14 school year. Tim has been a member of the Accountability Committee for 3 years.

Attendance List

Richard Schaef	Chairperson
Will Morton	Principal
Kathy Pyrc	Staff
Tim Ryckman	Parent
Kate Strauss	Parent

GRE Advisory Team Minutes May 13, 2013

Attendance: Richard Schaeff, Chairperson, Will Morton, Principal
1 Parent and 0 Staff Member (see Attendance List)

Principal's Report:

2013 – 2014 School Fees – A tentative fee schedule based on curriculum and program materials for next school year (a \$10 Technology Fee is included for all grades):

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Fees</u>	
K	\$36.00	
1 st Grade	\$40.00	
2 nd Grade	\$57.00	
3 rd Grade	\$52.00	
4 th Grade	\$47.75	
5 th Grade	\$42.75	
6 th Grade	\$37.25	[plus \$350 for Outdoor Lab]

Staffing – Carrie Rich has been hired to fill the 3rd Grade position. The Kindergarten and 5th Grade positions have yet to be filled.

New Business:

inBloom – Jeffco will initiate the inBloom education data portal district wide starting next year. The program allows teachers to access student data and research educational resources in a single site, thereby, making personalized education easier. The program was designed and is maintained by inBloom, Inc., a nonprofit organization. At a recent Strategic Planning Advisory Council meeting, Superintendent Dr. Cindy Stevenson assured the attendees that the program is in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and that student data will be protected and not be accessible to outside companies for exploitation.

Attendance List

Richard Schaeff	Chairperson
Will Morton	Principal
Kate Strauss	Parent