

**GREATER GRIFFITH PARK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
(GGPNC)
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2004-2005**

This draft was developed in February for review, discussion, and action at the Education Committee meeting February 26, 2004, 4 pm at Franklin Ave. Elementary School. Mary Rodriguez-Chair, and Richard Spicer, Committee Member prepared the draft.

Mission Statement

1. Engage the community that surrounds each of our public and private schools and the administration, staff, parents, and students to identify and help resolve issues that affect our neighborhood.
2. Gain a better understanding of how our schools operate, what their needs are, and how we can help them to achieve their goals of excellence.

Mission Benchmarks for 18 to 24 Months

1. Hold meetings every other month.
2. Hold meetings at each of the seven public & private schools in the GGPNC area that have classes for students in kindergarten through 12th grades.
3. Engage and outreach to principals, administrators, counselors, teachers, students, and parents in the development of the agendas and conduct of the meetings.
4. Identify and attempt to resolve issues at each school that involves the interaction of the schools with the GGPNC community, adjoining neighborhood council areas, the City of Los Angeles i.e. safety matters, traffic, lighting etc., and the LAUSD.
5. Foster communication and mutually supportive activities between the GGPNC board/committees, the schools, the City of Los Angeles, and LAUSD.
6. Work with the GGPNC Board and it's committees to implement board policies, and budget priorities, such as the GGPNC Budget Priority Number 2, Better utilization of school facilities and improved city services in the immediate vicinity of each school (2004-2005).

(Budget Priority No. 2 is: We support dual use of school grounds for recreation during non-school hours for community members and after school activities for students. School facilities and programs will need to be staffed with the appropriate security and supervisory needs. We request that city funds be allocated to support special zones around each school for: street and sidewalk repair, beautification and graffiti clean up, lighting, code enforcement, and other services that will improve the quality of life for students and neighbors. The neighborhood schools we think would benefit from this program are: Thomas Starr King Middle School, John Marshall High School, and the elementary schools, Franklin Ave. and Los Feliz. We support prioritizing city services resources in these school zones. This combined initiative of dual use support and special safety and beautification zones addresses our concern and desires for better street and sidewalk repair, additional beautifying projects, and the lack of specific recreation areas within the boundaries of GGPNC outside of Griffith Park.)

Key Results Areas

1. Engagement and Outreach

Objective: Engage and outreach to principals, administrators, counselors, teachers, students, and parents and each of the public and private schools that have classes for kindergarten through 12th grades in the GGPNC area.

Strategies

Meet with the principal of each school to explain the GGPNC, invite principal to give his perspective at each meeting, make suggestions for the meetings and role of the committee, and identify issues and possible solutions. (Public: John Marshall High School, Thomas Starr King Middle School, Franklin Ave. Elementary School, Los Feliz Elementary School. Private: Lycee International de Los Angeles (LILA), Mother of Good Counsel, and St. Casimir.)

Hold a meeting at each school site over two years (August 2003 through October 2005), experimenting with evening and afternoon dates and times to accommodate the participants at each school.

Send out print announcements and agendas to mail boxes at meeting school site to principal, staff, teachers, students, and parents (subject to budget constraints), accompanied with meetings with some student groups/classes.

Develop lists of interested participants with school addresses, home addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses, which can be used to announce meetings, engage participants, and identify school/community accomplishments and issues/solutions.

Have minutes of each meeting available at subsequent meetings, provided to the GGPNC board, and put on the GGPNC web site.

2. Communications and Mutual Support Among Stakeholders

Objective: Identify effective ways for the schools and the GGPNC community to provide information of mutual interest.

Strategies

Provide an agenda item at each meeting for the principal of the host school or the other schools to provide perspective on their schools, followed by discussion.

Provide accomplishments of the schools in the Committee minutes, on the GGPNC web site, and highlight at GGPNC monthly board meetings.

Organize schools participation in the Los Angeles River Clean Up on May 1, 2004.

The schools post GGPNC events and the GGPNC post school events in print and on web sites.

Provide key speaker at some meetings with question and answer period (i.e. David Tokofsky, LAUSD Board member (trustee) at the GGPNC Education meeting on October 2003 at Thomas Starr King Middle School).

3. Identify Issues and Help Resolve Them

Objective: Identify one to two issues at each school and work with stakeholders to help resolve those issues.

Strategies

Bring together the resources at meetings that have the information and authority to clarify issues and resolve them.

(For example; at John Marshall High School, one of the on-going issues for the school and the community is the continued risk of additional assaults in the area of the Hyperion Bridge. At the August meeting of the Education Committee at JMHS, this issue was on the agenda. Current status, next actions, personal experiences, and suggestions were presented and discussed by school and city police, students, committee members, and community leaders who have been trying to resolve this issue, including the principal, councilmen, assemblymember, LAUSD Board staff, and GGPNC Chair of the Committee.)

(Another example; Thomas Starr King Middle School, the issue of campus vandalism was discussed at the August 2003 meeting and the huge amount of money lost in repairing classrooms and replacing windows, furniture, computers, etc. At the October 2003 meeting a check was presented to the principal from a new local business owner to install surveillance cameras throughout the campus to help deter future vandalism.)

4. Work with GGPNC Board and Its Other Committees

Objective: Identify three to four ways to work effectively with the Board and other committees.

Strategies

Develop and adopt a committee strategic plan and present it to the GGPNC Executive Committee and Board.

Work with the Parks, River, and Open Space (PROS) Committee on the Los Angeles River Clean Up on May 1, 2004 engaging students, their parents, and school staff with a campaign promoting the event and the environment.

Work with the Board and its other committees such as the Community Improvement Committee on the Board's Number 2 City Budget Priority, better utilization of school facilities and improved city services in the immediate school vicinity, with emphasis placed on the Board Budget Day and follow up at the high school, middle school, and two elementary schools.