



MINUTES for the Meeting of the Gateway Public Schools Board of Trustees

Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 5:00 -7:00 PM

Remote on Zoom

Board Members Present: Therese Arsenault, Cynthia Billops, Sapna Boze, Sara Byrne, Dan Carr, Elizabeth Colen, Katie Colley, Mark Felton, Sharon Gillenwater, Susan Masto, Harper Matheson, Sharon Olken, Molly Orner, Mary Plant-Thomas, Kevin Rafter, Laura Spivy, Dina To, Valerie Toler

Board Members Excused: Board Members Not Present: Allison Bhusri

Also present: Danielle Ciccarelli, Chris Hero, Chanda Lockhart, Aaron Watson

THEME: *Marathon*

Welcome and Announcements

Kevin Rafter called the meeting to order at 5:03pm. He began with a land acknowledgement, honoring the original inhabitants of this land, the Ramaytush Ohlone, including past, present and future generations. He asked that we commit to being better stewards of the land and work to undo the harmful legacies of settler colonialism.

Kevin welcomed back Elizabeth Colen, who has been out on maternity leave, and her daughter, Evelyn. The board wished Cynthia Billops and Chris Hero happy birthday.

Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2022

Kevin asked for a motion to approve the minutes from November 17, 2022. Mark Felton motioned to approve the minutes and Valerie Toler seconded the motion. The minutes were approved without issue.

Public Forum

Kevin opened the floor for the public forum. No further discussions or motions were introduced.

Mission Moment

Kevin introduced the mission moment. Sharon Olken presented a student opportunities slideshow, compiled by Jenna Marx, Gateway College Counselor and Student Opportunities Coordinator. The slideshow is updated and shown weekly during advisory to keep students informed of opportunities with Gateway partners. Trustees noted the great range of opportunities for students, including coding, financial literacy, etiquette. Many of the wonderful organizations offering the opportunities have been connected to Gateway for a long time. Sharon gave kudos to Jenna Marx for putting the presentation together.

ED Report

Sharon Gillenwater gave the floor to Sharon Olken for the ED report. Sharon started with a COVID update.

Aaron Watson spoke of all the things Gateway is doing to react to the Omicron surge and to keep students and staff safe and healthy. The effort is a full time job for some staff members. Our health coordinator, Lisa Geronimo, is working with our office managers to do contact tracing; we have hired backup office help so we can keep up with the surge. We are providing testing for staff every week. The CA Department of Public Health is providing a test kit for each student. In terms of covid numbers, we are doing fairly well; we have had cases among students and staff but we can generally trace the transmission to a contact outside of school. We are doing well at preventing in-school transmission. We have sometimes seen attendance at 75%. Some student absences are due to covid and some are due to families not feeling



comfortable sending their kids to school. Aaron asked teachers and staff to share what they are experiencing. Therese Arsenault said that the middle school is fortunate to have two in-house subs and other staff members who can cover classes. Students go with the flow and get work done because teachers leave lesson plans and students know the substitutes well. Students are taking the need to wear a mask seriously. Staff have effectively communicated the importance of wearing masks.

Elizabeth Colen said that the middle school has personalized learning built into the schedule. They have a block of time every day when students can catch up on work and meet with teachers. Teachers also use that time to reintegrate students back into class after they have been out for a period of time. Aaron mentioned that an upcoming challenge will be welcoming back students who have been out for multiple weeks.

Molly spoke about the Flex blocks at the high school. It is a built in time when students can get support and complete work. It does not take away from regular classes. Flex blocks have been a great structural support.

Both schools have been thinking about how to use existing resources to address health and safety issues, and how to be adaptable and flexible in the midst of an ever-changing situation.

Sharon Olken said that there is a need to support our teachers as well as our staff because the work they are doing is difficult.

Sharon G. thanked Sharon, Aaron and the teachers and moved on to the Committee on Trustees.

Committee on Trustees

Cynthia Billops reported that the board is looking to add 4-6 trustees with a goal of increasing BIPOC and first gen representation as well as gender diversity. Please reach out to your networks and let them know that we are looking to expand. The Committee on Trustees and the Development Committee are working together on a shared DEI company outreach project. The goal is to make solid connections with businesses with DEI commitments. Cynthia shared a curated list of local businesses and asked trustees to note if they know anyone who is directly involved in DEI initiatives at those businesses. The Committee on Trustees has drafted an email for trustees to send to existing connections. For contacts with no existing Gateway connection, the Committee on Trustees is seeking 3-5 trustee volunteers to send introductory emails to the contacts. The Committee on Trustees will provide all necessary materials including email template, outreach materials, etc.

Sharon Gillenwater thanked the Committee on Trustees and passed the floor to Chanda Lockhart for the Development Update.

Development Update

Sharon Gillenwater turned the floor over to Chanda for the Development Update.

Chanda started with the fundraising update. Our fundraising is on par with last year and we are on our way to making goal. We are starting the important campaign work of reaching out to major donors. The Great Gateway Gathering and Spring Appeal are upcoming for family fundraising. Emails went out for board giving. Our new Development Associate, Hannah Herbert, is working on grant research. We are still following up with the *Lastyearbutunfortunatelynotthis* (LYBUNT) list. The average alumni gift goes up each year, which is very exciting.

The Great Gateway Gathering will be held at the SF Athletic Club on April 9, 2022. The theme is *Prom Throwback*. There will be a prom closet available and we are offering an anonymous sponsorship opportunity for families to subsidize the cost of tickets to allow for a sliding scale.

Coming up next is a salon series event.

Dream Big Update

Sharon Gillenwater gave the floor to Sharon, Chanda, Aaron and Chris for the Dream Big update. Dream Big is a concrete actionable plan to increase revenue by 2025 to safeguard Gateway's mission and commitment to students and staff, ensure Gateway's long term financial sustainability, add revenue in a way that reflects who we are and what we value, honor who we are, stay true to who we are and what we care about.

Chanda spoke about community Investment, including new and existing events and business partnerships.



Sharon Olken spoke about what it will take to ramp up Gateway Impact. We have hired a Communications Coordinator to do work for Gateway Impact. We are going to hire a director in May to get the word out internally and have a Powerful Learner Symposium, a smaller version of our conference, in the spring.

Aaron spoke about Gateway's induction program, currently under development. We have finished stage one and are working on program design. Our goal is to begin the teacher induction program in August to serve GPS teachers, with the goal to add outside teachers the following year.

Please see the board packet for the complete Dream Big Plan. We will provide updates each month.

Finance Update

Sharon Gillenwater gave the floor to Chris for the Finance Update.

Chris presented the state/local funding update. There is a projected \$10B incremental increase in ongoing funding for schools and a \$10B increase in one time funding. The Governor's priorities include a COLA increase, statewide transitional kindergarten expansion and expanded learning opportunities. Chris gave an update on Prop G and J funding. He spoke of the upcoming budget cycle for FY23 and how the budget will offer opportunities to support our mission. He reviewed the upcoming timeline for the FY23 budget cycle.

Closed Session

The board entered a closed session at 6:28 pm

Wrap-up

Sharon Gillenwater thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting Adjourned at 7:00.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
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Susan Masto 2/22/2022
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Susan Masto, Board Secretary