



MINUTES for the Meeting of the Gateway Public Schools Board of Trustees
Wednesday November 16, 2022, 5:00 - 7:00 PM
Gateway High School Impact Lab

Board Members Present: Therese Arsenault, Cynthia Billops, Elizabeth Colen, Katie Colley, Mark Felton, Sharon Gillenwater, Susan Masto, Harper Matheson, Elizabeth A. Morrison, Molly Orner, Kevin Rafter, Joel Rangel, Scott Roberts, Valerie Toler

Board Members Excused: Sara Byrne, Dan Carr, Sapna Boze, Laura Spivy, Gale Mondry, Dina To

Also present: Danielle Ciccarelli, Chris Hero, Sharon Olken, Aaron Watson

Welcome and Announcements

Sharon Gillenwater called the meeting to order at 5:05pm and began with announcements. The January 25th meeting will be at the middle school.

Approval of Minutes from October 26, 2022

The board reviewed the meeting minutes from October 26, 2022. The minutes were approved unanimously, without issue.

Public Forum

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

Mission Moment

Sharon gave the floor to Joel Rangel for the Mission Moment. Joel, Director of College Counseling at Gateway High School, gave a college application update. This fall, seniors worked on their applications and personal statements in their College Counseling 12 class. In drafting their statements, students explore their academic strengths, challenges, lessons they have learned and how they can show those off to people they will never meet who will make decisions that will shape their futures. Gateway's college counselors help students through the college process in a realistic way and explain that college acceptance is not a commentary on their value.

Seniors prepared for the application process last year in College Counseling 11. The class gave them time and guidance to explore possibilities for their futures. There are no value judgments in the class; the goal is to find out what will work best for them. Students researched schools and pathways. They learned practical things like calculating grade point averages and gauging school admission criteria. Students in College Counseling 11 wrote practice essays and received specific, actionable feedback.

Trustees discussed how the community can be a resource for students preparing for their next steps after high school. Joel shared that Gateway is reinstating ways students can engage with the community, ways that were in place before the pandemic. Students will have the opportunity to ask questions of staff, community, trustees about colleges, careers, pathways, etc.

9th Grade Seminar works with College Counseling to get students thinking about college and help them plan their path in high school. Students tour UC Berkeley on their first day of 9th grade, and Gateway is currently working on a grant to enable students to tour HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities).



Ms. Colen shared that students at the middle school also have the opportunity for college exploration. The 6th graders tour University of San Francisco, 7th graders tour San Francisco State and 8th graders tour Stanford. Students have the opportunity to talk with professors in their area of interest.

Executive Director's Report

Sharon Olken gave the Executive Director's report. She spoke about Gateway's induction program, which has been officially accredited by the California Teacher Credentialing Commission. Induction is a two-year job-embedded individualized program focused on extensive support and mentoring to new teachers in their first and second year of teaching. It is a part of the teacher credentialing process that has been difficult for charter school teachers to access. The induction program will greatly benefit our teachers and strengthen our teacher pipeline. The induction program will eventually be open to outside educators.

Finance and Audit Update

Chris Hero gave the Finance and FY22 Audit Update. Chris reviewed what an audit is and the process. Annual audits are required of charter schools. Because of federal COVID funding, we qualified for a single audit, an intensive review of the utilization of these funds. Part of the Board's fiduciary responsibility, the state requires the board to approve the audit. The FY22 audit results showed that we complied with required changes to the presentation of our financial statements, the auditors found "no material weaknesses nor significant deficiencies" relating to statements/compliance/procedures/internal controls and no adjusting journal entries were required to be made to our financials.

The audit financial results were strong and we finished FY22 in an improved financial position. It was not necessary to use reserve funds to meet the needs of our operating budget. Trustees reviewed the financial results balance sheet and income statement. Chris and the audit committee thanked Chad Foskuhl, Gateway's Controller, for all his work on the audit.

The audit committee recommended that the board vote to approve the audit report. Therese Arsenault moved to approve and Mark Felton seconded. The FY22 Audit was approved unanimously without issue.

Committee on Trustees Update

The Committee on Trustees spoke about prospective trustees Ariana Proehl and Jake Welch in preparation for a vote on their trusteeships. Ariana Proehl, currently a Culture Reporter for KQED, has been the moderator at two Matters of The Mind (MOTM) events at Gateway. Common threads in her bio are youth development and education. Jake Welch, a partner at ValueAct Capital, is a longtime friend and supporter of Gateway. He is very interested in youth development and mental health. Ariana's and Jake's values align with Gateway's values, and they are both excited about joining the board.

Susan Masto motioned to approve the trusteeships of Ariana Proehl and Jake Welch. Scott Roberts seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve trusteeships of Ariana Proehl and Jake Welch.

In other news, the Committee on Trustees is in heavy recruiting mode. One of the priorities is to engage the board to help us reach new networks. Between now and April they will be contacting Trustees to brainstorm new connections.



Staff Affairs

The first Staff Affairs Committee, made up of teachers, trustees, and staff members, held its first meeting of the year on November 1st and worked on identifying priorities for 2022/2023. The committee brainstormed how to generate feedback from staff and facilitate communication between staff and the board. A staff survey traditionally goes out at the end of the school year. The committee would like to accelerate the cycle of inquiry by putting the survey out sooner, conducting focus groups and community meetings. The committee wants to discover what we can do to support teachers, teacher wellness and recruitment, especially teachers in their first years of teaching so they are successful and stay. What are ways to support non-teaching staff, especially staff in Student Support Offices at both sites? How can we support those staff that go back and forth between schools, which can be a challenging mental shift? The committee is also discussing touchpoints in the coming year that will allow board members to interact with staff. Some opportunities discussed are Career Day, Project Week, and college essay assistance. One other area of focus is gathering statistics around why folks leave Gateway. There have been pandemic stressors and other other trends and we realize we would like more data.

Development Update

Chanda Lockhart gave the Development Update. The year-over-year fundraising comparison shows that we are 72% toward goal compared to 60% last year. Trustees were shown Q3-4 projections in different categories, and upcoming activities. We look forward to celebrations for Sharon, a Salon with Urban Ed Academy, Major Donor Planning, The Gate, the Great Gateway Gathering and other exciting things.

Search Committee

Due to time constraints, the search committee will give an update in January.

Closed Session

Confidential Student Discipline Matter – Consideration of Potential Expulsion Case No: 2022001

Adjourn Meeting Kevin adjourned the meeting at 7:05pm.

Signed  Date: 2/10/2023
Susan Masto, Board Secretary