

**GATEWAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13TH, 2016 @ 5:00 PM**  
**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

Therese Arsenault, Beth Berliner, Cynthia Billops, David Booth, Sapna Boze, Laura D'Amato Contreras, Sharon Gillenwater, Sam Kary, Lisa Kirkland, Annie Klebahn, Joyce McMinn, Sharon Olken, Will Parish, Jackie Quella, Sue Schultes, Suzanne Schutte, Phil Susser, Valerie Toler, Aaron White, Julie Wise

**Board Members Excused:** Allison Thoreson Bhusri, Susan Kase, Susan Masto, Adina Safer, Laura Spivy, Jennifer Tulley

**Also present:**

Chris Hero, Anna Heidinger, Danielle Ciccarelli

1. **Call to Order, Welcome, Approval of Minutes from November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015** Sapna called the meeting to order at 5:13. She called for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2015 meeting. They were approved without issue. Sapna welcomed everyone back and wished Trustees a happy New Year. Sapna informed Trustees that Deundra Hundon has rolled off the Board due to commitments. The Board thanks her for her service and wishes her all the best.
2. **Public Forum:** Sapna opened the floor for Public Forum. No further discussions or motions were introduced.
3. **Executive Director's Report: Project Week:** Sapna passed the floor to Sharon, who welcomed Rachel Kamen, our new Director of Partnerships. Rachel started in December and hit the ground running, reaching out to partner organizations and finding opportunities for our students. Her work is going to make a big difference at the middle school and high school. Sharon mentioned that we are holding the second in our speaker series in the library, after the Board meeting. Ninive Calegari's talk about teacher salaries is very relevant to our work at GPS.

Sharon spoke about Project Week at the High School. Project Week is an intercession between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> semester when students take one class for one week. The classes are very different from the classes the students take the rest of the year. Project Week demonstrates that learning looks like lots of different things. Sharon passed out a list of classes offered this year. At the end of Project Week, there is a Gala where students present what they have been working on. Sharon asked those who been involved in Project Week to talk about their experiences. Trustees spoke about the various classes their kids' took or that they themselves taught or took part in. Some of the classes mentioned were Woodworking, Poetry, Snow sports, Stagecraft, Music, Social Entrepreneurship and Camping. Sharon noted that Project Week is a way we can offer classes and experiences that we can't otherwise offer as a small school.

**Development Report: Campaign Kickoff:**

Beth gave the floor to Anna Heidinger, Director of Development, for the Development Report. Anna invited the Board to share in a celebration of the kickoff of the Gateway Impact Labs Campaign. She is excited that the team has been able to organize an aspirational, four-year campaign. She talked about the important elements of campaign design, such as a strong idea, a strong team, and effective core messaging. Gateway has been meeting with lead donors to help determine if we are on the right track. Anna noted that we did not send out the traditional year-end appeal to Trustees, in favor of reaching out to each Trustee individually. This gives each Trustee the opportunity to ask questions and talk about the campaign. We would like Trustees to be ambassadors of Gateway Impact Labs (GIL). Anna distributed an Impact Campaign packet, which explains the campaign. Sharon brought the Trustees' attention to the last page of the packet, which illustrates the three institutional priorities for growth:

1. **Build a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Model:** This priority is intended to help our students be college and career ready. We want to bring more college opportunities to our students. There is a lot of excitement around this. There will be opportunities this spring for Trustees to help students write applications and aid in the process of choosing and applying to college.
2. **Support Excellence in Teaching and Learning:** This priority focuses on financial compensation, professional growth opportunities and strengthening student agency.
3. **Launch Gateway Impact Labs:** This priority focuses on collaboration and community, and develops ways to share our knowledge and bring other people into the conversation.

Sharon talked about the excitement at the schools around GIL. Anna mentioned that the high level of confidence everyone has that we can achieve our goals inspires her. She encouraged the Trustees to ask any questions they may have. Beth thanked Trustees for all their hard work on behalf of Gateway and the campaign.

Sharon noted that an important part of campaign is raising money, but a lot of the power behind growth comes from the community. We have many resources that are not financial. Sharon appreciates people's willingness to be involved, and asked the Trustees to challenge staff to find the right place for them.

4. **Faculty Affairs:** Beth passed the floor to Laura D'Amato and Annie Klebahn, Co-Chairs of the Faculty Affairs Committee. The third Faculty Affairs community meeting is coming up on February 5<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was born out of desire to deepen communication and understanding, as well as build community between staff and the Board. The meeting is a forum where teachers are heard. Annie asked everyone to encourage teachers to come; it is useful to have new voices. Laura thanked Adina for hosting, Julie for providing food, and everyone for giving their support.
5. **Adjourn meeting** Beth adjourned the meeting at 5:54 pm and everyone convened in the library for Conversations for Impact, with guest speaker, Ninive Calegari.

Signed: Allison Bhusri  
Allison Bhusri, Board Secretary

Date: 3/16/16