

GATEWAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28TH @ 5:00 – 7:00 PM
MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Therese Arsenault, Beth Berliner, Cynthia Billops, David Booth, Sapna Boze, Sharon Gillenwater, Sam Kary, Susan Kase, Lisa Kirkland, Annie Klebahn, Susan Masto, Sharon Olken, Will Parish, Jackie Quella, Adina Safer, Sue Schultes, Suzanne Schutte, Laura Spivy, Phil Susser, Valerie Toler, Jennifer Tulley, Aaron White, Julie Wise

Not Present

Allison Thoreson Bhusri, Laura D'Amato Contreras, Deundra Hundon, Joyce McMinn

Also present:

Chris Hero, Anna Heidinger, Megan Orciari, Danielle Ciccarelli

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Approval of Minutes from September 16th, 2015

Sapna called the meeting to order at 5:07pm. She called for a motion to approve the minutes from the September, 2015 meeting. They were approved without issue. Sapna spoke about the Luncheon and how exciting it was. She thanked Luncheon Chairs Susan Masto and Sarah Byrne, Anna and her team, Joyce for prepping the kids and having them prepare the school, Aaron White for introducing the give-by-phone campaign, and Sharon Olken for hosting the program. Sapna reminded the Board that the next board meeting is at Gateway Middle School. The Auction is February 20th. Beth announced that Friday November 13th is Board Visiting Day at the middle school. She noted that this is traditionally an inspirational and energetic event.

2. Public Forum:

Beth then opened the floor for a public forum. No further discussions or motions were introduced.

3. Development Report

Beth turned the floor over to Anna Heidinger who presented the Development Report. Anna thanked everyone for all the hard work that went into making the Luncheon such a success. She thanked the team of Susan Masto and Sarah Byrne for their amazing work as Luncheon Co-Chairs. Anna mentioned the wonderful response to our featured students and the new video. Anna reported that gifts are continuing to come in. More people gave by check this year, though give-by-cell donations were down from last year. Updated figures show that we are at 1.2 million, which exceeds our expectations. Anna passed out a list of Luncheon donors and asked Trustees to consider sending a thank you note to anyone they know personally. Next big project is annual giving. Development would like to get letters out in November.

4. Finance Report

a) Review and approval of Gateway Public School's 2014/2015 Audit :

Susan Kase and Phil Susser announced that the audit committee completed both meetings with the auditors, and the auditor's report shows a clean audit. Chris Hero

discussed a handout that presents the financial side of the audit. This is an important document because outside stakeholders can evaluate it and see that we are sound. Our cash balance and assets finished at an all-time high. Chris thanked Chad for his part in preparing the audit. Because of our surplus, we are able to send the board designated funds back to our reserves.

Susan moved to approve the audit and Annie seconded. The audit was approved without objections or abstentions.

b) 2015/2016 Forecast:

Chris explained the major drivers for how our surplus grew. He discussed changes made since May, such as the items added to the forecast and their surplus Impact.

Laura Spivy shared that when the auditors arrive to do the audit, all of the materials are prepared and complete, which is rare. It is not typical that auditors do not have suggestions, which was the case for us. This is a reflection of how good our audit team is. Also, every year since Laura has been here, we have not exceeded expenses, which is extraordinary. The Board thanked the audit team.

c) Reminder: Conflict of Interest Forms:

Chris asked Board members to remember to hand in their Conflict of Interest Forms.

5. Executive Director Report

Sharon asked everyone to take a second to feel good that we are in the position to plan how to make things better for our kids. Chris, Michael and Sharon thought over the summer about what Gateway could do that would have the most impact on reaching our goals.

Sharon referred everyone to the Board Packet and the Executive Director's Objectives. She asked Trustees to look over the objectives and express what was important to them. Objectives that Trustees mentioned were building partnerships, faculty recruitment and retention, faculty compensation, equity, STEM, real-world learning, visibility of our objectives outside of Gateway. Sharon would love to get more feedback about where we go next, to benefit not just our kids, but also others.

a) 2015 College Data - Sharon went over the college data from last spring. The percentage of kids who go to four year schools goes up and down a little bit from year to year, but is consistent overall. From year to year, the difference is not whether our students get into 4 year schools, but if they can afford to attend or cannot attend for other reasons. She asked for reactions about matriculation. There was a discussion about how to further aid our students to get into and enroll at the best schools for them.

b) 2014/2015 9th Grade Data - Sharon reviewed the 9th grade data. We are now more representative of the district in terms of our student body diversity. The free and reduced lunch preference is one of the reasons for this.

Sharon also presented results from the 9th grade survey, given at the end of the 2015 school year. Sharon's take-away from the 9th grade survey is that there is more diversity at GMS than at other middle schools and students who attend GHS from GMS are more disadvantaged (eg: free and reduced lunch) than the class as a whole. However, they have a slightly higher GPA. This shows that we are closing the achievement gap.

c) Director of Partnerships Update – Rachel Kamen will be our new Director of Partnerships. We are very excited to have her come on Board.

6. Strategic Initiatives and Gateway Impact Campaign Update:

Sharon asked everyone to take out the Strategic Initiatives packet, which illustrates the Strategic Initiatives and Gateway Impact Campaign. She reviewed the information with Trustees, such as the Three Strategic Goals, the Framework/Priorities and Initiatives to support our kids and impact public education. For each priority, lots of planning has gone into determining how they move forward. There is a 15 page work plan which shows who is responsible. Chris created a Work Plan Timeline to aid staying on track.

Sharon passed the floor to Anna, who talked about making the vision real. Gateway Public Schools is launching a "Conversations for Impact: Idea Exchange" speaker series on November 18th, with guest Judith Pace. Anna spoke about strengthening development operations and the Gateway Impact Campaign Table of Gifts.

Anna passed the floor to Chris Hero, who reviewed the Gateway Impact Labs work plan timeline, which is designed to be a clear path to making activities achievable. Chris reviewed steps to build infrastructure and capacity building and develop technology to support the campaign. We will be hiring and devoting staff to support our goals. Our process will be open-source in order to share with other public schools.

The GIL (Gateway Impact Labs) leadership team is made up of those who own the projects. The goal for the group is to track progress and solve problems. The team will meet once a month.

Sharon closed this part of the meeting by mentioning that we reviewed large amounts of information and that we will want to unpack what we just talked about in the next few months.

7. Adjourn meeting Sapna adjourned the meeting at 7:03.

Signed: Allison Bhusri
Allison Bhusri, Board Secretary

Date: 11/18/15

