

Gateway Public Schools

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

At Gateway Middle School

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 @ 5:00 -7:00 PM

Minutes

Board Members Present:

Therese Arsenault, Beth Berliner, Allison Thoreson Bhusri, Cynthia Billops, David Booth, Sapna Boze, Sara Byrne, Sharon Gillenwater, Susan Kase, Lisa Kirkland, Annie Klebahn, Susan Masto, Joyce McMinn, Farley Neuman, Sharon Olken, Will Parish, Mary Plant-Thomas, Jackie Quella, Eric Sarb, Suzanne Schutte, Laura Spivy, Phil Susser, Valerie Toler, Jennifer Tulley, Aaron White, Julie Wise

Board Members Excused: Adina Safer

Also present: Danielle Ciccarelli, Marianne Fives, Anna Heidinger, Chris Hero, Megan Orciari

Call to Order and Approval of Minutes from November 16, 2016

Sapna called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. She asked for a motion to approve the November 16th, 2016 minutes. The November minutes were approved without issue.

Public Forum Sapna opened the floor for the public forum. No further discussions or motions were introduced. She gave the floor to Sharon Olken who spoke about Project Week.

Welcome and Announcements

To demonstrate the amazing work that goes on during Project Week, there was an impressive performance by students who attended *Making The Band 3.0*, a music course taught by Gateway humanities teacher, Manny Martinez. The trustees thanked the students for their performance.

Trustees Committee

Beth spoke about Farley Neuman, who she recommended as a new Trustee. Beth has known Farley for twenty years. She worked with him at the College Bound Foundation, a nonprofit that connected mentors to students living in San Francisco Public Housing. She also served on the College Bound Foundation Board with Farley. She praised him for his sense of humor and his generosity, and for being an all-around good person. The Trustees approved the appointment of Farley Neuman without issue. Farley, who was not present at the meeting until this point, joined the Board in the library, and was welcomed by trustees.

Update on Committee on Trustees framework and priorities

Sharon Gillenwater, Chair of the Trustees Committee, spoke about the process of choosing new trustees. We currently have 26 trustees, and, with roll offs this fall, we are looking to recruit 2-3 trustees. The Trustees Committee meets monthly. The committee came up a strategic framework for looking for potential trustees. Not everyone will meet all or most criteria. We need a balance. The framework helps us identify gaps. The committee will focus on board diversity and establishing connections. The committee is working on outreach through different channels. Members of the committee will attend BoardMatch, a fair that matches potential board members with organizations. Jackie and Sharon met with Rachel to get her perspective as Director of

Partnerships. We will reach out to new communities, make new connections. The committee wants to understand all of our trustees better, and will distribute a Trustee Questionnaire in February. We are looking for expertise and connections. The strategic framework is not mentioned in our charter, but the Bylaws have general guidelines and requirements for trustees.

Executive Director's Report

Sharon Olken spoke to Trustees about Project Week at Gateway High School. Project week is an opportunity for us to offer our high school students a full array of electives that we don't get to offer otherwise. Students take an intensive, weeklong course in subjects such as cooking, biking, snow sports, social entrepreneurship, music and poetry. There are 28 offerings. PW gets kids out into the community with teachers and community partners. Within our extended community there are so many resources to support our kids. As a school, we cannot do everything, but we can reach out to help bring our students experiences, opportunities, and connections. The week is both exhausting and exhilarating for teachers. She asked those who participated in project week to share their experiences. A discussion followed.

Sharon thanked the Board for their excellent feedback on the Executive Director's objectives. She keeps the objectives in mind, and checks back in with them often to make sure they remain the focus of her work. Every single objective got at least 2 votes for most important. Sharon went over the objectives and their importance to carrying out our mission.

6. Development Committee

Sharon Olken opened up the Development report. Sharon spoke about Gateway's mission and its importance in helping us, as a society, get to where we want to go. Today's report is titled *Development at Gateway: Ensuring the Future of Our Schools*. A PowerPoint presentation, of the same title, accompanied the report. Sharon reviewed our annual budget, which is approximately \$10,000,000. This is pretty big for a non-profit in our city. We spend \$12,000 per student per year, and get about \$9,500 public funding. The gap is \$2,500/year, so \$2,000,000, or 20% of our budget, is coming from fundraising. Charter schools receive the statewide average per student. We are exempt from some sources of funding, so we do not get the same amount as public schools. She asked the question "Why are we fundraising?" We believe kids deserve better than the state funding can provide. Sharon discussed how the money is used to support our students and support our mission, which is integral to who we are.

Anna Heidinger greeted the board and welcomed Farley Neuman. She reviewed Gateway's fundraising history and thanked everyone who supports development, the board, our staff, and the Impact Campaign. She discussed opportunities for innovation, new strategies and approaches to fundraising, and the road ahead. We are encouraging donors to make a multi-year commitment. Gateway is hosting a Conversation for Impact evening at Google, San Francisco, on April 26th, and board members are encouraged to attend this exciting event. We are grateful to Taj Wilson for connecting us to Google for this event. We would like to conceptualize a second spring event for 2018. Anna thanked everyone on the board for attending and giving to the luncheon. We want to make sure we are doing our best to appreciate our trustees and all they do. Anna further discussed our fundraising efforts and goals, which were illustrated in the PowerPoint presentation. The Gateway Parents Association is hosting *Gateway Celebrates*, a party for families that has a fundraising aspect.

Beth thanked Anna and Sharon for thoroughness. The board can be helpful when it comes to innovation and ideas. We are always looking for new ways to engage, and fresh ideas for reaching a younger generation. Sharon asked everyone to complete the last page, which asks for ideas and brainstorming.

Sharon reinforced the *New Strategies and Approaches* page. She talked about the auction. There are lots of ways trustees can be involved in the auction. Sharon will follow up with trustees to encourage involvement. Allison suggested a brainstorming session at the next board meeting. Susan Masto added that an "elevator speech" brainstorming session would be helpful, to discuss how to talk about why we love gateway and why others should love gateway.

Sharon thanked Anna for putting the presentation together, and thanked Marianne and Meg. We have an amazing development team. We do a great job of fundraising.

Faculty Affairs Committee

Beth introduced Annie and Mary, Co-Chairs of the Faculty Affairs Committee. They reviewed the goals and composition of the Faculty Affairs Committee. The committee focuses on faculty satisfaction issues, such as compensation and retention. The major focus last year was retention and how to support teachers. The committee explored how to differentiate compensation. The primary for this year continues to be retention. It is important to have a stable faculty that can grow together and work toward Gateway's goals. The FAC has identified 6 key strategies to align around in order to help us reach our goal of retention.

Mary discussed the 6 key strategies, which were listed in their PowerPoint presentation. The yearly FAC Community Meeting is February 3rd, and the board is invited. It is a powerful event, and we would love board members to attend.

Eric shared that it is great opportunity for faculty to see the work the board is doing. The FAC will do a recap in the next meeting.

7:00 – Beth thanked everyone, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:10

Signed: Alison Bhusri Date: 2/8/17
Alison Bhusri, Board Secretary