



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

Wednesday, February 26, 5:00 -7:00 PM
Location: Gateway High School Impact Lab
1430 Scott Street, San Francisco, CA 94115

Board Members Present: Therese Arsenault, Antonio Ayala, Allison Bhusri, Cynthia Billops, Sapna Boze, Sara Byrne, Dan Carr, Elizabeth Colen, Katie Colley, Sharon Gillenwater, Susan Masto, Harper Matheson, Sharon Olken, Molly Orner, Mary Plant-Thomas, Kevin Rafter, Laura Spivy, Dina To, Julie Wise

Board Members Excused: Beth Berliner, Annie Klebahn, Joyce McMinn, Valerie Toler

Also present: Danielle Ciccarelli, Chris Hero, Chanda Lockhart

Announcements

Susan called the meeting to order at 5:11 pm and opened with announcements. She reminded trustees that the Great Gateway Gathering is March 14th. Susan expressed a huge thank you to Annie, Mary, Beth, and Julie for their work on the GHS FAC Community Meeting. Annie facilitated the meeting, and Beth will facilitate the GMS meeting on 3/16. Susan expressed a thank you to Chanda and the development team for a successful Trivia Night. The next *Conversations for IMPACT* is postponed and will not be on 4/16. She asked everyone to complete the *Luncheon Speaker Brainstorm* worksheet. Trustees wished Sharon Gillenwater a very happy birthday.

Public Forum

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

Review and Approval of Minutes from January 15, 2020

Susan asked everyone to look at the January 15, 2020 meeting minutes and make a note of needed changes or anything they find inspirational. Trustees shared their thoughts and a brief discussion followed. Susan asked for a motion to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously, without issue.

Mission Moment

Harper Matheson shared a Mission Moment inspired by Trivia Night. She said that she brought old friends who weren't familiar with Gateway, and they were very impressed and moved by what they learned. It is exciting to have new people discover and learn about Gateway's powerful mission.

Committee On Trustees

Kevin Rafter talked about prospective trustee, Dan Carr. Dan is a Gateway Middle School parent, a musician and a partner and General Manager of Urban Putt. Kevin is impressed by his enthusiasm for Gateway and his strong desire to contribute. Kevin recommended that the board vote to approve Dan's trusteeship. Laura motioned to

approve, and Therese seconded. Dan's trusteeship was approved unanimously, without issue. Everyone welcomed Dan as he joined the meeting.

Kevin talked about Board Match on April 7th. Several Trustees Committee members will attend. The committee's priority is to recruit new members, and the intention for participating in Board Match is to get more folks introduced to Gateway. We will encourage those we meet to attend upcoming events, so they will learn more and hopefully become interested in Gateway. If their interest continues, they will move to the next step toward becoming a trustee. Sharon O. noted that participation in the event doesn't always yield new members but that is where we found Dina, so we have had success at the event.

E.D Report

Sharon Gillenwater gave the floor to Sharon Olken for the Executive Director's Report. Sharon asked Mary Plant Thomas to lead a get-acquainted activity that she does with her students to help them feel safe. Mary asked everyone to share a time someone paid them a compliment that made them feel really good. Trustees took turns sharing.

Sharon O. continued with a report about Gateway's Powerful Learners Conference, which took place on February 1, 2020. The Conference was on the topic of Social Emotional Learning and explored how students' beliefs about themselves have a great impact on their learning. We have incredible educational leaders and thinkers at the school. Among other Gateway staff, Mary Plant Thomas and Therese Arsenault both presented at the conference. Therese's session was *Building Collaborative Learning Environments for Math*, and Mary's was *Cultivating a Sense of Belonging in Advanced Courses*. All of the sessions spoke to Gateway's mission. The conference is a way that Gateway is stepping into leadership in education. As an organization, leading a conference is brand new. This was such a positive step for Gateway, and without Chanda's leadership it wouldn't have happened. Our partners were the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco, Stanford Teacher Education Program (STEP), and Peninsula Bridge. Our partners helped us reach out to the community, and we had a high number of student teachers from STEP in attendance. The keynote speaker was Channa Cook-Harvey. We met Channa when Gateway was studied by the Learning Policy Institute. She is now director of Social and Emotional learning for the Cordova Unified School District.

Sharon Olken talked about the GMS Charter Renewal. The GMS charter was renewed at the January 28th SFUSD Board Meeting. We had many awesome students, teachers and family members come to the meeting to talk about what they love about Gateway Middle School. The renewal hearing was a good recognition of what we do every day.

Development Update

Chanda Lockhart gave the development update. She asked everyone to look at the luncheon speaker brainstorm sheet, and requested that trustees contact her with ideas and/or connections. The luncheon team is trying to determine the speaker as early as possible so they can begin getting table sponsors, corporate sponsors, dates, etc.

Chanda discussed some recent development events. A summary of the recent *Conversations for Impact* event is in the board packet. *Conversations for Impact* events are opportunities for collaboration between educators and are part of the Gateway Impact initiative. The event featured a panel comprised of John Deane, Tara Kini, Phil Kim, and Michelle Parker. Sharon Olken moderated the discussion on the theme of *Policies and Practices that Bring Communities Together For Student Success*.

Chanda thanked everyone who participated in Trivia Night. The event raised \$10,916. Evan Bass mc'd, and the teachers won. Larry Berliner had a perfect score, so get him on your team next year.

Chanda reminded everyone about the upcoming Great Gateway Gathering, which will have a 70's disco theme. It will be a lot of fun, and will feature a Let's Make a Deal auction and a few more 70's surprises. Please visit the online auction next week, and consider lending your 70's get ups to the costume closet.

Chanda reviewed the Fundraising Income Report, and discussed the Year End Appeal, the Major Donor Initiative, and recent grant applications.

Finance

Sharon G gave the floor to Chris for the finance update. Chris explained that the budget is essentially our financial mission statement, and reflects that we are committed to increasing salaries. We have few non-personnel costs. Chris shared a presentation that he and Sharon recently presented to faculty during professional development meetings. He showed teachers what a budget looks like, its scope and scale, and talked about where our revenue comes from. Many of our sources of revenue, such as state funding, are out of our control. Recent circumstances have been putting more pressure on fundraising. Gateway's teacher salary increase in the past 4 years has been 7.6%. Sharon put the numbers in context. In 2016 we put our stake in the ground. We realized that there is a crisis in teacher compensation. There are not enough teachers and the cost of living in SF is very high. We decided to create a plan to do better by our faculty, and worked with the Finance and Faculty Affairs Committees to come up with a new plan for compensation and a commitment to raising salaries over time. Expenses are going up faster than state revenue. CA is in the bottom 10% of states in school funding. We made a commitment to meeting the needs of our students and doing right by our teachers. There are many uncertainties and variables, like the missing prop G funds and a very challenging fundraising goal. We are starting the budget process with a big deficit for next year. The deficit goes up in the next few years. The good news is the Sustainability Fund. Prop G funds were held up, and we needed to increase revenue substantially, so we created a team to look at long term sustainability. We are thankful and relieved that we have had a handful of amazing long-term friends of gateway who have pledged big gifts over the next few years. The fund will serve as a bridge in the short term. It is not part of our annual fundraising. Our intent is to keep our programs in place and our commitment to faculty. By deciding to invest in our teachers and figure out a way to solve the problem of funding over time, we are solving the right problem.

Adjourn Meeting

Susan adjourned the meeting at 7 pm and thanked everyone for coming.

Signed: _____



Sapna Boze, Board Secretary

Date: _____

6/15/20