



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

Wednesday, January 15, 5:00 -7:00 PM  
Location: Gateway High School Impact Lab  
1430 Scott Street, San Francisco, CA 94115

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**Board Members Present:** Therese Arsenault, Beth Berliner, Cynthia Billops, Sapna Boze, Sara Byrne, Elizabeth Colen, Katie Colley, Sharon Gillenwater, Annie Klebahn, Susan Masto, Sharon Olken, Molly Orner, Mary Plant-Thomas, Valerie Toler, Julie Wise

**Board Members Excused:** Allison Bhusri, Joyce McMinn, Kevin Rafter, Laura Spivy, Dina To  
**Also present:** Antonio Ayala, Danielle Ciccarelli, Chris Hero, Matt Kinsella, Chanda Lockhart, Harper Matheson

**Announcements**

Sharon Gillenwater opened the meeting at 5:05 pm and began with announcements. She welcomed Matt Kinsella, a friend of Gateway who is part Maverick Capital. She thanked the hospitality committee for the holiday party and reminded everyone about Conversations for Impact and Trivia Night.

Mary Plant Thomas announced that, in March, the high school will be hosting a teacher intern from South Africa. The teacher comes to us through a partnership with Teach with Africa. Elizabeth Colen explained that it is the sixth year for the program at GMS, and the third year at GHS. The visiting teachers have the opportunity to spend a month learning from our schools. There is a reciprocal program that enables our teachers to go to South Africa. Anyone interested in hosting a teacher should get in touch with Elizabeth or Mary.

**Public Forum**

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

**Review and Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2019**

Sharon asked everyone to look at the November minutes and make a note of needed changes or anything they find inspirational. Trustees shared their thoughts and a brief discussion followed. Sharon asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Susan moved and Beth seconded a motion to approve the minutes from November 13, 2019. The minutes were approved unanimously, without issue.

## **Mission Moment**

Sarah Byrne gave the mission moment. She talked about her experience at the Gateway holiday party. While there, she felt a wonderful sense of community. She remarked that the warmth and kindness must be reflected onto our students. Thank you all for going and making it special.

## **Committee On Trustees**

The board will vote on two new members this evening. Sharon Gillenwater talked about prospective Trustee, Antonio Ayala, a graduate of Gateway High School. Antonio, an Emmy Award winning filmmaker, spoke at the luncheon. Sharon Olken spoke of Antonio's strengths and what he will bring to the board. He is a very positive, creative, enthusiastic Gateway Alumni. When he was talking about Gateway during the luncheon, the idea of inviting him to join the board was born. He was on the Youth Commission at city hall during high school, and his love of filmmaking was born while taking a Project Week class.

Sharon Gillenwater and Sharon Olken also spoke about prospective Trustee, Harper Matheson. We are very excited about Harper Matheson, an enthusiastic supporter of Gateway, and the daughter of founder Lisille Matheson. She has a deep belief in, and connection to, Gateway's mission.

Sarah Byrne made motion to approve the trusteeships of Antonio Ayala and Harper Matheson. Valerie Toler seconded. The motion was approved. Everyone welcomed Harper and Antonio and introductions were made.

Sharon G. gave the floor to Valerie Toler, who talked about the new board recruitment materials. Valerie explained that we are trying to be more proactive in recruiting new board members. We would like to widen our network. We are looking for diversity and areas of expertise in prospective Trustees. A *Join our Board* link is being added to our website. It will be a place where people can learn about serving on our board and find our recruitment deck. There will also be an interest form that will go directly to Chanda's email.

Chanda talked about the recruitment deck. It gives a high-level overview of Gateway and our board, and explains what it takes to be a Trustee and what we are looking for. It goes over Gateway's numbers in detail and includes our Impact statements and an overview of our financials.

Members of the Trustees Committee will attend Board Match this year and will direct interested parties to our website.

## **Development Update**

Chanda reviewed the fundraising outlook. The development team is submitting many grants in the next few months. Fundraising is going well and we are hoping grants will make the difference. She reviewed upcoming events. Conversations for Impact, coming up on January 17th, has a number of really great guests who will talk about policies and practices that bring communities together for student success. Also coming up are the Powerful Learners Conference, the Triviathon, and the Groovy Great Gateway Gathering, which will have a 70's disco theme. She asked board members to attend as it is always a great party. She also asked for donations for the wine raffle and for the bar.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Sharon Olken took the floor for the E.D. report. She asked Molly Orner to talk about Project Week (PW), which takes place the first week after winter break and consists of 31 different courses that

students can choose from. Molly was this year's project week coordinator. She shared slides of PW classes in action, such as Animal Planet, Glam Squad, What A Drag, Cooking and Connections, and Feminist Fiber Arts. The week underscores Gateway's idea of community in an expansive way. An incredible number of individuals contributed to making it a success, as well as a powerful experience for students.

Sharon O. thanked Molly for the amazing job she did leading PW. So much planning goes into it, and Molly made sure everything went smoothly; it is like leading another school within a school.

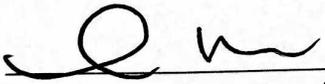
Sharon gave an update on the Gateway Middle School charter renewal process. We are three quarters of the way through. There are four steps in the process. First we submit the petition; the SFUSC Board Budget Committee reviews operations, budget, governance, bylaws; our petition goes through the SFUSD Board Curriculum Committee, which looks at test scores, achievement and retention data, demographics. The final step is full SFUSD Board approval.

Sharon moved on to an explanation of the closed session in the November GPS board meeting. She announced that Aaron Watson is not returning as principal and will be taking a new position as Head of Schools and Partnerships at Gatewat. He has been a rock at GMS since it started and is the backbone of the school. Leadership is just about to launch a search committee. They are meeting to plan the search process and ways to engage faculty, families and kids. Lucy Hilarides is serving as Interim Assistant Principal after Allyson Schoolcraft's departure.

Sharon moved on to talking about the upcoming Conversations for Impact panel and the 2nd Annual Powerful Learners Conference on February 1st. The conference is part of Gateway Impact, and is a way to reach out to the community, share best practices, collaborate and celebrate. Our three partners are the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco, Peninsula Bridge and the Stanford Teacher Education Program. Many of our faculty are presenting, and attendees are coming from all over the Bay Area. Sharon thanked Chanda for being the conference czar.

### **Adjourn Meeting**

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

Signed:  Date: 6/15/20  
Sapna Boze, Board Secretary