



MINUTES for the Meeting of the Gateway Public Schools Board of Trustees
Wednesday, February 24th, 5:00 - 6:45 PM
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Board Members Present: Therese Arsenault, Beth Berliner, Cynthia Billops, Sapna Boze, Sara Byrne, Dan Carr, Elizabeth Colen, Katie Colley, Mark Felton, Sharon Gillenwater, Susan Masto, Harper Matheson, Sharon Olken, Molly Orner, Kevin Rafter, Laura Spivy, Mary Plant-Thomas, Valerie Toler

Board Members Excused: Dina To, Julie Wise

Board Members Not Present: Allison Bhusri

Also present: Danielle Ciccarelli, Chris Hero, Aaron Watson, Vanessa Thompson

Welcome and Announcements

Sharon Gillenwater brought the meeting to order and reminded trustees about upcoming events.

Mission Moments

Mary Plant Thomas shared that Victoria Fong, GHS class of 2010, currently pursuing her PhD in microbiology at UC Berkeley, has given back to Gateway by helping in biology class and contributing labs. She attended Mary's bio class today and was inspirational to the students. A first generation college student, Victoria is able to give students advice about college and entering the science field.

Sharon Olken shared that Gateway senior, DeeJay Thompson, is the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Francisco's 2021 Citywide Youth of the Year. DeeJay will receive a college scholarship and continue on to compete in Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Northern California Youth of the Year competition. DeeJay has grown a lot during high school. He works hard to excel in school and any activity he undertakes. DeeJay is taking AP classes and is proud of his 4.3 GPA; he is on his way to realizing his dream of being the first in his family to graduate from college. He plans to pursue a degree in Computer Science. Sharon shared DeeJay's acceptance video with trustees.

Public Forum

Susan Masto opened the floor for the public forum. RE: School Reopening - Vanessa Thompson

Approval of Minutes from January 27th, 2021

Susan asked everyone to review the minutes from January 27th, 2021. Valerie motioned to approve, and Sara seconded the motion. The January minutes were approved, unanimously, without issue.

Executive Director's Report

For the ED Report, Sharon Olken began with an update on the Powerful Learners Conference, which was held on February 6th. She shared [excerpts from Linda Darling-Hammond's keynote address](#), entitled *Teaching for Powerful Learning*. In her address, Linda used Gateway as an example of how schools can put core principles from the science of learning and development into action for powerful student learning. Conference presentations were in four topic areas: Anti-racist teaching, College Access, Leadership and Collaboration, Social Emotional Learning. A number of our teachers and staff presented. Therese Arsenault led two sessions about coaching for equity and building strong math identities.

In preparation for a vote, the board discussed the College and Career Access Pathways agreement from San Mateo Community College District for Dual/Enrollment Biotechnology class for Community College credit at Gateway. The 2021/2022 biotechnology class will be taught by Michael Fuller, in conjunction with The College of San Mateo. Mary Plant Thomas motioned to approve the agreement, and Susan Masto seconded. The board voted unanimously to approve the agreement, without issue.

Sharon gave the board an update on phased reopening/distance learning. The Gateway Covid Team has been monitoring state guidance on opening schools and paying attention to what the SFUSD is doing. Gateway is dependent upon SFUSD for two important aspects of our program: our lunch program and our special education services. We have also been listening to feedback from families and staff. Sharon shared slides outlining the current plan put together by the GPS Covid team. The GMS and GHS leadership teams saw this earlier in the week, teachers and staff will see it later this week. The slides are modified as feedback is gathered.

Due to ongoing restrictions caused by the pandemic including social distancing, we will not transition to a hybrid or fully in-person instructional model this school year. As restrictions loosen and staff become vaccinated, there will be opportunities for limited in-person activities. In-person activities will be opt-in for both staff and students.

The slides listed distance learning principles: attend to the personal and relational; less is more; keep equity at the center; leverage technology; accelerate learning. The Spring 2021 priorities are: Maintain the continuity of our academic program and sense of personal safety and choice.; balance the needs and desires of our community; prioritize the needs of students from historically marginalized groups, especially Black and Latinx students and students with learning disabilities; focus on the urgency and importance of social-emotional support for all; move in a direction to prepare us for next year. We will survey the community (staff, families, students) to learn what their thoughts, needs and concerns are.

Examples of opt-in in-person activities are targeted support; teacher-proposed in-person learning experiences (rocket launches, in-person office hours); celebrations of milestones such as 8th and 12th grade in-person events; club or other extracurricular in-person small gatherings. To make this happen school leaders will work with staff to determine priorities and approaches for in-person activities, as well as necessary prep time and support. We will set aside time for staff to be on campus to learn and practice safety protocols as well as to prepare for in-person activities.

In accordance with state requirements, in order to work on campus with students, staff must participate in COVID-19 testing every two weeks. Gateway will not require proof of vaccination unless it becomes legally required to do so, but we encourage staff to be vaccinated as soon as possible.

We plan to submit our SFDPH reopening application in mid-March. The COVID team meets next week to set dates for community meetings with families, and plan the community survey.

Trustees Committee

In preparation for the upcoming Diversity and Inclusion Interviews that the board is going to hold with trustees in March, Kevin Rafter shared a sign-up sheet and provided time for trustees to fill it out.

Development Update

Sharon Olken gave the development update. The Great Gateway Gathering, to be held on March 14th, needs talent! Ways to contribute are to donate wine, purchase a party package, or submit a talent video. Sharon gave an overview of development plans for the rest of the year. The spring appeal is going out in April.

Adjourn meeting

Susan adjourned the meeting at 6:31 pm.

Signed:  _____ Date: 5/1/21

Sapna Boze, Board Secretary