

Gateway Public Schools

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

At Gateway Middle School

Wednesday, November 28, 2018 @ 5:15 - 7:00 PM

Minutes

Board Members Present: Beth Berliner, Cynthia Billops, Sapna Boze, Sara Byrne, Elizabeth Colen, Katie Colley, Sharon Gillenwater, Annie Klebahn, Susan Masto, Joyce McMinn, Molly Orner, Mary Plant-Thomas, Jackie Quella, Kevin Rafter, Adina Safer, Suzanne Schutte, Laura Spivy, Dina To, Aaron White, Julie Wise

Board Members Excused: Therese Arsenault, Sharon Olken, Suzanne Schutte, Valerie Toler

Board Members Not Present: Allison Bhusri

Also present: Chad Foskuhl, Chris Hero, Danielle Ciccarelli, Chanda Guerin, Aaron Watson

Call to Order, Approval of Minutes from October 17, 2018

Sapna called the meeting to order at 5:15

Sapna called for a motion to approve the minutes from October 17, 2018. There is one change to the minutes. Sara Byrne will chair the Investment Committee, not the Finance Committee. The minutes were approved unanimously, with this correction.

The holiday party will be December 20th at 5:30-8:30 at SF Studio Smith 1440 Bush Street. It will be a great time for the board, faculty and staff. Hope to see you there.

Public Forum

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

Audit Committee Update

Chris introduced Chad Foskuhl, the accounting manager. Chad works on strategic planning, is the mastermind for human resources, is expert in the political field of San Francisco, and is charge of our reporting to the state. Everyone acknowledged and thanked Chad for his hard work all year, and especially for his work on the audit. Kevin Rafter thanked Chad and Chris for making it a pleasure to chair the committee. He said that the audit is a process of taking stock of our financials and making sure they are accurate. Approving the audit is part of the board's overall fiduciary responsibility. External stakeholders will look at it. The excellent news is that the auditors gave Gateway excellent marks. They found no material weaknesses or deficiencies. Kevin passed the floor to Chris for financial information. Chris took the board through some highlights of the financials, our cash balance and investments. We are in a strong financial position.

Kevin moved to approve the audit. Jackie seconded the motion. The audit was approved without issue. The board thanked Kevin, Chris and Chad for their work. Laura noted that for 11 years we have had clean audits, which is quite a record.

Development Update

Susan passed the floor to Chanda and thanked her for the amazing luncheon and Impact Beta Event. She also thanked Ms. Colen for doing the ask at the luncheon. Chanda reviewed the luncheon income report. The report compared expenses and income for 2017 and 2018. We are in a good position. Expenses were lower this year, and income was higher.

Chanda talked about upcoming fundraising activities - Major Donor Initiatives, the Year End Appeal, the Great Gateway Gathering and the Spring Appeal. The numbers from foundations and corporations are up and promising. We received a \$3,500 grant from the Giants, and Tony Rogers and Stephen Flynn are meeting with them tomorrow. We will find out about a few other grants in the next few weeks, and have some applications in the works.

Chanda brought everyone's attention to the last page of the packet, listing upcoming events at Gateway. The January 29th Conversations for Impact will be focused on teachers. April 23rd we will host an after school mocktail event. April 12th is Giants night.

The Project week wish list is going out to the board and the administration, next week.

Sapna asked Chanda to say a few words about the Beta Impact Launch, held on October 23rd in the Impact Lab. It was an amazing event where we rolled out our Impact website. Many interested groups attended, people were excited and expressed interest in getting involved. Sapna remarked that it was an amazing event. We are following up with a mini-conference on February 9th.

ED Report

Aaron Watson presented the Executive Director's report. He thanked the board members for coming and noted that he wants to share how GMS is trying to be responsive to students. We are here because we believe all students deserve a good education. We want middle schoolers to feel good about themselves as learners, and have skills they need when they hit 9th grade.

Not all students come into middle school ready or are where they need to be to get a good education. There is a tension between wanting to have all students learn together and wanting to give students the individualized attention they need. We believe that everyone should be supported together. But, in order to be equitable, some kids need more. What does that look like for teacher in a classroom? Aaron asked everyone to read a page from "Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Brain." Our aim is to change dependent learners into independent learners.

Everyone had time to read the pages and talk about what they read. Aaron asked "How do you set kids up so they can take off, and access opportunity? How do we ensure that every student is moving forward?" Teachers work in small inquiry groups, Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) thinking about what we can do as a next step. Elizabeth talked about how this works in humanities. In one class there are students who are reading at 28th and 99th percentile, in other class 14th percentile and 99th percentile. GMS has a school wide goal that students are growing a level in non-fiction reading. How do we get kids to break down complex texts? Elizabeth says that she and Lucy Hilarides created a clear protocol for students to access texts. Students keep track of their own data to see that they are growing. Students have to assess themselves and compare it to Ms. Colen's assessment. They use "Newsela" for leveled articles for kids. Everyone reads the same article, but at their own level. They build in scaffolding so students can move from being dependent to independent.

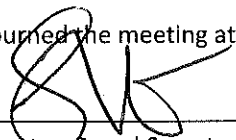
Aaron said that teachers work to get a sense of everyone's level, what they need, and what is the next step. They have recognized that pulling some kids out a bit more, for example for reading seminar class or for working on math skills, is very helpful for some students.

The board thanked Aaron for his presentation.

Adjourn Meeting

Susan and Sapna adjourned the meeting at 7:03pm

Signed: _____



Date: _____

2/27/19

Sharon Gillenwater, Board Secretary