

GATEWAY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH, 2016 @ 5:00 PM
MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Therese Arsenault, Beth Berliner, David Booth, Sapna Boze, Laura D'Amato Contreras, Sharon Gillenwater, Sam Kary, Susan Kase, Susan Masto, Sharon Olken, Jackie Quella, Adina Safer, Suzanne Schultes, Suzanne Schutte, Laura Spivy , Jennifer Tulley

Board Members Excused: Annie Klebahn, Joyce McMinn, Will Parish, Aaron White, Julie Wise, Valerie Toler

Board Members Not Present: Lisa Kirkland, Phil Susser, Cynthia Billops, Allison Bhusri

Also present: Chris Hero, Danielle Ciccarelli

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Approval of Minutes from November 18th, 2015

Beth called the meeting to order at 5:11pm . She called for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2016 meeting. They were approved without issue. Beth spoke about the upcoming GPS auction, what a fun event it is and invited Trustees to attend. The online auction begins February 11th. Beth also relayed that Board visiting day is now April 19th.

2. Public Forum: Sapna opened the floor for Public Forum. No further discussions or motions were introduced.

3. 5:25 - Student Agency Task Force Update

Beth passed the floor to Suzanne Schutte, who talked about the work of the Student Agency Task Force. The SATF explores the non-cognitive factors that go into helping students be successful learners in middle school, high school and college.

Last year, the task force looked at what teachers are doing to promote student agency at both schools. Suzanne Herko is doing a methodical study of what is working and what is not. The Task Force is working to get a sense of what material is already out there and our goal is to share our best practices outside of the school. Members of the Task Force are attending the "Learning and the Brain" conference. They will debrief after the workshop to capture what was learned and present to the Board at a later date.

4. Committee of Trustees Update

Sharon Gillenwater and Jackie Quella gave an update on the work being done by the Trustees Committee. They discussed the current status of Trustees, possible Board seats to fill and the focus of 2015/2016 year. The needs we are looking to fill, among others, are: education expertise, diversity, and involvement in the technology industry. It would be great to enhance our connection to the vibrant technology industry in the SF Bay Area. This could give our students opportunities to internships, etc. This is an untapped area for us. During committee meetings, prospective trustees are brainstormed, documented and discussed. Over time, the

committee cultivates relationships with prospective Trustees and assesses readiness and interest.

Beth and Sapna thanked Jackie and Sharon for their hard work, and passed the floor to Chris for the Financial Report.

5. 5:30 - Finance Committee Update

- a) Approval of tax return (990) - Chris thanked Laura Spivy for reviewing the tax return. Laura reported that the return is complete and thorough. Laura made a motion to approve and David Booth seconded. The tax return was approved without issue.
- b) Identify expenses for Educator Effectiveness Grant – Chris presented the plan for how we will spend the \$60,000 from the state for professional development and teacher development. These one-time funds are to be used for both schools. The Board will vote on the proposal next month.
- c) Mid-Year Financial Update – We just crossed the halfway point of the current fiscal year. Our financial position is solid and our cash position is strong. Our investment allocation is conservative, so we were down only 3% as opposed to 7%. The budget news from the state so far is good; tax revenues are higher than they thought, and things look good for us this year and going into next year. Chris reviewed the forecast changes YTD. Laura mentioned that Annie Klebahn has joined the Finance Committee because of the overlap between Faculty Affairs and Finance.
- d) Introduction to the Budget Process (2016-2017) - Chris reviewed the Budget Development Timeline and Activities. Chris also talked about the proposed increase in rent and special education.

6. 6:00 – Faculty Affairs Update

Sapna thanked Chris and introduced Laura D’Amato, who gave the Faculty Affairs update. Laura thanked everyone who worked to organize the FAC Community Meeting, which was held on February 5th. Approximately 20 teachers as well as members of the Faculty Affairs Committee attended the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to give voice to faculty concerns and ideas. The communication at the meeting was collaborative. The FAC is thinking about how to value expertise and support our teachers given the changes in our city. Sapna thanked the Faculty Affairs Committee and everyone who played a part in the community meeting.

7. 6:15 – Executive Director’s Report

Sharon showed appreciation for the fact that Annie and Laura worked hard to make the community meeting a safe place for people to share and have tough conversations.

- a) Update on Gateway Impact Initiatives – Sharon gave a slide presentation to really explain the Gateway Impact Campaign. She reviewed the priorities of the campaign and discussed the work that is underway.

As part of the effort to improve student access to important opportunities in the community, Rachel Kamen has been collecting summer opportunities for students and compiling them in a spreadsheet called, “#bestsummerever.” Sharon presented the searchable spreadsheet to the Board.

Our goal is to research, curate and compile opportunities for students and teachers. We would like to find ways to make teacher applications to grants and other opportunities easier, then refine and share tools with outside audiences.

We are working on a new GPS website and a Gateway Impact Labs Website. The Gateway website should be up this summer, and the GIL website should be up this fall. The GIL website will help us to be change-agents outside of our walls. We know there are potential supporters who want to see us have a greater impact and help foster systemic change. Some suggestions from the Board are: sharing the work that went into creating the school, the work that helps make the magic in the classroom happen; measuring success of finding summer placements for students (Rachel is creating system for measuring what our kids our doing); having students survey what other kids have done, and write a review. Adina offered to be a contact for teachers applying for Fund for Teachers.

- b) Gateway High School Accreditation – Gateway High School is currently going through the accreditation process from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). Sharon distributed a “WASC Overview”, which contained highlights from the report that GHS submitted to WASC. Becca Wieder and GHS staff have been working all year on this report, which describes our program, presents data about how the school is doing, and outlines an action plan to grow critical areas of need. Sharon will send the full report to anyone who would like to read it. GHS goes through this process every few years. Accreditation is optional, but it is important to our students that colleges and universities know that a diploma from GHS means something.

Members of a WASC visiting committee will be at the school from March 6 through March 9th. Sharon invited Trustees to the WASC opening reception on March 6th.

Trustees commented on the material in the report. Sharon will bring the WASC report back at a future meeting to provide an opportunity for more discussion.

8. 7:00 – Adjourn Meeting - Sapna adjourned the meeting at 7:04

Signed: Allison Bhusri
Allison Bhusri, Board Secretary

Date: 3/16/16