

**GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 18, 2013 @ 5:08 PM**

Board Members Present:

Therese Arsenault, Beth Berliner, Allison Bhusri, Cynthia Billops, Sapna Boze, Felix Chinchilla, Laura D'Amato, Mark Felton, Deundra C. Hundon, David Jackson, Amy Joseph, Joyce McMinn, Erin Niehaus, Sharon Olken, Will Parish, Jackie Quella, Adina Safer, Sue Schultes, Suzanne Schutte, Laura Spivy, Valerie Toler, Jennifer Tulley, Julie Wise

Board Members Excused:

Susan Masto, Phil Susser, Katherine Welch, Briana Zelaya

Also present:

Chris Hero, Tina McGovern

1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME AND INTRODUCE GUESTS AND MEMBERS, APPROVAL OF MAY MINUTES

Jennifer Tulley called the meeting to order at 5:11. Jennifer introduced Beth Berliner and then described the meeting's agenda. She asked for a motion to approve the May 2013 minutes. The motion was made and seconded and the minutes passed without objection. Jennifer then gave the floor to Sharon Olken who introduced Kathryn Hecht, the new Communications Manager. Sharon reported that Kathryn had taken Gateway's communications by storm from the day-to-day operations front and on the larger strategic level. Jennifer then opened the floor for public forum. No further discussions or motions were introduced.

2. AMEND BY LAWS (VOTE)

Jennifer asked all potential new trustees to step out of the room.

Beth gave a brief overview of the proposed changes in Gateway's by laws, including eliminating the list of named committees and including a second GMS faculty member so that each school had equal representation at the Board level. She then gave Chris Hero the floor who further explained these changes. Chris then explained the need to strike the names of specific committees from the by laws to create maximum flexibility. Beth asked the floor for a motion to approve all changes. The motion was made, seconded, and passed without objection.

3. APPROVE/INTRODUCE NEW TRUSTEES (VOTE)

Beth then introduced the five new trustees with a document including their bios. Two (Cynthia Billops (GHS) and Julie Wise (GMS)) are parent reps, one from each school. Two (Laura D'Amato (GHS) and Felix Chinchilla (GMS)) are teachers, one from each school, who were voted in by their colleagues. Finally, Valerie Toler will carry on the Toler tradition of serving on the Board as her brother, Greg Toler, is rolling off. Beth then gave the floor to Joyce who spoke further about Valerie. Tina McGovern further introduced Julie Wise. Sharon further introduced Cynthia Billops. Therese Arsenault spoke in more detail of Felix. And finally, Greg Grossman further introduced Laura.

Beth then made a motion to approve the new additions to the Board of Trustees. The motion was made, seconded, and passed without objection.

Jennifer called all the new initiates back into the room and welcomed them to the Board.

4. INTRODUCTIONS (ACTIVITY)

Jennifer introduced and described a get-to-know-you activity. Each attendee was asked to write five self-descriptive words about their role at Gateway. The group then went around the table and introduced themselves.

5. ELBOW CONVERSATIONS (ACTIVITY)

Jennifer decided to abandon this exercise due to time constraints.

11. BURL TOLER SCHOLARS PRESENTATION (INFO)

Sharon reported that the staff often brings something from the students into each meeting so that the Board can get a window into what we goes on at GPS. She then introduced Joyce McMinn to tell the Board more about the Burl Toler Scholarship program. She thanked Joyce for her efforts with the program.

Joyce took the floor. She reiterated the importance of the Club and then introduced two current Burl Toler Scholars. Seniors Aneesah and Kenata each shared how they came into the club.

Joyce then introduced Greg Toler who gave a brief history of his father, Burl, the first African American NFL referee as well as the first black Vice Principal and Principal in San Francisco. Greg explained that the club was initially created in his father's honor to help young black males obtain a 2.5 GPA and that letterman jackets are the hook. The jacket presentations are always spirited and hugely inspiration.

Joyce described how the program came to be. She was approached by The Meritus Foundation (TMF), which was setting up scholarships for San Francisco high school students who need help. A 3.0 GPA was required but TMF quickly found that they were not capturing their target audience of young black males. So they set up separate fund, San Francisco Achievers, for students maintaining a 2.5 GPA. Joyce then found that only one Gateway student was eligible. She then created a study structure for the GPAs to rise. She started with 12 students in 2010 and in 2011, two students received the scholarships, and two more students received it in 2012. By popular demand, the club introduced other ethnicities as well as girls.

The Board asked how jackets are purchased and if Joyce helps fill out forms. She replied that the school pays for the jackets through fundraising and that she looks for scholarships and helps students fill them out. She also reported that 87% stay with the program and the ones who don't had major life issues going on.

The Board asked why the club moved from a 2.5 GPA to a 2.7GPA. Greg responded that the latter is achievable and eventually they want to get the students to a 3.0 GPA.

Joyce thanked Greg for his service and the Board applauded as well

6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT (INFO)

Sharon said the importance of everyone sitting around the table was to increase inclusion. She then reviewed the "Dear Gateway Letters." The prompt was "tell us what you want us to know" and then she excerpted some of the more resonant. The Board then read them aloud.

Sharon reviewed the start of school year reporting it was the smoothest start yet. GMS is in its new home with a whole new grade of teachers and kids at full enrollment. While there has been no change at the top level, she is pleased to report that teacher leadership is now in its second year. She said that Common Core and Strategic Initiatives are topics to be covered at subsequent meetings.

Sharon then covered the PR issue recently facing GPS due to the change in GHS' enrollment practices. GHS implemented a series of changes to enrollment policies: 1) shorter application, 2) working more directly with organizations that support disadvantaged students that feed the schools GHS doesn't typically reach, and 3) added an early application deadline so that, if ready to commit, kids could apply early, and exit the often stressful application process. Everything Gateway did was legal and is done by other charter schools. She mentioned the Rachel Norton blog. She said that GPS had a great team response to mitigate the damage and that Rachel apologized. Finally, GPS is up for charter renewal so this is probably not over. She said there

were good lessons learned and apologized any uncomfortable conversations Trustees might encounter as a result of this incident.

The Board asked what were things they could/should say when questioned. Sharon responded that the process was changed to 1) better serve our mission and 2) put in place for kids committed to GHS a way out of enrollment chase. She also said that GPS would closely evaluate the results of these changes.

The Board asked if there was direct communication coming from Iris to other agencies and schools. Sharon confirmed there was.

The Board asked if GPS had ever tried to merge charters. Sharon responded that for funding, historical, and political reasons it would not be wise to do so.

Sharon confirmed that approximately 150-students would be accepted for 140 spots. She also reported that there would not be a wait pool after the first lottery. All students not chosen would have the opportunity to re-enter the lottery in February.

The Board mentioned that there should be some kind of safeguard to ensure non-winners are aware they will not be automatically added to a wait pool and that they must confirm their intent to re-enter the lottery.

7. DEVELOPMENT UPDATE (INFO)

Tina thanked Board for supporting the Luncheon event. She reported that invites have gone to print and that hard copies will be ready next week. She told them to expect an email version tomorrow and asked for all personal invitation lists. She reported that the development cash flow was in good shape. She also advised the Board of the growing Friends of Gateway (FOG) campaign and to look for events on the Board calendar. Adina Safer said she would like a blurb for KFOG.

8. FINANCE UPDATE (INFO)

Chris updated the Board on the financial health of GPS. He reported a \$100,000 projected surplus. He explained that Gov. Jerry Brown did a major overhaul to how funding was delivered. If all funds were available tomorrow, then GPS would have a \$1.6MM bump in budget. But the funds will more likely trickle down over the next 5-7 years. Forecasting for this is complicated and new accountability needs to be investigated, but Chris reported he is already seeing the impact.

9. BOARD SURVEY RESULTS (INFO)

This was tabled until the next meeting.

10. INTRANET WORKSHOP (ACTIVITY)

This was tabled until the next meeting.

12. ADJOURN MEETING

At 7:13 PM, with no other business to conduct, Jennifer adjourned the meeting.

Signed: Allison Bhusri
Allison Bhusri, Board Secretary

Date: 10/23/13