

# Gateway Public Schools

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Wednesday, October 18, 2017 @ 5:00 - 7:00 PM

## **Board Members Present:**

Therese Arsenault, Allison Bhusri, Sapna Boze, Sara Byrne, Elizabeth Colen, Sharon Gillenwater, Annie Klebahn, Susan Masto, Joyce McMinn, Farley Neuman, Sharon Olken, Mary Plant-Thomas, Jackie Quella, Adina Safer, Laura Spivy, Dina To, Valerie Toler, Aaron White, Julie Wise

**Board Members Excused:** Beth Berliner, Will Parish, Suzanne Schutte

**Also present:** Chris Hero, Danielle Ciccarelli, Breg Bybee

## **Call to Order, Approval of Minutes from September 11, 2017**

Susan called the meeting to order at 5:13. She called for a motion to approve the September minutes. Sharon Gillenwater motioned and Therese seconded. The minutes were approved, unanimously, without issue.

## **Open Forum**

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

Susan thanked everyone who donated to Gateway's collection for Santa Rosa school district families and teachers impacted by the wildfires. She welcomed Greg Bybee who is sitting in on the board meeting, as he is interested in learning more about us. Susan gave a huge shout out to all who participated in the luncheon, and praised Chairwoman Bettina Steffen and the Luncheon Committee for their amazing work. She also thanked and recognized Meg and Marianne for all that they did to make the event such a success. Susan told that board that Gateway is planning something new, in place of our traditional board visiting days. This will be discussed more later in the meeting.

## **Committee on Trustees - Approval of New Trustees**

Sapna gave the floor to Sharon Gillenwater and Jackie Quella for the approval of new Trustees, Elizabeth Colen and Molly Orner. They explained that the Trustees Committee is responsible for focusing on identifying new Trustees. The selection criteria focusing on diversity of all kinds. The committee feels that Trustees can be a great source for referrals. If you have ideas for potential board members, please send the information to Jackie and Sharon.

Tonight the board is voting on 2 new trustees, Molly Orner and Elizabeth Colen. Sharon Olken spoke about Molly Orner, who will be the high school teacher representative.

Sharon Olken explained that our teachers add a lot to the board and help us stay focused on our mission. Sharon has known Molly for 10 years, and in that time Molly has grown in extraordinary ways. Molly is very committed to Gateway, its mission and to what happens in the classroom. Sharon read Molly's statement explaining why she is motivated to serve on the board and represent her colleagues. Sharon nominated Molly, and Molly's Trusteeship was approved unanimously. Molly was not able to attend the meeting because she is attending a Facing History workshop.

Sharon G. asked Therese Arsenault to talk about Elizabeth Colen, who is running to be the middle school teacher representative. Therese has worked with Elizabeth since the founding of the middle school. Elizabeth always shows perseverance, and is the quiet, powerful leader behind the scenes. She is steadfast, believes in every student, and, if she sees something that needs to be done, she takes the bull by the horns and does it. Elizabeth blossomed as a student at Gateway High, and feels a need to give back. Therese would be very excited to have her on the board. Sharon G. nominated Elizabeth, Therese seconded and the board unanimously approved her trusteeship. Elizabeth joined the meeting and was welcomed by everyone.

### **Development Update**

Susan Masto gave the floor to Sarah Byrne and Sharon Gillenwater for the Development update. Sarah thanked everyone who came to the luncheon and for their support of Gateway. The luncheon was a big success and Meg and Marianne did a super job. Sarah asked board members to share their experiences at the luncheon. Trustees shared that people enjoyed James Ryan, and liked the question and answer format of the interview. It was remarked that having the speaker be related to education was very powerful. Mr. Ryan had done his homework about Gateway and his comments reinforced our mission. Trustees felt that the featured students were all very powerful and truly show what our schools are about.

Chris Hero thanked Sarah and the Luncheon Committee, and noted how much was accomplished without a development director.

Sharon Olken presented the "2017 Luncheon Donors/Attendees" spreadsheet, listing donors, their stewards and next steps. The spreadsheet will be shared with all Trustees. If you have an idea of what the next steps should be, or feel you can help someone on the list be more connected to the school, please note it in the spreadsheet. If you followed up with anyone, please write it in the Trustee follow-up column. Any information that you learn that you think is helpful, please add it to the spreadsheet.

Sharon Olken introduced three new types of events that will help people to get to know Gateway. First, instead of Board Visiting Days, we will host *Explore Gateway* events to which you may bring people to see Gateway in action. We will also have a slightly new version of *Conversations for Impact* where we will feature our own staff as experts. Thirdly, we will host *Gateway 101*, a happy hour to learn the basics about Gateway.

Sharon announced that our new Development Director, Chanda Guerin, is coming on board in the beginning of December. Chanda will bring a lot of expertise to Gateway.

### **Faculty Affairs Update**

Sapna gave the floor to Annie Klebahn and Mary Plant Thomas for the Faculty Affairs Committee update. They presented slides describing the FAC's goals and timeline. The FAC's priority is teacher compensation. The committee will lead a collaborative process to implement a Differentiated Teacher Compensation Model that ensures livability in the Bay Area and better reflects teachers' expertise and contributions to Gateway.

Right now, our scale is very similar to SFUSD. The committee asked questions about the scale. Does it support teachers or help to keep teachers? Gateway has always been a model for change and we believe that excellent teaching matters. Differentiated compensation will help support goals for our

