

GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, February 11, 2015 @ 5:00 PM

Board Members Present:

Therese Arsenault, Beth Berliner, Allison Thoreson Bhusri, Cynthia Billops, David Booth, Sapna Boze, Felix Chinchilla, Laura D'Amato Contreras, Sharon Gillenwater, Amy Joseph, Annie Klebahn, Susan Masto, Joyce McMinn, Sharon Olken, Will Parish, Jackie Quella, Adina Safer, Sue Schultes, Suzanne Schutte, Laura Spivy, Valerie Toler, Jennifer Tulley, Aaron White, Julie Wise, Briana Zelaya

Board Members Excused:

Lisa Kirkland, Deundra Hundon

Board Members Not Present:

Phil Susser

Also present:

Chris Hero, Anna Heidinger, Danielle Ciccarelli

1. 5:00 – Call to Order, Welcome, and Approval of Minutes from January 14, 2015  
Jennifer called the meeting to order at 5:08 PM. Jennifer called for a motion to approve the minutes. They were approved without issue.
2. 5:05 Closed Session - Student Expulsion 1415-1
3. 5:20 – Public Forum  
Jennifer opened the floor for the Public Forum. There were no members of the public present. No further discussions or motions were introduced.
4. 5:25 – Executive Director Report – Middle School Charter Approval  
Jennifer opened the floor to Sharon Olken, who discussed the Middle School Charter approval process. Sharon expressed that the prospect of getting the GMS charter renewed is very exciting. The first group of graduates from GMS is now attending GHS and they are thriving. We get to celebrate our successes through the charter renewal.

The Charter has been rewritten to reflect the current law and the current reality of the school. It is ready to print after tonight's approval by the Board.

After the District receives the Charter, they have 60 days from the date of the next scheduled Board of Education meeting to approve it. We will attend the Curriculum Committee and Budget Committee hearings. We should try to fill the room with supporters. Sharon passed out a timeline overview. The Charter will be renewed for 5 years. Law dictates the content of the charter. A large part of the charter relates to finances.

Sharon gave the floor to Chris Hero, who explained that there is a stand-alone budget for the middle school. Chris gave an overview of what is in the Charter, regarding finances, and what the BOE will be looking for.

Sharon distributed Charter highlights and asked everyone to note at least 2 points that they think make Gateway Middle School what it is. The Board held a discussion. Some of the highlights mentioned were Gateway's culture of respect, core values, restorative practices, the athletic program, diversity, the learning center, Exhibition Night.



It was noted that the values and mission of GPS really jump out in this charter. We have remained true to who we are and our mission is happening.

Sharon asked everyone to think about what they would like to see us committing to 5 years from now. Ideas were shared in a group discussion.

Beth asked for a motion to approve the charter. The charter was approved unanimously.

**5. 5:55 Faculty Affairs Update**

Beth opened the floor to Adina Safer, who presented a Faculty Affairs update. The Gateway Community meeting was held last Friday night, 2/6, at Adina's house. Adina thanked Annie Klebahn for being a wonderful facilitator.

Adina told the Board that the evening was powerful, motivating, engaging, and substantive, and that there was an honest conversation about staff concerns. The tone of the meeting was cooperative and everything felt possible. Laura D'Amato noted some of the teachers' concerns, such as cost of housing, student loans.

Therese Arsenault noted that the staff is interested to know who the Board is; it is nice for them to have the opportunity to meet the Board and see that the Board is full of dynamic people.

The Board discussed that we have been at the forefront of so many things, and the issue of making it as a teacher in San Francisco is an important problem to address. It would be great to be at the forefront of solving that problem. Faculty Affairs has been exploring concrete options for addressing these issues.

Adina said that Faculty Affairs is committed to having follow-up conversations, both near and long-term.

Beth commented that the committee is doing very interesting work.

**6. 6:15 Finance**

Beth opened the floor to Chris Hero to discuss finance.

**a. 2014/2015 Budget discussion**

Chris announced that we have officially launched the FY16 budgeting process.

Chris explained the FY16 straw-man, which includes all the main-drivers to create a base-line budget. Later in the budgeting process, we will move on to programmatic and personnel costs. We will approve a personnel budget in April, and look at the full budget at the next meeting. April is when we approve personnel line items.

In both the Faculty Affairs and Finance Committee meetings, discussions will continue on how best to invest in employee compensation and benefits. The first Board Review of these line items will occur at the March meeting.

Beth closed the budget discussion, and opened discussion on the approval of the 990 tax filing.

**b. Vote to approve 990 tax filing**



Chris explained the 990 tax filing, which is the second part of our audit. Laura Spivy reviewed the document. She recommended that the Board vote to approve it. Jennifer asked for a vote. The 990 tax filing was unanimously approved.

**7. 6:45 – Development**

Beth gave the floor to Anna Heidinger to discuss Development. Anna said that the next 4 months should be very busy for Development. Megan Orciari is our new communications director. Susan Masto and Sara Byrne will co-chair the next luncheon and the Development Committee has been discussing potential speakers.

Board Visiting Day at Gateway High School is March 6<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00-10:30. Anna is hoping for a strong showing of current trustees. Development has been exploring ways to bring people back into our community and is inviting former trustees.

Beth thanked Anna for the Development report.

**8. 7:00 - Adjourn Meeting**

With no further business to conduct, Beth adjourned the meeting at 7:01.

Signed:

Allison Bhusri  
Allison Bhusri, Board Secretary

Date:

4/22/15

