

Gateway Public Schools

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Wednesday, May 18, 2016 @ 5:00 -6:30 PM

Minutes

Board Members Present:

Therese Arsenault, Allison Thoreson Bhusri, Cynthia Billops, David Booth, Sapna Boze, Laura D'Amato Contreras, Sharon Gillenwater, Sam Kary, Susan Kase, Lisa Kirkland, Annie Klebahn, Susan Masto, Joyce McMinn, Sharon Olken, Will Parish, Jackie Quella, Adina Safer, Suzanne Schultes, Suzanne Schutte, Laura Spivy, Phil Susser, Valerie Toler, Aaron White, Julie Wise

Board Members Excused: Beth Berliner, Jennifer Tulley,

Board Members Not Present:

Also present: Chris Hero, Anna Heidinger, Danielle Ciccarelli, Megan Orciari

Call to Order, Welcome, Approval of Minutes from April 27th, 2016

Sapna called the meeting to order at 5:04. She called for a motion to approve the April Board minutes. The minutes were approved without issue. Sapna invited everyone to happy hour after the meeting.

Public Forum

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

Committee on Trustees: Board Survey Results

Sharon Gillenwater spoke about results of the Board survey. There were twenty-two responses, and they were very positive, which is consistent with last year's results. The responses made evident that diversity means different things to different people. There is diversity of skill sets, experience, as well as racial diversity.

Sharon gave a PowerPoint presentation which illustrated the overall survey takeaways. Among them were:

- The Board strengths:
 - Organizational leadership
 - Board and committee leadership
 - Board meetings, processes and communication
 - Strong alignment with GPS mission and values
 - Strong alignment on top priorities
 - Finances and planning
 - Trustee commitment and engagement
 - New partnership strategy driven by Rachel Kamen

- Board Opportunities:
 - Board diversity
 - Clarity/comfort around what gets done in committees versus board
 - Clarity around trustee nomination process
 - More clarity on Gateway Impact Labs
 - More open discussion in board meetings, time for Q&A
 - More presentations/interactions with students
 - How can we better support GPS and Sharon in particular?

Top five priorities:

1. Teacher Recruitment/Retention/Support/Compensation
2. Fundraising/Financial Sustainability
3. Gateway Impact Labs
4. Quality of Student Programs (including success with College Access)
5. (TIE) Equity and Community Partnerships

The Trustees were given the opportunity to discuss the results. Laura D'Amato commented that she appreciates that equity made it to the top five priorities. Therese Arsenault asked what would be done with the information learned. Sharon G. explained that the responses help the Executive Director come up with the objectives for the 2016/2017 school year. She also noted that survey results show that the Board recognizes how valuable Sharon Olken is and appreciates her hard work and dedication.

Sharon Olken thanked Sharon G. and Jackie for analyzing the information and communicating the survey results.

Development Update

Sapna gave the floor to Anna, who presented the Development summary for the year. Anna gave a shout out to Susan Masto for her leadership of the luncheon. This year saw the launch of our Conversations for Impact series, and GPS published its first annual report. We are in the process of designing two new major websites, one for GPS and one for Gateway Impact Labs. Anna thanked all who attended the Impact Campaign receptions and have already supported the campaign. Thank you to Will Parish and his wife for hosting a reception. Anna thanked the Impact Campaign committee and Sue Schultes.

ED Report – End of Year Highlights

Sapna gave the floor to Sharon Olken for the Executive Director's report. Sharon presented the new Gateway Magazine, and thanked Meg for all of her hard work.

End of year highlights: Thursday night is exhibition night at Gateway middle school. We are also a week and a half away from our third promotion from GMS. Next year, 3 out of 4 GHS classes will consist of students from GMS. Both schools had fantastic leadership this year, with strong principals and assistant principals. The schools are stronger as a result. The amount of teacher leadership at both schools is astounding. Bringing on a Director of Partnerships has had a big impact. Our FAC is amazing at keeping our eye on the prize. We are working on technological

infrastructure, ways to track student achievement and two new websites. It has been a fantastic year in terms of Development - financially we are in a great position. We couldn't do what we do without a terrific board. Sharon gave a shout out and a huge thank you to Sapna. Her transition to Co-Chair has been seamless. Our Director of Enrollment, Iris Smith, is moving on after eight years to go to graduate school. We are very happy for her, but it will be hard to fill her shoes. In September, Sharon will discuss data sets relating to enrollment and college and attracting students from the middle school to the high school.

Financial Update

Sapna thanked Sharon and gave the floor to Chris for the Financial Update.

Chris Hero explained three State Funding Compliance Resolutions, which the Board must approve. The Board must also be compliant with the resolutions. The three resolutions are:

1. Education Protection Account
2. Local Control and Accountability
3. Federal and State Categorical Funding

The three resolutions were approved unanimously.

Laura Spivy led a discussion of the FY17 budget. Our budget reflects our mission. We will be voting to approve the budget for next year, but we are also looking ahead 3 years from now. We are in a strong financial position, and have built reserves by being prudent over time and conservative in our budget process. Chris went over the drivers for the FY17 Budget and Laura went over funding.

The Finance Committee formally recommended that the Board approve the budget for FY17. Jackie moved to approve and Annie seconded. The FY17 budget was approved without issue. As part of the vote to approve the FY17 budget, the Board also voted to earmark \$200k of operating reserves for continuing to fund faculty retention programs for 3-5 years, at the Board's discretion.

Committee on Trustees

Jackie Quella proposed approval of the 16/17 Executive Committee membership. The board approved the membership without issue.

Jackie Quella talked about Sue Schultes, who is rolling off the Board. Sue has been a valuable member of the board. She led the Development Committee for a number of years and did a wonderful job moving us forward. Sue is a can-do person, and it is very enjoyable to serve on a committee with her. Sue thanked everyone and stated that she really enjoyed serving on the Board.

Laura D'Amato is also rolling off the board. Annie mentioned that it has been a pleasure to work with Laura on the Faculty Affairs Committee. She has a passion for teaching and, teaching is her calling. Collectively she will be missed. We are grateful to have had Laura on the Board and the FAC. Sapna thanked Laura and Sue for their service.

Sapna gave the floor to Sharon Olken, who affirmed what a wonderful teacher and thinker Laura is. Laura lives her values every day. You have to wear two different hats to serve on the Board,

and Laura did so with integrity. Sharon thanked everyone and she looks forward to seeing everyone in September, rested and ready for another year.

Sapna and Beth thanked Sharon Olken for holding us all together, keeping us focused on our goals, and for being so passionate about Gateway.

Adjourn to La Urbana for End of Year Happy Hour

Sapna adjourned the meeting at 6:35.

Signed: Allison Bhusri
Allison Bhusri, Board Secretary

Date: 9/14/16