

Gateway Public Schools

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Wednesday, October 19, 2016 @ 5:00 -7:00 PM

Minutes

Board Members Present:

Therese Arsenault, Beth Berliner, Allison Thoreson Bhusri, Cynthia Billops, David Booth, Sarah Byrne, Sharon Gillenwater, Susan Kase, Lisa Kirkland, Susan Masto, Joyce McMinn, Mary Plant-Thomas, Jackie Quella, Adina Safer, Eric Sarb, Suzanne Schutte, Phil Susser, Aaron White, Julie Wise

Board Members Excused: Sapna Boze, Annie Klebahn, Sharon Olken, Will Parish, Laura Spivy, Valerie Toler, Jennifer Tulley

Also present: Chris Hero, Danielle Ciccarelli, Anna Heidinger

5:00 - Call to Order, Approval of Minutes from September 14th, 2016

Beth called the meeting to order at 5:10. She asked for a motion to approve the September 14th, 2016. Therese motioned to approve and Suzanne seconded. The September minutes were approved without issue.

2. 5:05 – Public Forum Beth opened the floor for the public forum. Joseph Diebert, Senior Risk Services Consultant from the Alliance of Schools for Cooperative Insurance Programs, our liability and risk insurance provider, asked to speak to the Board. He presented Gateway with a plaque and a check for \$2,000 for our outstanding dedication to creating a culture of safety for our students, staff and community, under Chris Hero and John Eames's leadership. The Trustees expressed their appreciation to ASCIP. Beth thanked Chris for his work on this and all of the many things he does behind the scenes.

Beth announced that Sharon is not here tonight, and Sapna is out of town. Beth gave huge thanks and kudos to Anna, Meg, Marianne, Susan Masto, Claire Alt and Jennifer Hocking for their work making the luncheon a great success. Bryant Terry was an amazing speaker whose talk was full of current and important content. Beth mentioned that Sharon Olken does so much to prepare for the program; there are many behind-the-scenes things that she does to prepare for the luncheon. It takes a village, but Sharon is the backbone of the luncheon and the school. Beth wanted to make sure that we let Sharon know how much we appreciate her. Anna mentioned that Sharon spends hours helping the student speakers feel comfortable and prepared for the luncheon program.

3. 5:10 – Committee on Trustees (INFO and VOTE) Approval of new member, Eric Sarb.

Eric Sarb left the room during the discussion and vote. Therese Arsenault spoke about Eric and what a wonderful teacher he is. He brings out the best in kids, and has many interests, such as breakdancing and mountain science. He enjoys listening to what people have to say and wants to make a difference.

Therese advised the board that Eric would be a valuable addition to the Board. Sharon Gillenwater moved to approve Eric Sarb's Trusteeship and Jackie seconded. The motion was approved, unanimously.

4. 5:20 – Executive Director's Report (INFO)

a) Faculty Spotlights

Beth asked David Booth and Therese Arsenault to talk about their experiences as Gateway teachers. David, Trustee and GHS Humanities teacher, described to Trustees the ways in which his own learning experiences, in the name of Gateway, influence his teaching. To illustrate this, he spoke about his approach to teaching English 12 EWRC (Expository Reading And Writing Course), a college preparatory course created by CSU to help students develop the literacy skills they will need to be successful in college. David's experience co-teaching Social Entrepreneurship with Sharon, during project week, and his time studying art of the Anthropocene at the Smithsonian, this past summer, influenced how he is teaching the course. His outside PD and learning experiences, in the name of Gateway, inform his teaching and keep him excited as a teacher. He doesn't teach the same way two years in a row. Everyone thanked David for sharing.

Therese Arsenault, Trustee, GMS science and math teacher and Instructional Leader, spoke about teaching science at the middle school. In addition to teaching at GMS, Therese is a mentor in the Exploratorium's Teacher Institute. As part of the Teacher Institute, Therese co-facilitates professional development and mentors beginning science teachers. Through this work, she has connected GMS teachers with the Exploratorium. Therese explained that schools are currently transitioning to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). This new science framework reframes the teaching of science. The vision is to teach in learner-centered way and to engage students in the work that scientists do. GMS has partnered with the Exploratorium to help us strengthen our understanding of NGSS. Recently all math /science teachers at GMS participated in a workshop to explore ways of engaging in science from an NGSS perspective. Therese gave an overview of the work the math/science department is doing. She also gave an example of an engineering project in which 6th grade students designed a bridge that was structurally sound and would span 10". Students built 3d models, kept notes, sketched in their notebooks, and worked in teams. The results of the hands-on modeling activity were impressive.

Mary Plant Thomas discussed Project Week and presented a list featuring ways in which Board members can help teachers. She asked that, if you, or a friend, have any connections that could benefit a teacher's Project Week course, please, let Mary know. Project week is held at the high school immediately after winter break, 1/3-1/10. It is a non-academic, project oriented course. Students engage in activities and pursuits they don't experience during the regular school day.

b) 2016-Objectives – Sharon's objectives are in the board packet and she will go over them next month.

Beth spoke about the October 10th SFUSD School Board candidate forum hosted by the California Charter School Association. The forum was a wonderful opportunity for charter school families to hear the candidates' views.

5. 6:15 – Development Report (INFO) Luncheon Celebration and Reflection:

Beth turned the floor over to Susan Masto and Anna Heidinger for the development report. Susan thanked the Board for their outstanding participation in the luncheon. Every Trustee was either at the luncheon or supported the luncheon. Anna echoed what Susan said about the showing and participation of Trustees. She also noted that the luncheon had to compete with 3 other events; the Breakthrough Collaborative and Education Outside were holding events, and Hillary Clinton held a rescheduled Luncheon. Given all that, we did well. Bryant Terry was wonderful, and was impressed by Gateway. Anna reviewed the luncheon fundraising report and donor list. She asked Trustees to write a note of appreciation to anyone they know on the list, and thanked them for doing so.

Beth thanked Anna for her hard work and leadership. She passed the floor to Chris for the finance report.

6. 6:25 – Finance Report (INFO)

- a) Year Close (2015/16) and Audit Update: Chris told the Trustees that the Board is scheduled to review the audit update next month. There were no material issues and it was a clean audit.
- b) Forecast 2016/17 Current Year Financial updates. Chris distributed the financial update and talked about any changes since the budget was approved in May. The high school received a one-time college preparedness grant from the state, and GPS had additional expenses related to hiring. Looking ahead to the rest of the year, there shouldn't be much variance in our spending. Our enrollment at both schools is healthy right now. We are negotiating the SELPA fees and watching information about the state budget. The state is starting to see signs of a bust. We will be watching the SFUSD union negotiations.
- c) One time spending update Last year, GPS received one-time funds from the state. We saw this as an opportunity to invest in our goals of supporting excellence, developing a 21st century model, developing Impact labs, and making operational improvements. Gateway mobilized a team to determine the best way to utilize the funds. Funds were spent on facilities, infrastructure, faculty needs, and faculty recruitment. Funds purchased new laptop carts, new microscopes for the middle school, classroom supplies. Faculty recruitment investments include signing bonuses and other compensation.
Chris discussed how the funds were spent supporting our vision of a 21st century model. Over the summer, phase one of the Gateway STEAM Center was completed. Chris showed photos of the old shower/locker room under the KIPP gym, which was used for storage for 30-40 years. The room was once filled with shower stalls and piping. Everything was hauled out, the floors refinished, and the space is wired and has internet. We are entering the imagination phase of how to use the space. We also invested more in our robotics program and the garden.

Chris gave an update on the Impact Labs Website, a database of opportunities for faculty and students.

Operational improvements at the middle school include a total revitalization of the middle school play space. The yard now features a parklet, garden, climbing structure, ball wall and enhanced fencing. John Eames came up with ways to optimize the limited space at the middle school. The main office was divided to create a teacher space, and a meeting area was created under a stairway.

Chris said that many people were involved in making this all come together. Beth commented that it's great to see ideas that were discussed at the Faculty Affairs community meeting come to life. Eric and Therese gave feedback that the middle school teacher space, in the office, and the meeting space, under the stairs, make a big difference to the staff.

Mary asked who will have input on how the new STEAM center is to be developed. Chris said that there will be a call for interested teachers to help with planning. We will rely on the passion of teachers to help shape the space.; teacher passion will be key in making the space successful. Suzanne Schutte mentioned the space at Urban; a tech, science, history teacher helped plan it. Chris and John visited Nueva school to see their space. Adina asked about the how the space will connect with the curriculum. Chris said that we will be concentrating on that now, full-time, and exploring what we can do in the STEAM space that we can't do in a classroom. Beth and the Trustees thanked Chris for his presentation.

7. 7:00 – Adjourn Meeting

Beth adjourned the meeting at 6:37pm.

Signed: Allison Bhusri
Allison Bhusri, Board Secretary

Date: 1/11/17