

**GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2008 @ 5:10 p.m. – 7:07p.m.**

**Board Members Present:**

Cecily Cameron	Joyce McMinn	Bob Scavullo
Eve Collard	Judith McRae	Leon Schmidt
Cathy Dean	Gale Mondry	Ellice Sperber
Robin Donohoe	Toye Moses	Laura Spivy
Susan Hoffman	Sharon Olken	
Bill Johnston	Mayer Riff	

**Board Members Excused:**

Leslie Burlock	Donna Liu	Suzanne Schutte
David deWilde	Lisille Matheson	Liana Szeto
Erika Goncalves	Will Parish	Peter Thorp
Scott Gutterman	Tracy Pore	Greg Toler

**Also Present:**

Chris Hero	Tina McGovern	Iris Smith
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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Cathy Dean called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. The meeting was held in the Library of Gateway High School. Cathy announced a slight change in the agenda due a Proposition A presentation following the approval of the minutes.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of March 18, 2008 were reviewed and unanimously approved.

There was no public comment

**3. PROPOSITION A BRIEFING**

Cathy introduced Nick Driver who works with the California Charter School Association (CCSA) and is part of the Prop A steering committee and has worked closely with Carlos Garcia, the superintendent of the San Francisco School District. Proposition A proposes improvements in tracking teacher accountability as well as making sure that teachers are getting proper support through professional development. Nick was invited today to share what the campaign team has been doing to promote the proposition as well as how the Board can help get the vote out. Currently, political consultants predict that the proposition will only pass by a very narrow margin. Cathy Dean thanked Nick for joining the Board today and speaking on this very important and time sensitive matter.

**4. STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE**

Student Body President Alexia Diaz gave a school update which highlighted some of the major school events including last Friday's spring fling which was followed later that night by the "Glow" Earth Day dance. The Prom Committee has also been working hard on their fundraising efforts. Thanks to such events as Chevy's Night, they have made some head way in their goal to reduce the price of prom tickets from \$160 to \$85. They hope that the upcoming Senior garage sale and car wash will also help in these efforts. Other highlights included the May 1<sup>st</sup> Evening of Action and the June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grad Night, which will take place at Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure.

**5. FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Laura Spivy presented the preliminary budget and expressed her appreciation to Chris Hero, Director of Finance and Sharon for their hard work in achieving a balanced budget. She also acknowledged that the preliminary budget contains some large outstanding items. In next month's meeting, the committee plans to bring final numbers from the state, which will be as accurate as possible until final numbers are received in November. Additionally, in efforts to do some thinking about the Parcel Tax before it is approved, the committee plans to brainstorm some thoughts about how to spend the parcel tax revenues. Laura concluded by highlighting specific items in the budget including differences in the operating budget from the current school year vs. that forecasted for the upcoming school year, as well the way in which the endowment is reflected in the forecast. In the June meeting, the committee plans to lead an in depth discussion about how

the endowment interest will be incorporated into the budget. Cathy thanked both the Finance and Development committees for their hard work to make a balanced preliminary budget.

## **6. DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Tina McGovern began her update with highlights from the April 3<sup>rd</sup> Entrepreneurial Committee meeting. The committee was formed to gather the talents and brainpower of some of our creative and “out-of-the-box” thinkers, and create some new ways to help the Development Department reach the increased fundraising goals for the upcoming fiscal year. It was determined that one of the ways to achieve this goal is through untapped corporations and foundation support. Thanks to the hard work of our luncheon committee, especially Leslie Burlock, who has built this year’s luncheon committee larger than ever before, our corporate numbers are strong. The Entrepreneurial Committee plans to build on this momentum by continuing to think about new and innovative ways to make additional connections.

## **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cathy announced Norm Katz’s resignation from the Board. As one of the people who encouraged the Board to think out of the box, he has served the Board well.

Cathy presented the Gateway Founder Plaque (mentioned in the March meeting) honoring those who have been the leaders of Gateway since its inception. There was a round of applause in appreciation for those founders present, as well as those not in attendance.

## **8. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

Principal Olken began her update with a brief summary of her Board packet report, which detailed statistics of the incoming 2012 class. Based on feedback that she has gotten from a variety of sources, Gateway has developed a reputation in the community as an ideal school for a student willing to expend maximum effort despite sub-par academic performance.

Next Sharon discussed the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) results. Sharon commented on a slight dip in the pass rate of students with IEPs and African American and Latino students. This trend, which has been echoed in GPA and honor role ratings, is being partially addressed with an intensive content literacy professional development workshop, which the entire faculty has been participating in for the past few months. The emphasis of the workshop is to determine best practices in helping students to comprehend what is being asked of them in assignments and tests, and providing them with tools to apply comprehension strategies independently across all subject areas.

Sharon discussed the college acceptance of the current senior class. Compared to last year, there are more students who have been accepted to exclusive colleges as well as more students who have decided to take the non-college, or two year college, routes. Sharon acknowledged that every graduating senior in last year’s class went on to college. However, it is important to honor the choices made by all the seniors in this year’s graduating class, including those taking a different path. Most of these students have a career path that they are committed to, and have found alternative training to help make them successful in those ventures. Honoring those students not choosing college reflects Gateways’ motto: Measuring success one student and a time.

Switching gears, Sharon discussed the current focus of the Education and Faculty Affairs Committees in supporting incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders in order to guarantee a smooth transition from middle school to high school. This is a pivotal grade in terms of future academic success. Following extensive research regarding best practices and pitfalls of this transition, the 9<sup>th</sup> grade faculty transition team has proposed a program to support this effort. The program will potentially mean a significant change in Gateway’s curriculum and may impact the budget. Further details will be e-mailed to the Board and discussed at the May Board meeting.

## **9. ADJORNMENT**

There being no further business to bring before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2008 in the Library at Gateway High School.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Eve Collard, Board Secretary

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Date

