

GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 12, 2007 @ 5:07 p.m. – 6:44 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Eve Collard	Susan Hoffman	Sharon Olken
Cathy Dean	Karen Jess-Lindsley	Will Parish
Robin Donohoe	Lisille Matheson	Leon Schmidt
Becky Draper	Judith McRae	Suzanne Schutte
Erika Goncalves	Gale Mondry	Peter Thorp
Ashely Hager	Toye Moses	

Board Members Excused:

Leslie Burlock	Joyce McMinn	Laura Spivy
Cecily Cameron	Pat Napoliello	Liana Szeto
Norm Katz	Bob Scavullo	Alberto Tovar
Donna Liu		

Also Present:

Chris Hero	Iris Smith
Tina McGovern	Sharon Woo

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Cathy Dean called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. The meeting was held in the Library of Gateway High School.

2. STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

Student Body President Andrew Simmons gave a school update. Gateway's blood drive was a huge success with double the expected number of volunteers. Fundraising efforts for prom, including the garage sale and car wash, have also been successful. Student Council has been busy preparing for student elections, finalizing the student constitution and outlining student and faculty expectations for the upcoming year. Andrew briefly discussed his plans for college next year, which include attending UC Irvine with a double major in film and literature.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 15, 2007 Board Meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Principal Sharon Olken gave the school update. Today is the second day of finals and the first day of graduation rehearsal. The senior class voted Marco Castenada, who teaches Humanities and AP English as faculty speaker for the graduation. Due to a recent diagnosis of Leukemia for which he is currently in very intense treatment, Richard Olsen one of Gateway's art teachers will be the speaker. He plans to incorporate a little bit of Marco's message to the senior graduates in his speech. Last week, Sharon made classroom visits to all of Marco's students to discuss his diagnosis. The Gateway community has also initiated a variety of activities to help keep him engaged in the remainder of the school year including a video diary of Senior Grad night created by some of his senior students.

Sharon also discussed the Oracle Education Foundation grant and the plan to incorporate project based learning into Chemistry next year. The goal is to learn and share lessons about the use of technology and project-based learning to enhance the academic experience of students with learning disabilities.

5. COMMITTEE UPDATES

5.1. Development Committee: Lisille Matheson updated the Board on new developments in the vision for the direction of the Campaign to The Future in the upcoming years. She began the update with a note of celebration. Thanks to the extremely hard work of the Campaign Committee, the Campaign recently surpassed four million dollars thanks to gifts and pledges from friends of Gateway. After an extensive meeting, the Campaign and Development Committees decided to create one committee. There are also plans to combine the celebration of Gateway's Ten-year Anniversary with the conclusion of the Campaign. With respect to Major Gifts, those who wish to support Gateway will have several choices: The Annual Fund, the Campaign to the Future Fund, or the 10-Year Anniversary Fund.

Over the summer, Tina McGovern will create a detailed report outlining development strategies for the next three years. In the Fall, the new Development Committee will make recommendations on methods to attain the outlined goals. There will also be emphasis placed on increasing Trustee involvement. Plans for a Board of Trustees retreat are in the works for early in the school year.

Gale Mondry spoke further about the recent 10-Year Anniversary planning. The celebration will begin in January 2008 (when Gateway received its charter) and will end with the 2008 Luncheon. There will be a mix of fun and educational activities which will allow for reflection on Gateway's accomplishments and provide an environment for reconnection amongst the Gateway community. Plans include creating a panel examining the state of education today, Charter Schools and lessons learned, sporting events, as well as a 10-Year Gala, tentatively planned for the Spring. Emphasized during the meeting was the committee's desire to bring alumni and their families back to Gateway.

5.2. Facilities Committee: Chris Hero provided an update for Donna Liu. During the past few months, Donna has encouraged the Facilities Committee to review Gateway's facility needs and consider which of those are most immediate. After thoughtful analysis with the science faculty and Facilities Committee, the Chemistry Lab was agreed to be one of three priorities. The others related to electrical code requirements and safety enhancements. The Board discussed other lower priority projects to be completed in the future as well as the clauses of Gateway's Facilities Use Agreement and district involvement in facility projects. Sharon highlighted the importance of working with the district to gain their financial backing on capital improvements. There are also plans for district sponsored repairs on the water damage in the cafeteria over the summer. Will Parish asked that the minutes reflect the current investigation being made to install solar panels on the roof.

5.3. Finance Committee: Chris Hero reviewed with the Board the latest changes made to the 2007-8 budget, so that the Board could vote to approve it. Chris highlighted the minor changes since the previous Board meetings -- in revenues from the state and grants. Cathy added that some of the grants require one-time specific expenses, so they are being incorporated into the budget in a separate category along with the related expenses. Other costs are added for a single year, such as the Development Associate.

Lisille Matheson warned that the Board needs to be careful about approving increases in on-going operating expenses and asked that the Board be updated about the progression of one-time expenses. She was concerned about sustainability -- particularly the budgeted gap between public funds and expenses exceeding \$2000. For a public school to be a model, the founders felt that the difference between public funding and costs should remain low to increase the likelihood of securing donations to "close the gap." It was mentioned that many of the schools in the DOE report from last year spend quite a bit more than Gateway does. However, if Gateway spends a lot more than the other district schools, it is

hard to be seen as a model locally. Further, many charter schools fail when they have difficulty raising funds to cover growing expenses. We need to ensure that Gateway never faces this problem. Peter Thorp suggested that the Finance committee bring a detailed presentation about financial projections to the Board retreat. The Board agreed that it is wise to create a five year projection of the budget, with consideration of fluctuations in state funding and donor giving. The 2007-8 budget was unanimously approved.

Cathy added that Federal Title One funding requires that the Board approve and sign a resolution to apply for funding. This resolution was unanimously approved.

5.4. Trustee Committee: Cathy Dean proposed two candidates for election to the Board – each for a three year term: Greg Toler and David deWilde. Nominated by his family and interviewed by several trustees, Greg brings experience in human resources management, youth coaching, and other community organization. David learned of Gateway at the 2006 Luncheon and has been helping Gateway’s determine how best to use and collect data. He comes with experience in government and private businesses. Both candidates were unanimously approved. The Committee on Trustees plans to hold training for them, and they will attend the September Board meeting.

The Board then commemorated and thanked the trustees leaving the Board including: Becky Draper, Ashley Hager (faculty trustee), Carole Shorenstein Hays, Karen Jess-Lindsley, Pat Napoliello (President of the Gateway Parents’ Association), and Alberto Tovar. It was announced that Tracy Pore was elected as the new GPA President the previous night. A new faculty trustee will be elected in the fall. We hope to add an additional 2 or 3 trustees in the fall.

6. OTHER:

In light of the concern with funding which arose in the meeting, Will Parish added that he would that he would like to tip the hat to Tina, Chris and all of the others involved in fundraising and budgeting efforts.

Tina distributed packets detailing information about Michael Lewis, the 2007 Matters of the Mind Luncheon speaker.

Cathy thanked the staff and Board members for all of the work done in the school and wished everyone a great summer.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. in the Library at Gateway High School.

Signed: _____
Becky Draper, Board Secretary

Date