

**GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, March 13, 2007 @ 5:14 p.m. – 7:28 p.m.**

Board Members Present:	Leslie Burlock	Ashley Hager	Pat Napoliello
	Cecily Cameron	Norm Katz	Sharon Olken
	Eve Collard	Donna Liu	Will Parish
	Cathy Dean	Joyce McMinn	Leon Schmidt
	Robin Donohoe	Lisille Matheson	Laura Spivy
	Becky Draper	Gale Mondry	Peter Thorp

Board Members Excused:	Erika Goncalves	Judith McRae	Suzanne Schutte
	Susan Hoffman	Toye Moses	Liana Szeto
	Karen Jess-Lindsley	Bob Scavullo	Alberto Tovar

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 5:14 p.m. The meeting was held in the Library of Gateway High School.

2. STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

Student Body President Andrew Simmons gave a Student Council update which included details about current fundraisers for Prom and Senior Grad Night, a possible blood drive in April and details about the agenda for Senior Grad Night which includes a two day trip to Disney Land and Magic Mountain. The Student Council is currently preparing for the 2007-2008 Student Council elections. Next year will be the first year that the Student Council will operate under a Constitution. Plans are in the works for how the government will be run.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 6, 2007 Board Meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

4. PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Principal Sharon Olken gave a school update. The end of the school year is in sight. The third quarter ends on Friday, and Spring Break is soon to follow.

Sharon detailed the upcoming WASC accreditation visit which is the three-year midterm review of the six-year accreditation that Gateway received in 2004. In the last review, the WASC Committee gave Gateway a progress report detailing recommendations for areas needing work over the following six years. Sharon discussed advancements in these areas which are addressed in the WASC report to be presented to WASC committee. These advancements include

Gateway's move to new building, progress made in the math program as well as progress made in reducing teacher workload and building student culture. During the visit, the WASC Committee plans to meet with small groups of people including the leaders of the school, faculty members and students. The committee will also make classroom visits.

Sharon motioned to ratify the WASC report and the Board moved for its ratification.

Sharon discussed several events including the upcoming visit for the validation of The Distinguished School Award, the enrollment lottery which took place on Friday, and the approach of the hiring season for Gateway faculty and staff. Several conferences are approaching including the CCSA conference which includes presentations from Gateway about school culture and best practices. Gateway, as one of the eight charter schools recognized by the California Department of Education, was invited to attend the State Board of Education Conference to discuss charter school laws and programs. Sharon also plans to attend the National Charter School Conference to speak about the best practices in charter schools.

5. COMMITTEE UPDATES

5.1 Campaign Committee: Cecily Cameron detailed recent school visits from guests invited to Gateway by Board members. These visits included school tours, classroom visits and discussions about the honors received by Gateway as well as Gateway's governance and organizational structure. Lisille Matheson encouraged the Board to continue to invite guests to visit the school. These visits help to spark enthusiasm about Gateway and build new relationships. Lisille announced that Andrea Capozzoli has recently joined the Campaign Committee to help with fundraising efforts. Lisille then led the Board in a brainstorm about contacts with the potential to become new friends of Gateway. Joyce McMinn discussed the current efforts in building relationships with alumni families and creating an Alumni Scholar Endowment Fund.

5.2 Faculty Affairs Committee: Gale Mondry discussed the results from the recent Faculty Survey. Highlights of the survey included an increase in overall satisfaction in teaching at Gateway as well as satisfaction with colleagues, the support of the administrative staff and student culture. Aspects of least satisfaction included faculty workload and the tremendous challenge of meeting each student's needs in Gateway's diverse environment. The Board discussed methods to increase faculty satisfaction including changes in the enrollment process, improving the health benefit packages for teachers with children, reducing the number of class periods and decreasing teacher demands outside of the classroom. Gale shared additional aspects of interest from the survey which was followed by further discussion.

5.3 Finance Committee: Cathy Dean opened the floor for discussion of the financial budget for 2007-8. There is a need to understand what revenue the school can expect for 2007-8, to assess the desired fundraising target, and to determine what to do with the Endowment money. Laura Spivy led a discussion about how payout from the Endowment fund could be spent. The Board discussed the pros and cons of several spending options including incorporating the funds into the projected targets for fundraising and utilizing the funds for additional school programs such as expanding the college counseling and tutor programs, increasing faculty retention through salary increases and workload reduction and possibly in-house faculty sabbaticals. The Board then discussed the whether there is a risk of not reaching fundraising goals for the current and upcoming fiscal years. As part of this discussion Tina McGovern shared her certainty that she and the Development Committee can bring in new sources of revenue to reach projected targets for the upcoming fiscal year. The Board reached a consensus that the full fundraising targets of the Development Committee will be included in the forecast. The Board was also agreed that they are not averse to using the payout funds for one-time costs. It was decided that Sharon should assess the key priorities of the school and report her recommendations for how the money should be spent. Further discussion included the amount of projected endowment payouts in upcoming years. The Board also agreed to reexamine the Development Committee's recommendations for the financial forecast.

6. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 17, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. in the Library at Gateway High School.

Signed: _____
Becky Draper, Board Secretary

Date