

**GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 16th, 2006 @ 5:00 – 7:15 p.m.**

Board Members Present:

Leslie Burlock	Cathy Dean	Becky Draper
Ashley Hager	Susan Hoffman	Matt Holzer
Donna Liu	Joyce McMinn	Lisille Matheson
Gale Mondry	Sharon Olken	Leon Schmidt
Suzanne Schutte	Laura Spivy	Peter Thorp
Robin Richards Donohoe		

Board Member Excused:

Cecily Cameron	Eve Collard	Carole Hays
Cloey Hewlett	Karen Jess-Lindsley	Judith McCrae
Marcia Matre	Bob Scavullo	Liana Szeto
Alberto Tovar	Marie Washington	

Also Present:

Karen Dutina	Christina Griffith	Quenadyne Bucher
Margot Shaub	Joel Rangel	

1. CALL TO ORDER, SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS, AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- 1.1** Chair Cathy Dean called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. The meeting was held in the Library of Gateway High School.
- 1.2** Special presentations were provided to the Board prior to the start of business by two student groups. Will Parish, Director of Student Activities, introduced Alyssa Perez, VP of Student Council, who updated the Board on recent student activities. Alyssa listed many events, including the Black Student Association's (BSA) Talent Show last week, followed by the first "Carnival" which featured cotton candy, pie-throwing, and an Astro jump house. These two events were organized by the students as fundraisers for the BSA 2007 Summit and for the Junior/Senior Prom and Grad Night, respectively. The Annual Garage Sale, another fundraiser for Senior Class events, was hugely successful thanks to the hard work of 20 volunteer students. The Prom will be held at the Stanford Court Hotel on May 20th, and Grad Night is June 14th. Student Council elections for 2006/2007 will be held May 17th.
- 1.3** The student-sponsored Katrina Relief Project group told the Board of their work this past year. The students told of the group's initial adoption of a Mississippi childcare center and their additional adoption of a New Orleans' school – the Edna Karr High School. Advisor Beth O'Brien recently visited the school and took pictures which our guest students crafted into a wonderful slide show which they shared with the Board. The group is now having a coin drive to continue funding this high school. It was touching to hear our students tell how they had come to realize that although Katrina happened a year ago, the effects is still felt today and the need is still great to help.
- 1.4** The minutes of the April 18th, 2006 Board Meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

2. PUBLIC FORUM: There were no public comments.

- 3. CHAIR REPORT:** Chair Cathy Dean introduced Robin Richards Donohoe, our newest Board member. Robin had already begun led the first Investment Committee meeting earlier in the day.

Cathy acknowledged the extensive and diligent work of all Board members this year which has moved the Board forward in achieving goals. Cathy extended an invitation from member Bob Scavullo to his Annual Volunteer Appreciation gathering in his rose garden on June 9th.

The Strategic Planning Committee is involved in efforts to broaden our reach within the community. We are clearly looking for extraordinary donors as well as new friends and future friends of Gateway. Invitations to visit our school with Principal Olken and Peter Thorp will be extended when a future date is set. There will be more in-depth report at June's meeting.

4. PRINICIPAL'S REPORT:

- 4.1** Sharon Olken introduced Joel Rangel, College Counselor, and provided a brief summary of his work during this busy season for college planning and decisions. He has just coordinated all AP tests and is now updating 2006 college acceptance information, preparing for SAT testing, helping students with financial aid applications, and giving presentations to sophomores and families tomorrow night. He has also contributed to the Strategic Planning Committee as well.

Joel distributed a summary of statistics related to the Class of 2006 student applications and acceptances. He will provide an updated version when surveys are received from all students. Joel explained that for the first time this information is now in PowerSchool with additional information including first generation for college, in-state versus out-of-state college attendance, etc. Joel indicated that he sees lower grant amounts, increasing difficulty in obtaining student loans are, and higher student loan rates.

- 4.2** Sharon directed attention to two Humanities Department upcoming events: Civics Evening of Action to be held on June 1st and Ruminations on June 2nd. Faculty Board member Matt Holzer explained that the Senior Civics class' final project from the Social Justice Unit is working in teams to adopt a cause and going out into the community to make a difference by either fundraising or community service. The Civics Evening of Action will highlight their work and also serve as a fundraiser for the causes. Sharon extended an invitation to the Ruminations event, a culmination of world religion studies by the 10th grade Humanities students, with a day set aside for guest speakers interacting with our students in panel discussions and smaller break-out sessions.

- 4.3** Our first Graduation ceremonies in our new building will be held on the morning of June 18th for the Class of 2006 in the Auditorium.

- 4.4** Sharon updated the Board regarding faculty work which will happen over the next few months and the ways the faculty is honing our program through dedicated efforts. She also comments about hiring for the next school year. The three open positions in the Humanities Department are now filled, and one Science and one Resource Specialist have been hired to replace those leaving. Sharon is now focusing her efforts on Administrative hiring and hoping for an internal candidate for one of the two Assistant Principal positions.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 5.1 Development Committee:** Susan Hoffman reported that the Fun for Fund Gourmet Pizza Party held May 10th was a successful event organized in part by two incoming freshman parents, raising \$3,500 and attended by many incoming freshman parents.

The Annual Fund is now at 61% participation, and we are still hoping to bring in additional freshman families.

Lisille Matheson reported that the next Fundraising Luncheon will be held November 14th with author Tobias Wolff as guest speaker. Sharon and the Humanities Dept. are working with the Luncheon committee making this more integral to the school, and it is expected that the Honors English students will play a role in this event.

- 5.2 Campaign for the Future:** Lisille Matheson reported about the successful event at Leslie Burlock's home featuring Caprice Young, President of CCSA. Ms. Young talked about the important role of Charter schools, and called Gateway ... "the North Star" – a proud moment for Board Members present. Approximately 60 people attended, many of whom wanted to learn more about Gateway and are targeted donors for the Campaign for the Future.

The Committee is now moving forward on the Case to illustrate what our school is doing and how it serves our students so well.

- 5.3 Trustee Committee:** Susan Hoffman encouraged Board members to nominate potential new candidates. There are six potential open slots and the goal is to add members who are reflective of the community. She hopes to bring several candidates for Board approval at the June meeting.

- 5.4 Finance Committee:** Laura Spivy reviewed the May financial statements with Board, highlighting changes. Robin Richards Donohoe described the first Investment Committee meeting and distributed the bios of the three pro-bono investment advisors serving on this committee. She hopes to develop an investment policy soon and report back on investment strategies. Business Manager Karen Dutina was acknowledged for her wonderful contribution to the committee.

Karen presented the 2006/2007 budget for review and discussion. Gateway operated with a deficit this first year at our new site, but we are dedicated to balancing the budget this coming year. This is possible as a result of the restructured administrative structure, facilities cost savings, and increases in state funding.

- 5.5 Facilities Committee:** Donna Liu distributed a report detailing proposed costs for 3 improvement projects including the Learning Center, the biology lab, and renovation of the gymnasium. Specific funding for the gymnasium was discussed including possible District support for creating a regulation sized basketball court. Peter Thorp briefly summarized his ongoing talks with the District. Margot Shaub addressed other fundraising opportunities. Donna asked the Board to approve the proposed renovations and cost. A motion was made and approved unanimously contingent upon securing a minimum amount through fundraising to support the gymnasium renovation.

5.6 Faculty Affairs Committee: Gale Mondry spoke of the committee's work to understand what comprises faculty workloads and how the Board can continue to demonstrate commitment to faculty. In the past month, this committee reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of implanting three year faculty contracts. This would indicate to faculty members with more than three years of teaching at Gateway that we value their contributions. The salary schedule would continue to be changed annually. The Board voted unanimously to endorse the continued work of the Faculty Affairs committee as they investigate implementing three year faculty contracts.

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, June 13th, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. in the Library at Gateway High School.

Signed: _____
Becky Draper, Board Secretary

Date