

# Gateway Public Schools

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Wednesday, November 15, 2017 @ 4:45 - 7:00 PM

## **Board Members Present:**

Therese Arsenault, Beth Berliner, Sapna Boze, Sara Byrne, Elizabeth Colen, Sharon Gillenwater, Annie Klebahn, Susan Masto, Farley Neuman, Sharon Olken, Will Parish, Mary Plant-Thomas, Laura Spivy, Dina To, Valerie Toler, Aaron White, Julie Wise

**Board Members Excused:** Allison Bhusri, Joyce McMinn, Jackie Quella, Adina Safer, Suzanne Schutte

**Also present:** Chris Hero, Danielle Ciccarelli, Chanda Guerin

## **Dinner at Gateway Middle School, room 202, 4:45pm**

### **Welcome, Call to Order, Approval of Minutes from October 18, 2017**

Sapna called the meeting to order at 5:20, and called for a motion to approve the October minutes. Laura Spivy motioned to approve and Valerie Toler seconded. The minutes were approved without issue.

Sapna invited board members to the Holiday party on December 20th. She asked Trustees to fill out the development spreadsheet. Please reach out to Sharon Gillenwater and Sara Byrne if you have questions.

**Public Forum** Sapna opened the floor for the public forum. No further discussions or motions were introduced.

### **ED Report**

Sapna gave the floor to Sharon Olken for the Executive Director's report.

Sharon introduced Gateway's new Director of Development, Chanda Guerin. Chanda will be starting December 1st. Sharon asked Chanda to introduce herself, and asked trustee to share why they are involved in Gateway. Chanda is excited to join Gateway and really believes in public schools. She worked for Seven Teepees, and is a product of public schools. Sharon O. talked about the people who work at Gateway and all of the opportunities to learn and grow. The idea that everybody matters is central to who we are.

Sharon is excited that we are at the middle school tonight. Middle school principal Aaron Watson is here to talk to us about the ways in which we support our students. She introduced Aaron.

Aaron talked to the board about what GMS is doing to support and challenge students. Aaron discussed the context of our middle school. Why did we start the middle school? How do we help our students to see themselves as learners? He gave a snapshot of our diverse school. There is a diversity of needs and experience that is a huge asset and a challenge. Students come from 48 different elementary schools. Aaron introduced the board to a tool that the middle school uses to foster social belonging and understanding of students' experiences, *SCARF - Domains of Human Social Experience or Threat*. The SCARF domains are: Status, Certainty, Autonomy, Relatedness and Fairness. SCARF helps teachers to

look at social factors that influence how students learn. He asked Trustees to participate in a SCARF exercise. Afterwards Trustees had the opportunity to share their thoughts. Laura Spivy asked Aaron to share how teachers use the domains day to day. He explained that SCARF helps us to look behind behavior to what is driving it. Ms. Colen explained how she has uses the SCARF model to discuss incidents with students and work through problems. Therese said that the 6th grade team talks about how to help students collaborate. Middle school is all about relatedness and belonging. Where are you in the relatedness hierarchy?

Aaron gave a few examples of what this looks like. There is a lot of work to do to help kids be ready to engage in the academic work. How do kids exhibit fight or flight response? He passed out research around the effects of oppression on the learner's brain.

Sharon acknowledged what an extraordinary leader Aaron is, and thanked the teachers at GMS for their hard work. She talked about how these domains change over the course of kids' lives, and how it matters at every step.

**Salary Project Update:** Sharon reminded trustees that, last spring, we put our stake in the ground to rethink how teachers are compensated. That work is ongoing, but there are two updates to note. First, the district averted a strike. That is a huge win for students and families. Second, we just recently submitted a grant application from the state. The work we are doing really supports the purpose of the grant. We applied for \$315,000 of 3 years.

**Results of Local Indicators (State Accountability Dashboard):** A few years ago, California dismantled the system for grading schools. It used to be tied exclusively to statewide testing. For the past few years there has been no way to measure success of schools. Now there is a new, multi-tiered accountability system. The system measures if your facility is clean, if the curriculum is aligned to state standards, if kids like the school, if parents have a say, is there progress on state standardized tests? The 1st part of the State Accountability Dashboard is going public on December 1st. We are obliged to share our progress on a few of these measures to our board. Sharon shared that we have met the standard in the following areas:

- Teachers are appropriately assigned in classrooms, the schools are safe, curriculum is up to date.
- Parent Engagement - involving parents in decision making.
- School Climate - student perception of belonging and connectedness.

#### **Audit Committee Update (Info and Vote)**


Susan Masto gave the floor to Farley Neuman to talk about the audit. He announced that our audit is clean with no issues. Our auditors said that our financial statements look good. He explained that we are required, as a charter school, to get an audit. The audit looks at finances, attendance, compliance with laws, instructional time, whether or not our teachers are properly credentialed. Farley congratulated the entire administration, especially Chris and Chad, for their excellent work. Farley gave the floor to Chris to look at numbers.

Chris explained that the audit is the document that is the most viewed by our stakeholders. Chris reviewed the financial results with the board. Afterwards, Susan Masto asked for a motion to approve the audit. Sara Byrne motioned, and Therese seconded. The audit was approved unanimously, without issue.

**Development Update (INFO)**

Susan Masto asked trustees to mark their calendars for upcoming Explore Gateway events. Please RSVP to Eventbrite and invite people to Explore Gateway. Sharon talked about the events, and the upcoming Year End Appeal. Our goal is to get the majority of our appeal letters out by 12/1. Chanda encouraged trustees to write a personal note to the donors on their steward list. It makes a huge difference.

**Adjourn Meeting** - Sapna adjourned the meeting at 7:05.

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 2/7/18  
Sharon Gillenwater, Board Secretary