



**GPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

September 18, 2018 - 5:00 p.m.

GPA Wingspan; Dr. Cecil H. Steppe Presiding

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Cecil H. Steppe, Maria Cruz Avalos, Pete Chodzko, Michelle Evans, Jeremy Hurlbert, Myeisha Lobbins, Bud Mehan, Vincent Riveroll, and Larry Tamayo.

**EXCUSED:**

Rafael Hernandez, Jacque Nevels, Mica Pollock, Michael Rodrigues, and Anne Spitzberg

**GPA STAFF PRESENT AND SPEAKING GUESTS OR VISITORS:**

John Bartholomew, Miguel Flores, Jane Levenson, Paz Garcia Ramirez, Lisa Maples, Jenny Parsons, Devera Scott, Fatima Jacobo and Shelly Buono.

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mr. Steppe called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and reminded those present about the Brown Act. Following the Brown Act, the public can comment on anything not on the agenda, which would then be put on the agenda of a future meeting if the board felt it needed to be discussed. He asked for any public comments and there were none. Board members reviewed the agenda items and minutes from the May 15, 2018 board meeting.

*Motion to approve May 15, 2018's minutes m/s/c Mehan/Chodzko 8 In favor – 0 Abstention – None opposed*

**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

Mr. Steppe thanked the board for their work every two months to make sure we are ready for a great year. Class of 2019 had 100% attendance one day last week and they are incredibly fun to work with. Check out the GPA Instagram.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Director Riveroll welcomed everyone back for the 2018-19 school year." Summer college tours for GPA students included: SDSU, Point Loma, UCSD, UCLA, UC Riverside, and Long Beach State. GPA had a full campus restructuring right before school started with 95% of our teachers and staff moving their classrooms/ offices. The lower bungalows have been transformed into Six Grade Village

On August 22nd an all staff professional development (PD) was held on the beautiful campus of the University of California, San Diego for an all day training on "Quality Service" provided by the Disney Institute. This revolutionary day of learning for 174 GPA staff

members focused on the methods behind the magic of Disneyland. This learning aligns with "The GPA Way," of high expectations for customer service and continuous improvement. The day was donated by Walt Disney World CEO, George Kalogridis and UCSD Chancellor Pradeep Khosla. Staff continue to share and reflect on a daily basis the ways they are implementing this powerful learning experience at GPA.

On Monday, August 23rd GPA welcomed back 1,300 students to campus. Director showed a video of the first day flash mob that faculty performed to welcome students back. The Office of Student Affairs welcomed 6th graders and their parents with Commitment Day, where they learned about our uniform policy, took a campus tour, and spent time in their first period classroom. Director also showed the video of a great performance of the school song, sung by Ms. Shana Brown. On the evening of first day of school, GPA also hosted the annual Senior Convocation Ceremony. At the ceremony, 125 seniors wore their senior tie for the first time and received their senior blazer in front of their families. The theme for Class of 2019 is "You are Gold." All board members were called to the stage to be honored with a pin to honor 10-years of dedicated service. Additionally, Board Chair Cecil Steppe was acknowledge at this ceremony for his outstanding service to the GPA Board of Directors and honored with a new bench that was dedicated at convocation.

Director reported on the preliminary Spring 2018 SBAC Data: students in grade 6th-8th and 11th were assessed. For the first year, GPA showed gains in every grade level in mathematics. GPA's 11th grade students are outperforming Lincoln by almost 34% in ELA and almost 10% in Math. 6th-8th students are outperforming MTM by almost 10% in ELA and over 14% in Math. Advanced Placement (AP) scores are on a steady rise, U.S. History pass rates doubled over last year, 2 students passed who didn't take the Calculus AB course, and our students are passing AP Spanish Language as non-native Spanish speakers at high rates.

Eighth grade student, Cisco H. received the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship, which is a young scholars program for a pre-college scholarship. GPA also remembered September 11th as a school and our students were extremely respectful. This Friday, GPA will open its doors for Open House with the theme of "Paint the Night" from 5:00 pm-8:00 pm. All Board members were encouraged to attend.

The current GPA Charter expires June 30, 2019. We are working on the charter renewal documents and are hoping to get on the SD Board agenda before the new year. This is also the year that we must complete our self study for WASC. The visiting team will come next school year. This year the winter season will see the new gymnasium and athletic buildings groundbreaking.

Mr. Steppe asked about the standardized testing and how our students have done so well recently. Assistance Director (AD) Bartholomew attributed it to "Intentionality," with study sessions after school and on the weekends, and the new state approved curriculum. Also, the pipeline coming from middle school has improved for the same reasons. He spoke of the value of Common Core and it's preparation for real life and it's focus of gearing towards critical thinking in problem solving. The SDUSD is also implementing Common

Core, but many of our 6th graders come to us with performing well below grade level. Mr. Steppe wants to know if the District has done any research on Common Core and AD Bartholomew said he will look into this.

- A. Prop 51 Memorandum of Understanding: Ms. Parsons shared that we applied for money from the State of California. Along with SD Unified, we will be pursuing qualifying projects totalling for \$25 million. There are a lot of potential uses for this money, and the Board will approve that we will spend the money as the State intended.

*Motion to approve Prop 51 Memorandum of Understanding for rehab on old campuses m/s/c Mehan/Evans 8 In favor – 0 Abstention – None opposed*

- B. GPA Graduation Waivers for Students with Special Circumstance: Ms. Parsons explained that occasionally we have a student that is UC eligible, but doesn't meet the charter requirements for graduation. Therefore, GPA is seeking approval to use this form in the future, that meets the State requirements, even if they don't meet GPA requirements. This exception is very rare; and there were 3 students for this year.

*Motion to approve GPA Graduation Waiver Process for Students with Special Circumstances m/s/c Mehan/Lobbins 8 In favor – 0 Abstention – None opposed*

- C. Parental Involvement Policy: This policy needs to be reviewed every year. The GPA policy has not changed from last year and requires board approval.

*Motion to approve Parental Involvement Policy m/s/c Mehan/Hurlbert 8 In favor – 0 Abstention – None opposed*

Director introduced Mr. Miguel Flores, who is now leading the Office of Technology and Innovation at GPA.

### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

- A. Monthly Financials:

Mr. Chodzko reviewed the end of year financials of the 2017-18 school year. On the June 2018 financials, he directed everyone to the net income of \$1,191,225 compared to a budgeted net income of \$23,827. Additionally, he reminded the board of a 32% reserve and 118 days of operating funds. Larry reminded the board that the State may be slowing down economically, so it might be necessary to dip into the reserve.

*Motion for acceptance of June's monthly financials as recommended by the Finance Committee m/s/c Finance Committee/Chodzko/Evans 8 In favor – 0 Abstentions – None opposed*

B. 2017-18 Unaudited Actuals:

Mr. Tamayo talked about the financial snapshot of the whole year in a standardized format. This format gets turned into SDUSD and the State and the revenue for 2017-2018 year was \$15,696.287. This information was submitted to the District last Friday.

*Motion for approval of the 2017-18 Unaudited Actuals from the Finance Committee m/s/c Finance Committee/Evans/Chodzko 8 In favor – 0 Abstentions – None opposed*

C. 2018-19 EPA Spending Plan:

Mr. Tamayo explained what this plan is about and that it won't be spent on administrative costs, but has to be spent on teachers, counselors or items for students.

*Motion for approval of the EPA Spending Plan as recommended by the Finance Committee m/s/c Finance Committee/Chodzko/Lobbins 8 In favor – 0 Abstentions – None opposed*

D. Determination of Allowable Federal Expenditures: Ms. Parsons explained that expenditures must be aligned with approved budgeted items.

*Motion for approval of the Determination of Allowable Federal Expenditures as recommended by the Finance Committee m/s/c Finance Committee/Chodzko/Hurlbert 8 In favor – 0 Abstentions – None opposed*

E. Updated Fiscal Control Policy: Ms. Parsons explained the updated document for our Fiscal Control Policy. She gave an example of one part of the policy updated regarding \$10,000 to \$25,000.

*Motion for approval of Updated Fiscal Control Policy as recommended by the Finance Committee m/s/c Finance Committee/Hurlbert/Evans 8 In favor – 0 Abstentions – None opposed*

F. GPA Van Purchase: Mr. Chodzko explained we were awarded a grant from the County of San Diego for \$31,000 to purchase a van. Mr. Chodzko needs approval from the board to write the check to buy another van. This reduces our reliance on chartering busses and is a cost reduction measure in the long term.

*Motion for approval of a GPA Van Purchase with \$31,000 from grant money and \$9,000 of GPA money as recommended by the Finance Committee m/s/c Finance Committee/Chodzko/Hurlbert 8 In favor – 0 Abstentions – None opposed*

G. Approval of the 2018-2019 Budget: as recommended by the Finance Committee. Mr. Tamayo explained that certificated salaries have risen, as people become more experienced. Benefits have also increased as STRS is increasing to 16% next year and will continue to rise to 19% in future years. PERS will increase to 18% next year

and eventually will go up to 24%. \$1.3 million of the budget is for employees' health benefits. Mr. Steppe asked if there's an item to be concerned about in the future, and Mr. Tamayo mentioned "keeping an eye on the benefits line (STRS and PERS)."

*Motion for approval of the 2018-19 Budget as recommended by the Finance Committee m/s/c Finance Committee/Mehan/Lobbins 7 In favor – 0 Abstentions – None opposed*

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT:**

First meeting is October 3rd.

**DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Mr. Chodzko reported that his goal is raising \$770,000 this year. Funds raised since July 1st donations are \$195,892.40. Grants \$62,000, donations \$2,642.40; and In Kind Gifts - \$131,250

**BOARD AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:**

No report submitted.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT:**

No report submitted.

Public Commentary: Ms. Scott talked about Mr. Chodzko and his work on behalf of a NCAA scholar athlete. She thanked Mr. Chodzko for his hard work to make sure GPA was in compliance for the NCAA.

*Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. m/s/c Evans/Lobbins 8 In favor – 0 Abstentions – None opposed*