

Gateway Online Academy of Ohio
(An Ohio Not-for-Profit Corporation)
BOARD MEETING

MINUTES

Gateway Online Academy of Ohio (the “School”) held a Regular Board Meeting (the “meeting”) on February 13, 2023 at 4 Summit Park Dr., Ste. 360, Independence 44131.

Board Members in Attendance

Kimberly Bartlett, Board Treasurer
Diane Faehnrich, Vice Chair
Mark Sanzotta, Board Secretary, arrived 6:08 p.m.
Jonathan Petrea, Chairman

Guests in Attendance:

Matt Arkin, SVP, Innovative Schools, ACCEL Schools, via Zoom
Brian Hessey, Head of School, Gateway Online Academy of Ohio, via Zoom
Marty Yoder, Principal, Gateway Online Academy of Ohio, via Zoom
Christina Lamorgese, Student Services, ACCEL Schools
Jessica Brown, Office Manager, ACCEL Schools
Jason McMillin, Massa Financial Solutions—via Zoom
Kerry Jupina, Sponsor Representative, Charter School Specialists
Anne Trakas, Sr. Board Services Manager, Callender Law Group
Mike Garcar, Callender Law Group—via Zoom
Michael Johns, guest

1. Sign-in / A Call to order

Chairman Petrea called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Members Present

Chairman Petrea requested a roll call of Board members. The Chairman noted a quorum was present.

3. Review/Acceptance of Agenda

Discussion, Adoption/Approval of Agenda, February 13, 2023 Board Meeting

The agenda of the February 13, 2023 Board Meeting was brought forward for consideration by the Board. Upon Motion duly made by Member Faehnrich to accept agenda of the February 13, 2023 Board Meeting as presented, seconded by Member Bartlett, the Motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote of members present.

Board Member <i>Name/Initials</i>	AYE	NAY	OTHER <i>(Not Present, Abstain, etc.)</i>
Kimberly Bartlett	X		
Diane Faehnrich	X		
Mark Sanzotta			Not present for vote
Jonathan Petrea, Chairman	X		

4. Discussion, Board Member Candidate

Consideration of Michael Johns

The Board discussed the appointment of Mr. Michael Johns to the Gateway Online Academy of Ohio School Board. Mr. Johns’ background checks have not yet been received. His candidacy for Board membership will be considered once all required documents are received.

5. Reports and Updates

a. Head of School/Management Company Report (ACCEL Schools)

i. Head of School Report

Mr. Yoder gave the Head of School Report.

The School is working hard to provide PBIS supports. A rewards program has been obtained, and will start soon. Communications are ongoing with community partners.

Lunch and Learn is underway, and a newsletter will be sent out next week. Sean Bullock, a music producer, will come to the Social Space to talk to students. There was additional conversation about student incentives. The Board asked about rewards. A point system is used now, and they are looking at providing tangible items, such as school logo items.

Ms. Lamorgese was introduced to the Board. She provided an update on Student Services. About 85% of students participated in onboarding. The Welcome call is in place to evaluate the ‘why’ the student is attending the school. The staff will be following up in the first few weeks after enrollment for onboarding. An increase in student progress was seen.

ii. Management Company Report (ACCEL Schools)

Mr. Hessey contributed to the discussion. They are focused on changing the way students engage in onboarding. He was disappointed to see students join in December, then not follow through. Postcards are provided for teachers to send to students.

Approximately 748 students are enrolled; there were about 79 withdrawals and 43 were due to the 72-hour rule. Board Member Bartlett asked about other reasons why students withdraw. One (1) student moved out of state, one (1) is over 18, two (2) are incarcerated, four (4) never logged in, and four (4) withdrew before their start date. About 152 students with disabilities are enrolled. The Board requested to see a breakdown of students with disabilities. There are seven (7) Intervention Specialists on staff, and they are looking to hire another Intervention Specialist. Most of the students who leave to go to another school in Ohio are going back to brick and mortar schools. Some students are not as motivated when attending from home.

b. Sponsor Report (St. Aloysius-Charter School Specialists)

- i. *Discussion, Fiscal Review Memo, December 2022*
- ii. *Discussion, At-A-Glance Report, February 2023*
- iii. *Discussion, Sponsor Connection, February 2023*

Ms. Jupina gave the Sponsor Report. She voiced appreciation for all the work the School does with students. Compliance review is expected to be completed at the end of May. A Sponsor representative will go over Opening Assurances over the summer.

The Sponsor Connection for February was reviewed.

Ms. Jupina asked about residency verification. Mr. Hessey noted the Residency Verification Report and Racial/Ethnic Balance Report were included in the meeting materials.

Mr. Hessey noted 142 new enrollments, random review of 680 files, six (6) letters were returned, four (4) addresses were updated, and there were no disputes to report.

The Racial/Ethnic Balance Report was discussed. The School was compared to the State of Ohio schools. Approximately 59.1% of students are white, vs. 67.1% in the State; approximately 25.8% are African-American, vs. 17% in the State, about 7.2% Hispanic, vs. 6.7% in the State, about 6.3% Multi-Racial, vs. 5.9% State of Ohio.

Mr. Hessey noted they are trying to get documentation for students for economically disadvantaged, students with disabilities, etc.

The 2023/2024 Academic Calendar was included for consideration. Enrollment for next year is starting, and Mr. Hessey would like to have the approved calendar for students and families. The calendar is similar to this year's, with 920 instructional hours. The last day of school in 2024 is currently scheduled for June 12th.

c. Treasurer Report (Massa Financial Solutions)

i. Discussion, January 2023 Financial Statement

Mr. McMillin provided the Treasurer Report. The January 2023 Financial Statement was brought forward for discussion. The School has received catchups in funding. The funding in January is higher than anticipated; year-to-date results are slightly below budget.

The FTEs were paid out at 293 for January. The February FTEs were released at 426. The School continues to see significant growth. The School received a small distribution of Casino funds, about \$5,000. The cash balance for the School is about \$39,000. All vendor items are current. The loan from ACCEL is still reflected on the books.

d. Legal Update (Callender Law Group)

i. November/December 2022 and January/February 2023 Legal Updates

ii. Discussion, Committee Formation - Background

iii. Review of resolutions on the agenda

Mr. Garcar gave the Legal Update. The New Business items were discussed. The School Threat Assessment Plan and Protocol model policy was reviewed. Chairman Petrea asked if the policy was the same for online schools and brick and mortar schools. Mr. Garcar affirmed that it was, as there are sections that address online learning.

e. Adoption/Approval of Head of School Report/Management Company

Report/Sponsor Report/Treasurer Report/Legal Update

The School Report/Management Company Report/Sponsor Report/Treasurer Report/Legal Update were brought forward for consideration by the Board. Upon Motion duly made by Member Bartlett to adopt the School Report/Management Company Report/Sponsor Report/Treasurer Report/Legal Update without amendment, seconded by Member Sanzotta, the Motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

Board Member <i>Name/Initials</i>	AYE	NAY	OTHER <i>(Not Present, Abstain, etc.)</i>
Kimberly Bartlett	X		
Diane Faehnrich	X		
Mark Sanzotta	X		
Jonathan Petrea, Chairman	X		

6. Committee Reports, if submitted

- a. *Executive Committee*
- b. *Audit & Finance Committee*
- c. *Other proposed committees*
 - i. *Workforce Development*
 - ii. *Academics*

The formation of committees was brought forward for discussion. Chairman Petrea met with the School team to discuss committee needs. The Finance, Academic Excellence and Curriculum, and Workforce Development and CTE were identified as needed committees. Conversation continued regarding the benefit to the students, including personal interaction, and possible internship opportunities. Mr. Johns recommended a focus on interview skills and financial literacy. Chairman Petrea would like to have advisory committees as well. Member Faehnrich suggested a Job Fair, perhaps a virtual job fair for students.

Mr. Hessey noted that there is a great need for internships, as approximately 99% of their students probably won't go to college right away. There was discussion regarding whether the School would work with the trades. This is difficult, as the School is a statewide school. The School has just started a STNA program in Cleveland. There was discussion about virtual instruction and specialized skills to learn via kit or internship.

Member Bartlett would like to see a breakdown of students by region, and a list of employers in the area. There was conversation about the possibility of a virtual career board. There is a big need to bring people to the Social Space to talk to the students. Students need examples of successful people in life, and not necessarily with success in school.

Chairman Petrea appointed Member Bartlett and a representative from Massa Financial to serve on the Finance Committee.

Chairman Petrea appointed himself to serve on the Academic Excellence Committee. Appointment of another individual is pending.

Chairman Petrea appointment Member Sanzotta to serve on the Workforce Development Committee. Appointment of another individual is pending.

Mr. Hessey noted that Member Sanzotta would be working with Taylor McIntire. Mr. Hessey plans to attend the first committee meeting to connect everyone.

Chairman Petrea noted that appointments will be finished at the next Board meeting.

7. Old Business

None.

8. New Business

- a. Discussion, Adoption/Approval of Minutes, January 9, 2023 Board Meeting**
 The Minutes of the January 9, 2023 Board Meeting were brought forward for consideration by the Board. A discussion was had during the Legal Update. Upon Motion duly made by Member Sanzotta to adopt the Minutes of the January 9, 2023 Board Meeting without amendment, seconded by Member Faehnrich, the Motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

Board Member <i>Name/Initials</i>	AYE	NAY	OTHER <i>(Not Present, Abstain, etc.)</i>
Kimberly Bartlett	X		
Diane Faehnrich	X		
Mark Sanzotta	X		
Jonathan Petrea, Chairman	X		

- b. Resolution, Adoption/Approval of School Threat Assessment Plan and Protocol**
 The School Threat Assessment Plan and Protocol Framework was brought forward for consideration by the Board. A discussion was had during the Legal Update. Upon Motion duly made by Member Sanzotta to adopt the School Threat Assessment Plan and Protocol without amendment, seconded by Member Faehnrich, the Motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

Board Member <i>Name/Initials</i>	AYE	NAY	OTHER <i>(Not Present, Abstain, etc.)</i>
Kimberly Bartlett	X		
Diane Faehnrich	X		
Mark Sanzotta	X		
Jonathan Petrea, Chairman	X		

- c. Resolution, Adoption/Approval of Academic Calendar, 2023/2024 Academic Year**
 The Academic Calendar for the 2023/2024 Academic Year was brought forward for consideration by the Board. A discussion was had during the Legal Update. Upon Motion duly made by Member Sanzotta to adopt the Academic Calendar for the 2023/2024 Academic Year without amendment, seconded by Member Faehnrich, the Motion passed by unanimous affirmative vote.

Board Member <i>Name/Initials</i>	AYE	NAY	OTHER <i>(Not Present, Abstain, etc.)</i>
Kimberly Bartlett	X		
Diane Faehnrich	X		
Mark Sanzotta	X		
Jonathan Petrea, Chairman	X		

9. Open Discussion/Public Comment

None.

10. Date/Time/Location of the Next Regular Board Meeting:

Scheduled for Monday, March 13, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at 12925 Corporate Drive, Parma 44130

11. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon Motion duly made by Member Faehnrich to adjourn the February 13, 2023, Board Meeting of Gateway Online Academy of Ohio, seconded by Member Sanzotta, the Motion to adjourn was approved by unanimous affirmative vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Board Member <i>Name/Initials</i>	AYE	NAY	OTHER <i>(Not Present, Abstain, etc.)</i>
Kimberly Bartlett	X		
Diane Faehnrich	X		
Mark Sanzotta	X		
Jonathan Petrea, Chairman	X		

APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Motion to approve and adopt minutes of the February 13, 2023 Regular Board


meeting of Gateway Online Academy of Ohio, with/without amendments,

made by Sanzotta, seconded by Bartlett.

Roll Call Board Member Name/Initials	AYE	NAY	Other (Abstain, not present, etc.)
Kimberly Bartlett	X <i>KB</i>		
Diane Faehnrich	<i>DF</i> X		
Michael Johns	<i>MJ</i> X		
Mark Sanzotta	<i>MS</i> X		
Jonathan Petrea, Chairman	<i>J.P.</i> X		

Executed and adopted by a vote of the Board on this 13th day of MARCH,

2023.



 Jonathan Petrea, Chairman
 Gateway Online Academy of Ohio