



In close partnership with the Head of School and with the support of the Consul General, GISB's seven-member Board is guided by the School's mission – to empower students for success in a global world. Board members are responsible for the School's strategic direction as well as for organizational matters. They receive their mandate through their election by the School community, i.e., members of the corporation. The Head of School, who is responsible for the School's pedagogic development and excellence, participates in all board meetings.

The BoT serves as a governing and executive body, with the responsibility to:

- provide strategic direction;
- ensure financial stability by establishing budgets and monitoring operations;
- protect the School's assets;
- negotiate and sign facility leases and rental agreements;
- lead fundraising efforts;
- act as the employer and make HR-related decisions; e.g. selecting the Head of School;
- hold annual membership meetings;
- represent and promote GISB in the greater Boston community;
- build networks to secure long term support for educational and fundraising matters.

Moreover, the Board serves in an oversight and advisory capacity in matters related to academics, programming, staffing, regulatory compliance, and internal affairs.

Each year, the board engages a certified public accountant to audit the School's books and records. The results are reported during the Annual Membership Meeting in November. In 2016 the Board initiated the [GISB Merit Award](#), an annual scholarship honoring academic excellence, extracurricular activities and community service

The BoT is only one group at GISB with a very specific set of responsibilities. Other groups of volunteers deal with different tasks such as the [Parent Council](#) and the [Parent Association](#). These groups provide a forum for day-to-day questions and concerns with regard to School or the community.

Commitment

Our board members share a great passion for the GISB mission. Not only do they spend at least three hours at monthly board meetings, but they also participate in committees. On-going duties include the occasional "homework", which can be an additional two or more hours each week.



The Board's commitment goes beyond the expectation to invest time and work. The Board plays a crucial role in the School's fundraising activities. Trustees choose to be involved either directly by donating (no required minimum amount) or indirectly by building a financially strong network and finding potential supporters. Ideally, both approaches get mixed for maximum outcome.

This is necessary because the School largely depends on fundraising, as the tuition paid by students' families covers ongoing costs but leaves no room for development. Board members are expected to lead by example. Trustees' commitment of time, energy and resources sets the tone for the School community. It helps to create a healthy financial climate and demonstrates board members' engagement. It sends the message to the School community that:

- the Trustee has invested in the School.
- the Trustee has a commitment to the School and its mission.

Those messages are crucial as they encourage other donors to give and signal the strength of the board's commitment to institutions that provide grants or other support.

Committees

Since the entire board meets only once a month, the actual work of the trustees takes place in designated committees. They typically consist of at least two Board members plus volunteers, e.g. internal or external experts. They might be parents but don't necessarily have to be. The committees may propose actions to be taken by the BoT. Some of them are permanent, others form and dissolve according to the issues they deal with. Participating in a committee is an excellent way to get a glimpse into the Board's business. Currently, the following committees are active:

- Advancement Committee
- Facility Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Salaries & Compensations
- Enrollment and Retention

If you have questions or think you might be able to contribute, please feel free to write an email to nadja.key@gisbos.org.