GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
12 Littleville Road  Huntington, MA  01050

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GEF receives windfall!  
*Used to fund special projects and start endowment*

**Huntington** – The Gateway Education Foundation recently benefited from the closing of Mass 1to1—a local non-profit that leased tablets and laptops to families and schools. The advent of affordable Chromebooks made the leasing model unnecessary. Under its bylaws, the closing of Mass 1to1 meant transferring any remaining funds to an organization that would benefit Gateway students.

A check for $84,854.89 was given to the Gateway Education Foundation a few weeks ago. Of this, $30,000 was deposited into the Rob Shipman Memorial Fund, which was created in memory of a longtime social studies teacher who also directed the Tech Crew of the Gateway Performing Arts Center for many years. Rob spent much of his career training students to handle the sound, lighting and backstage responsibilities of the auditorium for concerts, plays and lectures. His memorial fund continues Rob’s legacy to Gateway by continuously upgrading the auditorium, and by providing scholarships to Tech Crew members. Funds from Mass 1to1 have been earmarked to upgrade the projector system in the auditorium, which has become outdated and is an expensive fix. The new system will be installed in the summer of 2018, and will be celebrated with a family movie night this fall.

Another $6,300 has been earmarked to purchase 16 Virtual Reality Goggles, which will be signed out for use in the classroom. The goggles were piloted earlier this year when they were first considered, with numerous applications such as science students being able to look inside the chambers of the heart and foreign language students able to stand on a rooftop in the center of Madrid and turning to view the entire city. VR goggles have been ordered and teachers are already lining up to sign them out for classroom use.

Of the remaining funds, $50,000 will be used to begin an endowment fund for the Foundation, to help secure its sustainability. Foundation Board members will interview prospective investors to select a company to manage and grow the endowment over time.

“We had always planned for a future endowment fund down the road,” said President Shirley Winer. “But this donation allows us to move that effort up. In time, the endowment fund will generate a regular income for the Foundation to fund even more classroom projects.”

Winer cautioned that the Foundation will continue to rely upon donations, grants and fundraisers to keep funding projects through its *Funds for Learning Program*. The next big fundraiser will be Valley Gives Day on May 1; the Gateway Education Foundation has been part of Valley Gives since its inaugural year.
Thus far, the Foundation has funded programs through donations from staff, parents, alumni and community members and ongoing fundraisers including Business Sponsorships, the 5K Dam Road Race, the Shipman Memorial Concert, Giving Tuesday, Valley Gives Day, and fundraisers such as Ford’s Drive 4 Ur School and Gateway Night at the Springfield Thunderbirds. The Gateway Education Foundation has also received generous grant funding through the United Bank Foundation and—thank to a $4,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts this year—the Foundation was able (for the first time in its history) to fund every application submitted during the 2017-18 school year!

Donations are always welcome and can be made by mailing a check (payable to the Gateway Education Foundation) to 12 Littleville Rd., Huntington, MA 01050. Donations using a credit card may also be made from our website.

To date (and including the two projects cited above), the Gateway Education Foundation has funded 78 projects totaling over $80,000 to enhance the education of students attending school in the Gateway Regional School District. These projects have supported literacy, STEM, visual and performing arts, humanities programs and much more! For more information, please visit the Gateway Education Foundation website (www.GatewayEducationFoundation.org).

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**Photo:** Principal cast members of “On Broadway”, a musical presented in January that was funded by the Gateway Education Foundation. Cast members were Littleville students in grades 3-5. The Gateway Education Foundation funded all 3 elementary musicals this year.