

## **GROWING UP GREEN II CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**

**Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 19th, 2021**

**Location:**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/446058084?pwd=SDNCVmhVL0JWWnl0bEwwNDhSYjhkZz09>

**Commencement Time: 7pm**

**In attendance:** Matthew Greenberg (Founder and Executive Director for Growing Up Green Charter Schools), Erin Acosta (Director of Development at Growing Up Green Charter Schools), Anne Levonen (Board Treasurer), Kate McGrath (General Counsel and Director of Human Resources at Growing Up Green Charter Schools), Anita Amoh (Director of Finance at Growing Up Green Charter School), Nabiha Yusufali (Executive Assistant to Founder & Executive Director), Marc Greenberg (Board Trustee), Kate Hooker (Board Co-Chair), Kathryn Klingenstein (Board Co-Chair), Kelly Russotti (Board Secretary), Jeff Mueller (Board Trustee), Laura Meyers (Parent Rep Growing Up Green I), Dr. Shadiatu Moustapha (Parent Rep Growing Up Green II), Kiah Hufane (Board Trustee in Process), Peter Davis (Board Trustee in Process), Andrew Wintner (School Leader at Growing Up Green II Middle School), Nancy Wong (School Leader at Growing Up Green II Elementary School), Aris Colgan (School Leader at Growing Up Green I Elementary School), Shunte Robinson (Director of Support Services at Growing Up Green II), Michael Beltran, Mayzoub, Tia Keenan, Galaxy S9, Esther Morrison (Galaxy S9), Blanca Calderon, Ms. Qualles (1-01), Ms. Bieber (1-03), Parent, Zoom user, jsu9v935gz@privaterelay.appleid.com, Courtney Wiggins, nyceslteacher5@gmail.com Collett Brooks-Binns, Mercedes Alicea# Literacy Coordinator, Kellsie T., Kai's iPhone, Jason Dooley, Sarah Evangelista

**Financials**

Anita Amoh went through the financial reports for Growing Up Green II Charter School.

**12:1:1 Classroom**

Shaunte Robinson, Director of Support Services, spoke about Growing Up Green II's desire to add a 12:1:1 Classroom to the School. Ms. Robinson provided background on the Special Education programming at GUG2, 12:1:1 classrooms generally, and the benefits of a 12:1:1 classroom for both Students with Disabilities and the broader School community.

Kate Hooker moved to approve addition of 12:1:1 Classroom for GUG2ES, Kathryn Klingenstein seconded, all were in favor.

## **Inauguration Day Plans - School Leaders**

School Leaders from each campus spoke about their plans for Inauguration Day, and how teachers would be incorporating Inauguration Day events into lessons.

## **Parent Rep Update**

Dr Shadiatu Moustapha gave an update on the parent perspective at Growing Up Green II ES. She spoke about virtual learning attendance rates; the holiday party on December 30th 2020; and upcoming Internet Safety Workshop presented by Digital Parenting Coach Sarah E. Kimmel on January 22nd 2021 at 7pm; issues at the Device Pick Up that occurred around 1/18/2020; the Town Hall Meeting held following Dr. Moriska Selby's departure. Dr. Moustapha also provided a GUG II PTO Updates, stating that 5 Faculty have joined the PTO and over 40 families were in attendance at the last meeting.

## **GUG II Parent Community Complaint**

A few members of the GUG II Parent Community were present at the Board Meeting and expressed that they would like to share some complaints that they wanted to voice. The Board Chairs asked that they wait until the end of the agenda points. At the end of the meeting, the parents were given time at the end to voice their concerns by the Board at the end of the Board Meeting. Concerns included:

- (1) Dr. Moriska Selby's departure from Growing Up Green. Parents expressed that they were upset, stating that it was their understanding that Dr. Selby was terminated. Kate Hooker explained that employment decisions are within the purview of the School and are not a Board level decision, and that the Board had no reason to doubt the School's decision making process around employment issues. Parents expressed that they were upset that they were not given a reason for Dr. Selby's departure. They found this concerning as she was an employee who worked closely with the parent community. Parents also expressed that they found this concerning because she is a Black woman. Kelly Russotti explained that neither the Board nor the School could comment on any current or former employee's employment with Growing Up Green due to confidentiality concerns.
- (2) Parents expressed that they were upset about the Chromebook distribution process that occurred on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Parents stated that they were not permitted to enter the School and had to wait outside in line, in inclement weather. Kate Hooker replied that she understood that this was due to COVID-19 restrictions. Parents expressed that they were upset about how the process was structured, and that no one from leadership came outside to address the parents. Kathryn Klingenstein thanked the parents for their feedback and said the Board would pass it along to the School.

At the conclusion of the meeting, it did not seem that parents were satisfied with the Board's responses. The Board Co-Chairs requested that if parents had further concerns, they follow the formal process for complaints and write a letter to the Board detailing their concerns.