

Meeting of the GUGCS Board- February 6, 2013, 7pm

Present: Matthew Greenberg, Kyla Kupferstein, Jeff Mueller, Christopher Hawkins, Reid Chase, Paola Vita, Kate Hooker, Erin Acosta, Kim Campbell-Williams, Cidney Brunson

On the phone: Michael Hochanadel, Gina Palma

Not present: Margaret Kumudala, Yvonne Chan, Nicholas Eisenberg

Jeff Mueller moved to begin meeting, Kyla Kupferstein seconded.

Matthew Greenberg welcomed all and Gina Palma provided a summary of school financials, explaining that she expects a surplus of \$265K at the end of the year because, among other reasons, the school has more special ed. students than originally budgeted for and because of conservative budgeting with respect to employee benefits. Gina also explained that the school will have around \$2.1 million in the bank by the end of the year, spread out among at least 4 different accounts.

Next, the Board discussed the process of renewing its charter. Matthew explained that the due date for the charter renewal application is May 1, which will be followed by a visit to the school from the Charter Division of the DOE in early June. Matthew also explained that the charter is set to expire in December 2013, but the school should have unofficial word that it has been renewed by October or November. Chris Hawkins asked if it would be possible to review the bylaws and the Code of Ethics in coming weeks and Matthew replied that it would.

Matthew also informed the Board about a proposed change to the Employee Handbook, which arose because one teacher has been forced by illness to use up all of her sick days. The proposed language would allow employees to use a maximum of 3 days from the next school year upon written authorization by the School Leader. The Board briefly discussed the additional possibility of allowing other employees to donate their extra days to colleagues, but shelved that for a later date. Jeff moved to approve the additional language, Chris seconded, and the Board unanimously approved.

Cidney Brunson, Director of Operations, discussed the results of a survey handed out to GUGCS families in order to gauge interest in starting a Middle School. Reid Hoffman moved to add the middle school plans to the charter renewal application, Kyla seconded, and the Board unanimously approved.

Next, Matthew gave the Board an update on real estate, explaining that the school had retained counsel, Scott Gleason, to potentially represent it in renting a building on 40th Ave for the proposed middle school. Matthew also informed the Board that a term sheet had been sent to the Lawyers Alliance. Matthew discussed details of the

space available and the price per foot, and explained that the school will continue to look at other buildings as well as it tries to determine whether it can afford this one.

Next, Matthew informed the Board that the school did not receive the SSF grant it had applied for.

Erin and Kim shared details of the upcoming March 9 PTO fundraiser with the Board, and explained that tickets for Board members and their guests will be \$50 and each Board member is expected to secure 2 items to be auctioned off.

The Board then discussed the proposed election of Jeff Mueller to replace Michael as Chairman of the Board. Matthew discussed the reasons that he felt Jeff would be a good person to step into the role, and Jeff spoke briefly about his prior experience and why he would like to be the Board Chair who guides the school through its next phase. The Board agreed it would think about the nomination but not make a decision until a later meeting.

Kyla then reflected briefly on the success of the Board's December fundraiser and the need to continue to raise money in order to reach each Board member's goal of a \$2000 per year give/get. Matthew said that he would circulate the total amounts raised per Board member the following day, and also try to find a date for Board members to come visit the school while it is in session. After some discussion of viable dates, the decision was postponed until a later time.

Chris moved to adjourn the meeting, Kyla seconded.