

## **Board Meeting Minutes – Growing Up Green Charter School I**

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 7:00pm

### **Attendance**

Board Members present: Board Chair – Jeff Mueller; Treasurer – Reid Chase; Officer – Kate Hooker; Kathryn Klingenstein – Vice Chair; Treasurer – Reid Chase.

Others present: Matthew Greenberg – School Leader; Gina Palma (via phone) – Director of Finance; Preethi Krishnamurthy – Parent Rep. on Board; Rachel Oakley, Executive Assistant to Matthew Greenberg.

→ Motion was moved to begin the GUG I Board Meeting, and the motion was seconded. ←

### **1. Financial Update on GUG I**

- Gina walked us through the financial summary of GUG I and said the financials are looking strong. She said she was happy with how numbers are trending week to week and that the School will be on budget by the year's end. Benefit costs were under budget due to the lower cost of rates, while the School fundraising classroom budget was right on budget. Gina said that even with a few overages, overall, the School is set for a net income of \$370,000. There were no questions for Gina regarding the budget.

### **2. 5-Year Charter Renewal**

- Matthew said the Board of Regents in Albany will be officially approving Growing Up Green Charter School for a 5-year renewal on Monday, March 13th.
- Matthew said he spoke with David Frank today about the renewal and in the next board meeting he suggested the Board discuss bringing the GUG under one school. He mentioned the School had had many issues with the DOE over the years and if it leaves them, it will be nice to leave for the SED.

### **3. ELA State Test**

- Matthew said the ELA State Test would take place on March 27th and that projections for it looked solid.

### **4. Old Business**

- None

### **5. New Business**

**5.1: High School Letters Out To Families:** Matthew told the Board that Eighth Graders will receive their high school placement letters this week, and that he was happy with their success. He listed some of the high schools, including Stuyvesant High School, Frank McCourt High School, Beacon High School, Townsend Harris High School, Bard High School Early College, Energy Tech High School, and Brooklyn Latin School. Matthew said the success of the School rivaled any other school in the district and that was a reflection of the teachers at GUG MS. Matthew then mentioned that he had spoke with someone at Sacred Heart High School in Manhattan and that there was talk of some

seventh graders being in the running for scholarships there.

The Board then discussed new board members and Matthew said he had a goal of having two new members on the Board within 8 weeks.

**5.2: Changing authorizers: moving from DOE to SED:** Matthew said we should not announce this matter yet.

**5.3: Parent fundraiser:** The Board talked about the upcoming parent fundraiser at GUG for the evening of March 25th. Matthew said he would have more information to come.

## **6. GUG III: 2018!**

- Matthew told the Board that he had found a diocese building for Growing Up Green III. He said it was smallish in size but with 12 classrooms. There is a school in the building now but they are moving to the other side of the block. He said where the school is (closer to Forest Hills) is a high-need community, but asked if 2018 was right, in terms of capacity.
- Matthew then notified the Board that there were three staff in GUG that had graduated, or would soon be graduating, from Leadership Academy. He would visit the site with all three on April 21st.
- Matthew said the letter of intent is not due until June, so he would take 6 – 8 weeks to get back into the community to see the need for another school.
- Kate and Kathryn mentioned GUG might need more backing to open a third school and said there might be more hurdles with parents thinking Matthew is spreading himself too thin when it came to their children.
- Jeff asked Matthew if there had been any complaints about GUG getting too big. Matthew said he thinks everything is fine in that aspect and Preethi agreed, saying she isn't worried about Matthew not being involved in the day-to-day of children's learning.
- Jeff said as a parent of a child in public school, he looks at where the kids go afterwards. It tells the value of the education, he said. He referred to the high school placements from earlier.
- Matthew praised the middle school teachers who he believes provide the best education in the city.
  - Jeff motions to close the GUG I Board Meeting and the motion was seconded. ←
  - Jeff motioned to move to the GUG II Board Meeting and the motion was seconded. ←