

GROWING UP GREEN CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 19th, 2019

Location: Growing Up Green Charter School (Elementary School)

Commencement Time: 7pm

In attendance: Jeff Mueller, Ann Levonen, Matthew Greenberg

Via phone: Gina Palma, Nabiha Yusufali, Kate McGrath, Kathryn Klingenstein

GUG II

Financials

Gina Palma went over our Financials for GUG II. GUG II financials are looking very strong. Overall, we are in a much better position than the budgeted. We had a larger than expected grant because of increase in SpEd per pupil as well as Title 1 funding and After School Program revenue. We are also under budget on staffing and benefits. We received a credit for workman's comp from the benefits company. Office equipment budget is higher than expected because of a leased printer additional copier was added. We are slightly over budget for professional services because of paraprofessionals and substitute teachers. The majority was for paraprofessionals services.

Jeff Mueller: Is there a correlation of the increase in SPED/IEP students that created the additional need for support from paraprofessionals?

Matthew Greenberg: Yes, absolutely. If a para is not mandated in the IEP, then we have to pay it out of pocket. Paras from the agencies aren't always the best, so sometimes it's best to hire our own in house.

Kate McGrath: We're also at the mercy of the Special Needs Committee and how fast they decide to move through the process in getting the student approved for a para. Sometimes we need to act quickly for the sake of the child and the classroom, and many times are do not move through the process quick enough for us.

Kathryn Klingenstein: What was the increased spending for substitute teachers about?

Matthew Greenberg: The increase in substitute teacher cost is because in one instance we weren't able to find a teacher for maternity leave, so we decided to keep on a substitute teacher to eventually hire her on.

Gina Palma: Facilities was over budget this year because new fire alarms needed to be installed, as well as oil and electric costs. IT is at a lower cost than expected. GUG II has one more loan payment to GUG I in April, and after that they will be debt-free.

Old Business

Middle School Expansion And Real Estate Option

Matthew spoke on the middle school expansion and real estate options for GUG II. More information will be coming about real estate and our middle school expansion for GUG II. This expansion would happen in 2020 - 2021 school year. Nancy, Aris and Kate have been working very hard on this expansion plan. We will flip the current ES school location for the new building and keep 5th-8th grade in the building we have. In Fall of 2020 we will know if we are getting the state funding for our middle school.

New Business

SED Mid-term Visit

Matthew spoke about the SED mid-term visit on May 16th. SED is coming to do a visit and they want to meet with the Board Members at 11am on May 16th. We would like three board members to be available for the visit. Nabiha will send two separate days where one of you can visit the school and get a sense of it. We will guide to everything they need to know going into the meeting with the SED. The following spring they will give us a report and then can make a recommendation for whether they will grant our charter for another one, three or five years, with or without the middle school expansion.