

GROWING UP GREEN I CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, August 18th, 2020

Location:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4173215616?pwd=MVN5YzR4TnJ5bTJOMHpqTFdhZm84QT09>

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), Andrew Wintner (Growing Up Green 2 MS), Nancy Wong (Growing Up Green 2 ES School Leader), Marc Greenberg (Trustee)

Commencement:

Kathryn opened the meeting.

Kathryn and Anne reviewed the Financials with Anita Amoh earlier today during the Finance Committee meeting and signed off on them.

Kathryn, Marc, and Anne discussed the committee process and whether or not the committees were evenly distributed amongst Board Members. Kathryn asked if we could present this to Board Members next month, and all agreed that was the best plan of action.

Kathryn asked Matthew to provide an update on reopening.

Matthew provided an update on the state of reopening. Matthew spoke about the two town halls that took place, and reported that they were very well attended and went well. Matthew also spoke about upcoming town halls for both students & staff to discuss Remote Learning and then Blended Learning, and provided the Board with dates when these meetings will be held. Matthew also reiterated the timeline for reopening, and discussed the feedback we received from Dr. Ratner, a pediatric epidemiologist from NYU, that starting Remote and moving to Blended Learning in a controlled manner was the best approach.

Matthew also spoke about support for families outside of the classroom, including : (1) the Growing Up Green market that the School will host to provide families with school supplies, food, and uniforms; (2) internet connectivity support; and (3) Chromebooks for all students. Matthew and Erin Acosta are sending out surveys to families regarding their food needs, with a goal of packaging food for any family that needs support to pick up twice a month.

Anne asked where the food would come from. Matthew explained that the School would get a sense of what families need, and then buy in bulk to the extent possible. Anne asked if this was because there was no school lunch. Matthew explained that this would be in addition to school lunch because so many families are struggling right now. Kathryn said that she thought this was a great idea and asked for the School to share information with how the Board can help with supporting this project, whether through helping package food or donating.

Marc mentioned an Op-Ed he read from the NYT by the founder of Khan Academy which mentioned that the thing students will miss the most is the social emotional element of school and asked how we are trying to replicate that in the classroom even though we are remote/blended. Matthew responded that the School agrees and is building out a plan, especially for Blended days, to focus on social emotional learning, even if School looks different this year. Matthew expressed that we will be doing as much to provide students with as many opportunities as possible.

Matthew shared that he spent today speaking with engineers and architects about ventilation systems to make sure our spaces are sufficiently ventilated. Matthew also mentioned that he is constant communication with NYSED and the DOE as authorizers regarding our plans.

Kathryn closed the GUG1 meeting.