

GROWING UP GREEN CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting Date: Wednesday, September 25th, 2019

Location: Growing Up Green Elementary Charter School Long Island City

Commencement Time: 7pm

In person: Jeff Mueller (Board Chair) Kate McGrath (General Counsel and HR Director for GUGCS), Laura Meyers (Growing Up Green I Board Parent Representative), Ann Levonen (Board Trustee), Pastor Corwin Scott Mason (Board Trustee in process), Nabiha Yusufali (Executive Assistant & Special Project Coordinator at GUGCS), Matthew Greenberg (Founder & Executive Director at GUGCS), Aris Colgan (School Leader at GUGCS I), Jenn Slutak (School Leader at GUGCS Middle School I), Steve Viola (Assistant School Leader at GUGCS MS I), Jana Ford (Math Coordinator GUGCS MS I), Kayla Roby Math Coordinator GUGCS ES I, Lauren Balterman (Director of Counseling), Adnan Vadyk (Finance Manager for Charter School Business Management Inc)

Video Conference: Marc Greenberg (Board Trustee in process), Kate Hooker (Board Secretary), Moriska Selby (Assistant School Leader at GUGCS II), Nancy Wong (School Leader at GUGCS II), Erin Acosta (Director of Engagement at GUGCS), Shadiatu Moustapha (GUG II Parent Rep in process)

Jeff Mueller motioned to commence the Board of Trustees meeting for Growing Up Green I Charter School, Ann Levonen seconded the motion, and Kate Hooker was in agreement.

Previous Month's Board Meeting Minutes

Ann Levonen motioned to approve August's Board Minutes, Jeff Mueller seconded the motion, and Kate Hooker agreed.

Introductions

Jeff Mueller introduced Shadiatu Moustapha, Pastor Corwin Scott Mason, and Marc Greenberg to the Board. Pastor Mason and Marc Greenberg are candidates for Growing Up Green I and II Board of Trustees, and Dr Shadiatu Moustapha is a candidate for the Growing Up Green II Parent Representative for the Board of Trustees.

Pastor Corwin Mason introduced himself as the head Pastor at the Community Church of Astoria. He originally came to New York from North Carolina to pursue music, but eventually started work as a Youth Minister. He became very passionate about the work he did with children and youth, and is excited about working with Growing Up Green.

Marc Greenberg introduced himself. His work for the past 35 years has been with homelessness. He was unable to visit in person because tomorrow he will be staying overnight at City Hall Park with a group of people so they can experience what homelessness can feel like. He is excited about the theme of the school and would love for the school to commit itself as an entity to address climate change.

Dr Shadiatu Moustapha introduced herself. Her daughter has been at the Growing Up Green II for 2 years. Her daughter has an IEP and the school has done a lot of good for her daughter. Dr Moustapha has her doctorate as a nurse practitioner. She wants to fight for the community and our school. She knows that with the support of the Board of Trustees that those who need to hear us will hear us, and is excited about the work that she could do.

Board Member Nominations

Jeff Mueller made a motion to nominate Marc Greenberg and Pastor Mason to the Growing Up Green to Growing Up Green Board of Trustees. Ann Levonen seconded and Kate Hooker agreed.

Jeff Mueller made a motion to nominate Dr Shadiatu Moustapha to the Growing Up Green as the Growing Up Green II Parent Representative. Ann Levonen seconded and Kate Hooker agreed.

Financials

Adnan Vadyk introduced himself as a Finance Manager for Charter School Business Management Inc. Himself and Kamilah O'Brien will be taking over for Anita Amoh's (Director of Finance) position while Anita is on maternity leave.

Adnan went through the financials for Growing Up Green I. The Special Education per pupil funding we received was higher than anticipated, our Title 2 funding came in lower due to adjustments, IDA revenue was better than expected, and family contributions were better than expected. Benefit costs were lower than expected, and 401K costs were lower than anticipated. We were over budget on team building and professional services, classroom expenditure, facilities, technologies costs came in higher due to implementation of Power School.

The current fiscal year is the 2019 - 2020 school year. The numbers we are looking at are through August. We are projecting numbers to be on budget. It is early in the year and we haven't had too many expenses. We are currently projected to end the year at a surplus.

Matthew Greenberg mentioned that Anita Amoh started doing some work with meeting bankers from Chase with the intention of hopefully moving our banking and assets from Citi to Chase before she went on Maternity Leave. She will continue to work on this after she comes back from Maternity Leave, but we will then bring all information to the Board and discuss investments.

State Exam Data

Roseanne Bynum, Assessment Coordinator at Growing Up Green Middle School, Angela Shih, Assessment Coordinator at Growing Up Green I Elementary School, and Brian Martin, Assessment Coordinator at Growing Up Green II presented State Test data from the 2018-2019 school year..

Roseanne Bynum and Angela Shih I gave highlights for state exam data. This year they noticed:

- GUG I (3-8) grew 4.6% in ELA proficiency from 2018 to 2019, while New York City and New York State grew just 0.7% and 0.2% respectively during that time.
- GUG I (3-7) grew 8.1% in Math proficiency from 2018 to 2019, while New York City and New York State grew just 2.9% and 2.2% respectively during that time.
- GUG I (3-8) outperformed the City and State in every grade in ELA proficiency, and in all but 1 grade in Math proficiency.
- Every demographic group at GUG I grew at least 2% in proficiency on the ELA State Exam from 2018 to 2019.

Their plan for this year:

For GUG I ES

- Using interim assessment data earlier to provide interventions for students that are on the cusp
- More rigorous monitoring of effectiveness of interventions
- Vertical alignment in planning meetings
- Targeting constructed response across subject areas

FOR GUG I MS

- Gathering additional data to gain insight into the factors causing discrepancy in the performance between students of color and white students.
- Using the data collected, GUG I MS will create an action plan for the coming year.
- Continuing the writing initiative they began last year.

Brian Martin gave highlights for State Test data at Growing Up Green II. This year they noticed:

- Students across all testing grades grew 6% in ELA proficiency from 2018-2019 while New York City and New York State .7% and .2% respectively during that time.
- Testing grade students that have attended GUGCS II at least two year achieved 50% proficiency on the ELA state test.

- Students that have attended GUGCS II for at least two years have increased their proficiency in math.
- Black, Hispanic, Students with Disabilities, English Language Learners, and Economically Disadvantaged Students, had a greater proficiency of the ELA State Test than New York City, New York State, and District 28
- Hispanic, Students with Disabilities, and English Language Learner Students had a greater proficiency on the Math State Test than New York City, State, and District 2

Their plan for this year:

- Departmentalize 5th grade
- Hired reading specialist to join Support Services Team
- Focused increase on math instruction
- Host frequent meetings about student performance data to identify and address areas of need particularly in ELA and Math
- Emphasize Teacher Development
- Facilitate Family workshops around state tests and curriculum

School Leaders Highlights

Jenn Slutak and Steve Viola gave some highlights from the year so far:

- 150/270 kids invited came for Alumni Homecoming
- In our building 15/18 staff came back
- We are focusing on developing the teachers we have
- We participated in the Global Climate Strike
- Sports teams are underway
- Brooklyn Boat works
- Founded a Gay Straight Alliance this year

Aris Colgan and Temeka Osbourne gave some highlights from the year so far:

- Our main focus this year is teacher development
- We have our coaching assignments and have started working with everyone with observations and one on one meetings
- We had a very successful Curriculum Night with State Senator Gianaris visiting
- We have implemented a New Teacher Institute for new teachers where we train and give differentiated professional development. Associate teachers are going to teach lessons, meet with families and write report cards so that they can develop their skills
- Diversity and Equity: it is a goal for us for our teachers to know about all our students and embrace the differences they have

Laura Meyers

Laura spoke about her profession as a Licensed Clinical Social worker, and that it is Suicide Prevention Month, and encouraged the team to reach out to her if they need any resources, or if they know someone who needs resources

She then spoke about PTO Leadership tentatively attending the November Board Meeting. GUG II PTA will join a Board Meeting when we're in the Jamaica campus.

Laura Meyers then spoke about how the school reflects Queens deeply. The school is doing a lot of work thinking about social determinants. She knows that the school responds to the Climate Strike, but Laura is promoting that idea that there is a lot more communication to parents about all the work we do. Parents would like to know about the staff and promote the great work we are doing. The more parents hear from us it mitigates any anxiety and gives us more information.

Aris Colgan responded and thanked Lauren for her comments, and spoke about how she can perhaps start sending out a newsletter to parents in the future. Jenn Slutak spoke about how they do a weekly newsletter at the Middle School, and she can share that format to Aris, and perhaps Aris can use that as a template for her future newsletters.

Anne Levonen made a motion to adjourn the Growing Up Green I Board of Trustees Meeting, Kate Hooker seconded and Jeff Mueller agreed.