

GROWING UP GREEN I CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 17th, 2020

Location: <https://zoom.us/j/273191334>

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), Nabiha Yusufali (Executive Assistant to Matthew Greenberg and Special Projects Coordinator at Growing Up Green Charter Schools), Anne Levonen (Board Trustee), 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), Marc Greenberg (Board Trustee), Kate Hooker (Board Secretary), Kelly Russotti (Board Trustee), Reid Chase (Board Trustee), Kathryn Klingenstein (Board Vicechair), Jeff Mueller (Board Chair), Aris Colgan (School Leader at Growing Up Green I Charter School), Jenn Slutak (School Leader at Growing Up Green I Middle School), Steve Viola (Assistant School Leader at Growing Up Green I Middle School), Nancy Wong (School Leader at Growing Up Green II), Lauren Balterman (Director of Counseling Services at Growing Up Green Charter School)

Commencement

Jeff Mueller moved to open the meeting for Growing Up Green I Charter School.

Previous Month's Board Meeting Minutes

Kathryn Klingenstein motioned to approve the March Board Minutes, Anne Levonen seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Financials

Anita Amoh went through financials for Growing Up Green I Charter School. For State Grants we are projected to be under budget due to lower enrollment numbers compared to what we had in the budget. For SpEd we also projected to be lower than we had anticipated in the budget. For Federal Grants, we are looking to be under, this is due to the Title I allocations which were lower than we had anticipated in the budget. For our contributions line we are projected to be over budget because this year we've done really well in our fundraising efforts. For instructional staff we are looking to be under budget. For non-instructional staff we are looking to be under budget as well, mainly due to savings from maternity leaves. For incentives we are projecting to be over due to staff taking on additional roles while we had some vacancies. For benefits we are looking to be under due to savings from the new benefits primes that were introduced this year. For professional services we are projected to be over budget due

to a number of factors, mainly our payroll service fees which were higher than we had anticipated in the budget, and also our substitute services which were higher than we had anticipated in the budget. For professional development we are looking to be under. For staff and student recruitment we are looking to be under. For miscellaneous expenses we are looking to be over budget because of unexpected fines that the school had to deal with this year. For depreciation expenses we are looking to save. Bottom line, we are looking to have a net income.

COVID-19 - Growing Up Green's Response

Kate McGrath started the discussion of Growing Up Green's Response to COVID-19. She spoke of the legal ramifications of the schools closing and the guidance from the state and our authorizers. She walked the Board through the executive order that Governor Cuomo signed last week. She spoke about conversations that GUGCS has been talking to David Frank from SED and his counterpart at SUNY about the guidance they have given us. Our authorizers have been saying that we should be documenting our efforts during this time. In the event that there's any kind of pushback from the State or any districts about us getting our per pupil funding, they want us to be able to show all of the efforts we took to remain in the business of educating students during this time. She spoke about the SpEd student support teams at all three schools and the fact that they are doing their very best to keep making sure our students keep receiving these services during this time.

Erin Acosta then spoke about family engagement for COVID-19. There are DOE Grab and Go sites all around the city for families who need School Food, families are being directed to go to the site closest to their home. They are also going to turn some of the schools into childcare centers for workers who cannot work remotely. Our middle school is adjacent to Our Children, a food bank, so the middle school did a mini food drive and dropped it off to Our Children on Friday afternoon. On Friday we were able to send home about 20 students that afternoon with a laptop and a charger for the laptop ChromeBooks so that they can work from home and we are now surveying the families, and have sent emails out to families at all 3 campuses.

Aris Colgan then spoke about her plan for remote learning at Growing Up Green I Elementary School. We will be using Google Classroom as our platform to share remote learning with students. Through Google Classroom students have access to one classroom, and multiple teachers have access to that classroom, including Learning Specialists, ENL teachers and Specials teachers. Support Services is still providing SETTs to any of our mandated students through differentiated learning through the Google Classroom platform. We've also made a bank of social emotional resources for families to use. Our Deans are also offering weekly check-ins where students can log into a video conference and for staff, we're going to hold weekly staff meetings.

Jenn Slutak then spoke about her plan for remote learning at Growing Up Green I Middle School. The middle school actually already uses Google Classroom for much of their learning, so the students should be able to access and complete their work easily.

Fundraising Update

Erin Acosta gave an update on the Read-a-Thon and fundraising efforts. With the help of our Friends of Growing Up Green Angel Campaign, we raised a total of \$36,135 for the Read-a-Thon. GUG II raised \$5,000 and GUG I raised \$31,000. The Friends of Growing up Green online campaign that raised \$2,120.