

Growing Up Green Charter School May 15th Board Meeting

In attendance: Matthew Greenberg, Preethi Krishnamurthy, Anne Levonen, Aramis Grant, Rachel Oakley.

By phone: Emily Chester, Aris Colgan, Kate Hooker, Kathryn Klingenstein, Jeff Mueller.

Commencement: 7pm

GUGI

Financials

Gina took the Board through the school's Financials and noted that most items were on budget, except for things such as benefits (year-end GUG staff 401K match), contracted paraprofessionals for ES grades and recruiter fees. The school did have a savings due to the new "Free Lunch for All" DOE policy. Gina said that the school would have a better net income at the end of the year than what was previously projected.

Director of Recruitment

Matthew Greenberg introduced Aramis Grant to the Board. Ms. Grant has joined Growing Up Green as the school's Director of Recruitment, and will be traveling to both GUG1 and GUG2 campuses to assist with the hiring of new teachers. Ms. Grant will be screening resumes and applications, conducting phone interviews and attending in-person interviews. She will also be traveling to different recruitment events throughout NYC and the state.

State Testing Update

Matthew Greenberg then introduced Emily Chester (on the phone) who is GUG1 Elementary School's Upper School Literacy Coordinator. Ms. Chester spoke about state testing that has just taken place and said the students' biggest challenge was "stamina". In future, she said, students would probably be better off with a "walkthrough" of the test format to prepare more. Ms. Chester also said that to combat fatigue, testing students were given mints, a snack, a sequestered lunch, and sometimes a short walk as a "mental break". Ms. Chester also said not a lot of families opted out from state testing this year.

GUGIII Update

Matthew updated the Board on his plans for a third charter school. He said a redlined copy of a lease was in the hands of the school's attorney and that he would know where we are in the process by tomorrow. Mr. Greenberg said we got everything we wanted in terms of the lease over 31 years, and that he would be aiming for a 2019 open. Mr. Greenberg then spoke about how a new school in Jamaica would be a wonderful new asset to the community.

New Business: Anne Levonen

The Board was then introduced to a prospective board member, Ms. Anne Levonen. Mr. Greenberg said that Ms. Levonen's application would be submitted to the State once all the paperwork was completed. Ms. Greenberg said he hoped that Anne Levonen would start on the Board in July of 2018.

Ms. Levonen shared her resume with the Board and gave a rundown of her 30 years of experience in the finance industry. Ms. Levonen also said that she has lived in New York City

for 10 years and has done a lot of employee engagement/volunteer opportunities, most notably at PS 111. Ms. Levonen said she was very impressed with Growing Up Green because of the school's green focus, and that she had never been a board member of a non-profit before, which also interested her.

After Ms. Levonen explained her position at Credit Suisse, Jeff Mueller, Board Chairperson, then motioned for a vote to approve Anne as a new board member. The motion was then immediately approved by voting members of the Board.

PTO Fundraising Gala

Matthew mentioned the PTO Fundraising Gala would take place that weekend, on May 19th from 7pm. All Board Members were invited to the gala and welcome to attend. It would involve a "Great Gatsby" theme, with a casino-like atmosphere for adults. An auction would also take place which would raise funds for the school.

Fundraising Letter out to Families

The Board was informed of the fundraising letter going out to families before the end of the year and then again at the start of the 2018-2019 school year. Matthew said the overall goal of the next school year would be \$290K from GUG1 families and that he was hopeful of families contributing. Mr. Greenberg said he would know in October if the goal could be reached (after families agree to contributing etc) and that he would look into corporations and holding a board cocktail reception to raise money. Matthew said he would also look at sending out a letter to GUG2 families, though the letter would be a little different.