



GROWING UP GREEN CHARTER SCHOOL PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION INC.

39-27 28th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101 gugcspto@gmail.com

GUG PTO Meeting Minutes for 09/18/2025

Held virtually over Zoom.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM. There were 59 participants on the call. Board members present: Pelin Gurer (retiring 2023/2024 Co President), Julie Thibault-Dury (Co President), Mariela Montilla (retiring 2023/2024 Events Co Chair). Laura Strache MS Representative), Eileen Moore (ES Teacher Liaison). School administrators included: Anabel Schmelz (ES1 School Leader), Leticha Fraser (MS1 School Leader) and Erin Acosta (Administration GUGCS Director of Family Engagement).

Laura Strache welcomed families to the meeting and put forth the agenda for the night's meeting.

June 2025 meeting minutes were approved - motion made by Mariela Montilla, seconded by Eileen Moore

Pelin provided the PTO financial report for September 2025.

Laura presented PTO vacancies for the school year 2025-2026. Candidates introduced themselves. The following slate of candidates were approved by general vote following motion by Pelin Gurer and second by Mariela Montilla

continuing as Co-President from 2024/2025 - Julie Thibault-Dury

Treasurer - Nick Enna

Events Co-Chair - Keisha White-Walters

Volunteer Coordinator - Ingrid Suarez

Communications - Igor Ochoa

continuing as MS Rep (on an interim basis) - Laura Strache

It was also noted that Eileen Moore would continue in the non-board capacity of ES Teacher Liaison, joined for the 2025/2026 school year by Pelin Gurer.

Eileen provided an update on ES Teacher Liaison meetings with teachers and students. Teachers and staff want to hear from you! They brainstormed ways to have more teachers attend next year. In meetings with teachers, Eileen went over some parent responses from our earlier survey. Are you interested in serving as a Teacher Liaison? Reach out via email at gugcspto@gmail.com.

Erin Acosta provided ES updates.

She noted that GUG1 has received a 2nd round approval of an additional grant from HSBC. Volunteers from HSBC will join us at Socrates Park for a cleanup event. HSBC will also be providing free virtual financial wellness classes to the community.

On Wednesdays Upperschool students (grades 3-5) will participate in clubs from 8-8:30. The kids get to rank choices and will be placed on demand and space. For example, Green Voices has more capacity for a larger group. Mighty Minds will continue as an afterschool club. Apollo continues to offer an afterschool program.

Erin noted upcoming events in remainder of September and into October.

MS School Leader Leticha Fraser provided an update on upcoming events for the MS.

Meeting ended at 7:30pm

Attendees: 59

September 2025 Meeting Minutes Provided by Laura Strache, MS Representative