

GROWING UP GREEN CHARTER SCHOOLS BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, October 28th, 2025, 7:00pm

Location:

ES1 - 39-27 28th Street, Queens, NY 11101

In attendance:

Matthew Greenberg (GUGCS Founder and Executive Director), Desmond Holliday (GUGCS Development Associate & Executive Assistant), Dr. Nancy Wong (GUGCS Director of Assessment), Laurenn Hinkle (CSBM Representative), Gus Saliba (Auditor, PKF O'Connor Davies), Marc Greenberg (Interim Board Chair), Anne Levonen (Board Treasurer), Mark Freidberg (Board Trustee), Kiah Hufane (Board Trustee), Peter Davis (Board Trustee), Tomi Okuyemi (GUGCS Chief Academic Officer), Danielle Williams (Board Trustee), Kelly Russotti (Board Secretary), Nicole Roberts, Quanya McKinley Grant, Charmelle, "USER", Omolala Olatunji, Joseph Ciorciari (PKF O'Connor Davies), Meenakshi Bhardwaj, Matthew Ceredahl

Total: 19 attendees at meeting

Public Comment:

- Charmelle [No last name provided]: Bussing issues on the concerns for the education of the students.
- Quanya McKinley-Grant: Invitation for board members to accompany a trip to Alley Bond Park. Enjoying the wildness and the playground

Commencement: 7:00 p.m.

Marc Greenberg opened the meeting for Growing Up Green Charter Schools.

Executive Director Report

Matthew Greenberg presented the executive report for Growing Up Green Charter Schools.

- Read-a-thon is underway and we need Literacy Heroes. Those who can sponsor a child who does not have a sponsor. <https://www.gugcs.org/support-us/read-a-thon/>
- Mid-Term Site visit at G1- went well. CAO to Tomi Okuyemi for the full day of classroom visit and leadership of G1 staff. GUG Compliment on warm, supportive school environment as well as facilities. HR Team was noted as working hard to improve teacher certification rates. Liaison interviewed middle school students and was impressed by their pride in their school community.
- Write Charter school report.
- Hear from state for the Charter renewal by February 2027.
- Request to meet by Brandy to meet more board members at the NYSED meeting.

State Test Data Share

Dr. Nancy Wong presented data regarding state testing at GUGCS.

- State Test Exam share: focused on students learning and teacher development

- GUG 1 State Data Summary 3-8 (2025) ELA Performance and Math State performance
 - Outperformed District 30 in ELA (50.5% proficiency)
 - Outperformed District 30 in Math (44.4% proficiency)
- GUG 1 Regents Data: They enroll in Algebra I to receive regents' credits.
 - Algebra: 18.4% passed
 - Living Environment: 55.3% passed
- GUG II: State Data Summary 3-8 (202) ELA Performance and Math State Performance
 - GUG II outperformed District 28 in ELA (51.4% proficiency)
 - GUG II outperformed District 28 in Math (38.7% proficiency)
- GUG II Regents Data:
 - Algebra: 70.8 % passed
 - Living Environment: 43.9% passed
- Next Steps for Test Exam Data
 - Adopting High Quality Curriculum: Illustrative Math 5-8
 - Instructional Management Training: For all school Leaders (MS & ES)
 - Targeted Math Support: Lavinia Group classroom visits
 - Literacy Focus (ES) – Science of Reading Implementation with LIT
 - Training in SOR implementation and systems for all school leaders and coaches
 - Monthly PDs for instruction leaders on SOR and coaching best practices
 - Data Driven Instruction: Weekly Formative Assessments trackers K-8
 - Real-Time Coaching: Frequent present feedback

Audit Presentation: PK O'Connor Davies (Gus Saliba, CPA, Joseph Ciorciari, Matthew Ceredahl)

- Audit completed
- Issue a management letter. There were no sufficient deficiencies.
- Payroll taxes increased based on an increase in salaries.
- Peter Davis: What is the strength of the financials for GUG charter schools
 - GUG is in good shape. All boroughs are dealing with enrollment issues.

Items for vote

- Peter Davis moved to approve Audit for Growing Up Green Charter Schools. Kiah Hufane seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- Kiah Hufane moved to approve the September 29th for the Growing Up Green Charter Schools. Anne Levonen seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- Mark Freidberg moved to approve October 15th minutes for the Growing Up Green Charter Schools. Peter Davis seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- Kiah Hufane moved to approve the update to the FPP for the Growing Up Green Charter Schools. Kelly Russotti seconded the motion, all were in favor.
- Marc Greenberg moved to approve the increase in the board capacity to 13 total members for Growing Up Green Charter Schools. Anne Levonen seconded the motion, all were in favor.

- Marc Greenberg moved to approve Kwame Flaherty to the board for Growing Up Green Charter Schools effective November 25th, 2025 pending NYSED approval. Peter Davis seconded the motion, all were in favor. Motion #6: The Growing Up Green Charter Schools Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough criminal history record check via fingerprinting which is deemed acceptable by NYSED, and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided information regarding such history to NYSED, if found, and having verified that any academic and/or professional credential or qualification presented by the proposed member is genuine, and having reviewed the application in its entirety, has voted to select Kwame Flaherty as a member to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on June 30th, 2027, pending approval by NYSED. The resolution approving Kwame Flaherty is adopted upon NYSED's approval.
 - Question: the quorum will still be five board members? Yes.
 - After Kwame joins, we will have nine (9) voting members.

Financials

Laurenn Hinkle went through the summary financial reports for Growing Up Green Charter Schools.

- Enrollment remains an issue and how it impacts our financials
- Under enrolled on the Long island campus
- Approved for the increase in enrollment.
- Invest \$1 million in a CD. Maintain our investments.

Adjournment: @ 8:00 p.m.