

GROWING UP GREEN CHARTER SCHOOLS BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting Date: Tuesday, March 31st, 2026, 7:00pm

Location: MS1 - 34-12 10th Street, Queens, NY 11106

In attendance:

Matthew Greenberg (GUGCS Founder and Executive Director), Desmond Holliday (GUGCS Development Associate & Executive Assistant), Marc Greenberg (Interim Board Chair), Vanessa Salinas (GUGCS Chief Financial Officer), Laurenn Hinkle (CSBM Representative), Steve Viola (GUGCS Chief Operating Officer)

Dr. Nancy Wong (GUGCS Director of Curriculum & Instruction), Dr. Danielle Williams (Board Trustee), Danielle Williams (Board Candidate), Quanya McKinley-Grant, Kiah Hufane (Board Trustee), Kwame Flaherty (Board Trustee), Tomi Okuyemi (GUGCS Chief Academic Officer), Anne Levonen (Board Treasurer), Pastor Corwin Mason (Board Trustee), Mark Freidberg (Board Trustee), Meegan Spellman (Board Parent Representative), Vanessa Jules, "Zoom User"

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public prior to the meeting.

Commencement

Marc Greenberg opened the meeting for Growing Up Green Charter Schools at 7:04pm.

Previous Month's Board Meeting Minutes

Kiah Hufane moved to approve the February minutes for the Growing Up Green Charter Schools. Kwame Flaherty seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Executive Director Report

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

- Welcomed potential board member, Danielle Williams, and invited her to join an executive session after the call to meet the rest of the Board
- Welcomed new CFO Vanessa Salinas and Laurenn Hinkle
- Discussed reason for Board to approve decreasing enrollment number at G1 - migrant population has dropped, there are fewer kids in LIC, there is a large saturation of schools in LIC in particular, G1 is under the 85% threshold for compliance and this may affect our renewal
- Decreasing enrollment number would bring us back into compliance and ensure we get a full 5-year renewal
- Emphasized that this issue with enrollment is a widespread issue and other schools are dealing with this as well
- We are not experiencing this issue at our Jamaica campuses
- Marc Greenberg asked about enrollment efforts at each campus and how we respond to the difference in neighborhoods. Matthew Greenberg talked about our vendor,

Underdog, who is doing grassroots outreach in each neighborhood, so far it has been helpful

Anne Levonen moved to approve the non-material change to decrease enrollment at Growing Up Green Charter School I (LIC) from 849 students to 722 students. Kiah Hufane seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Growing Up Green School Updates

Tomi Okuyemi & Nancy Wong presented data and Charter Renewal updates.

- Tomi talked about our charter renewal action plan to make sure that we're maintaining the areas where we're succeeding and how to move approaching
 - Midterm site visit went well
 - Meeting benchmarks 2-8, approaching in benchmarks 1, 9, and 10
 - Renewal application due later in the fall
- What we're doing
 - Working with Lit to increase literacy throughout the schools
 - Monthly cross-campus professional development - some led by external partners, some led by Tomi
 - 1 to 1 coaching for 2 literacy coaches
 - Weekly walkthroughs - shared photos of walkthroughs and leadership teams in classrooms
- Shared ES1 and ES2 data from last year vs this year - literacy proficiency has increased significantly since last year
 - Tomi shouted out our teacher, Quanya McKinley-Grant, who was on the call, for her excellent work with our students
 - Marc Greenberg asked how we were able to make this massive change happen - Tomi answered that there has been a lot of work and attention to detail in specific areas
 - Kiah asked if we were tracking cohorts and their progress grade-to-grade - Tomi said that she would share this data with her
 - Mark asked if we have any data on how we can track this with the COVID cohort
 - ES2 Kindergarten Reading Highlight - For June 2025 the Kindergarten students are far below from June 2025. GFor March 2026 students are exceeding in Q5.
 - We are looking at implementing practices and instruction at ES2.

Financials

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

- Highlights- Vanessa Salina
 - From a Financial standpoint in a strong position for 2026. Projecting 1.4 million dollar surplus for the year.
 - Focus on cash position to see around enrollment and have been reviewing a looking at.
 - Based on the report, 2 short term CDs that have matured in the next couple days.

- We are evaluating our investment options in alignment with our financial strategy.
- Meetings have occurred for the 2027 budget. The final budget will come to the board in May for approval.
- First 90 days - continue to strengthen the future enrollment for GUGS.
- 2024-2025 - Need to complete the annual 990 and the audited financial statements and prepared by the auditors. - Laurenn Hinkle
- Kwane Flaherty made a motion to approve the FY24/25 990 for GUGCS, Anne Levonen seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Parent Rep Update

Meegan Spellman gave an update on some happenings at Growing Up Green Charter Schools.

- Her focus point is to get more participation from parents for the survey.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm