



Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School

Board of Trustees Meeting

July 25, 2023

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School, 500 19th Street, Brooklyn, NY (members on the phone with addresses shared, no quorum)

<https://meet.google.com/iww-pkee-pye> +1 470-250-1672 PIN: 639951412#

Members Present: Regina Fechter, Jackie Piccolo, Jamal Deek, Louis Green, Don Mabrey

Others present: Susan Tenner (BUGS Executive Director)

I. Welcome and Approval of the Minutes

- Jackie Piccolo called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
- Susan shared a mission moment about how a few parents had approached her at graduation to say they were so thankful that BUGS exists as a school and is such a wonderful learning community for their children.
- There was no quorum, so meeting minutes were not voted on.

Finance committee reported out by Jamal Keek.

Jamal shared that the full year read-out is next month when the books are more fully closed. The actuals are looking positive, as Susan shared in the ED report. The Finance committee will be researching the 10-yr 'tenure' bonus that was discussed at the last board meeting. Finance committee will revisit this in their August Finance committee meeting – and will look at what comparative charter schools do.

The executive comp memo was approved last month.

Scholarship fundraising continues.

II. Ed & Accountability reported out by Don Mabrey.

Susan and Don reviewed the school-wide goals, and how the E&A monthly meetings should reflect that. In August, we will reflect on last year's school wide goals. Sept would be to review the NYS test data. Oct would be looking at baselines. Nov would be to look at Standards Based Grades (SBG) to get a good sense of whether we're on the right track by the end of the year.

There was a lot of conversation around what the School Wide Goal should be --- and we are looking at how SBG can be used by co-teachers to support all students. Our goal for this year is to use co-teaching models in a collaborative, professional environment to meet the needs for our diverse students. Wynette/Susan will do some prep work.

Next step is to have a meeting between Wynette/Susan, Don, Regina and Jackie to finalize the KPIs for the 3 year Strat Plan.

IV. Gov Nom reported out by Regina Fechter.

Annual report will be submitted in August, with the accountability metrics and audit results submitted later-- on Nov 1. We still don't seem to have a liaison from NYSED, though Susan continues to stay in close contact with NYSED.

We are looking into the impact of BUGS to be a 'champion for sustainability education'. There is 1 decades-old study out of California (called "SEER") that shows that interdisciplinary focus on sustainability yielded positive gains in other subjects. The Green Schools National Network is exploring working with Johns Hopkins to do a larger piece of research.

Susan met with an independent researcher, who suggested we ask students about the impact that these components (Project-based learning, field studies) have on them and their learning; proposal for 1 year for \$12K, but the researcher is looking at a 3-yr project. She is not currently affiliated with a university, though is looking at whether she could affiliate this research with University of MD. Goal is to present some element of the research at the Green Schools conference in March. Next step is for Susan to meet with Johns Hopkins.

The committee discussed whether there should be a policy around ChatGPT. How can and should this be used as a tool in education- by both students and staff?

Jackie took the board through the latest draft of the Strategic Plan and the top 3 goals of: 1)Improve academic achievement & close the special population gap, 2)Become a champion for Sustainability education, and 3)improve student diversity and serve students most in need. Susan is planning to share some of this strat plan for the Staff offsite during the August leadership retreat.

Board recruiting continues, and Susan met with Mitch to surface candidates, and another lead from the Director of Inclusion.

Jackie moved to adjourn the meeting, Regina seconded, all in favor.

Public Comment -- there was no public comment.

We will plan to approve both sets of minutes next month when we have quorum.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.