



BROOKLYN URBAN GARDEN CHARTER SCHOOL



Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School Board of Trustees Meeting

August 23, 2022

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School, 500 19th Street, Brooklyn, NY (VIRTUAL)

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

Members Present: Jamal Deek,, Felice Ekelman, Regina Lee Fechter, Hallie Iannoli, Christine Kang, Don Mabrey, Jackie Piccolo, Erin Walker

Others present: Susan Tenner (BUGS Executive Director), Wynette Caesar (Principal), Susan Bakst (Director of Marketing and Outreach), Ana Bast ((potential board member), Tara Lindis-Corbell (PTA President)

I. Welcome and Approval of the Minutes

- A. The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm.
- B. Regina Fechter made a motion to approve the July minutes, Felice Ekelman seconded, and all approved.
- C. The Mission Moment focused on the Class of 2018 scholarship program. BUGS received 16 applications and selected a winner to receive the \$1,500 award and a runner-up to receive \$750. Jamal Deek who managed the program shared impactful quotes and thanked the board members who participated on the selection committee.

II. Education & Accountability Committee

Don Mabrey presented on behalf of the committee.

- A. Don updated the board on the school's implementation of standards-based grading (SBG) and the power of the approach to increase student outcomes and meet the diverse needs of our students. He noted that SBG will be critical to meeting the school goal of increasing proficiency in ELA and math by 25%. He praised Principal Wynette for leading the implementation phases, designing professional development, and strong collaboration with teachers.
- B. Susan Tenner shared that SBG also allows parents/guardians to see where their children are, where they are going and how learning will be measured and what those measurements mean.
- C. Principal Wynette discussed the alignment of sustainability standards within BUGS SBG and the board expressed excitement about having these metrics measured.

III. Finance Committee

Jamal Deek reported on behalf of the committee.

- A. Since BUGS is still closing out the audit, there was no finance report this month. The audit is going smoothly.
- B. BUGS will be closing out the year with more savings than expected.
- C. The committee is amenable to using the savings to invest in areas that will accelerate the implementation of SBG and impact student success. Principal Wynette will consider what areas would have the most impact and report back to the committee.

IV. Governance and Nominating Committee

Regina Fecher reported on behalf of the committee.

- A. Board recruiting is moving forward. Ana Bast submitted all her documents and Regina will submit Ana's package with July's approved meeting minutes through the NYSED portal after tonight's meeting. Jenara Prieto and William Romney are still committed to submitting documents with a possible board vote at September's meeting.
- B. Susan Tenner's review is final and Regina will send it out for final feedback after the meeting.
- C. The committee is thinking about board and committee goal setting. They will discuss how it can be part of the annual retreat along with a strategic planning discussion.
- D. The board discussed dates for the annual retreat and agreed on Saturday, November 5 from 9-3pm. The retreat would replace the meeting scheduled for November 22nd.
- E. Regina updated the board about changes to the Open Meeting Law and how the impact on virtual participation and voting. There will be a vote on a resolution to allow a remote board member under an extraordinary circumstance to participate in a vote at the September meeting.
- F. The board discussed moving the December board meeting to the 13th from the 20th. Regina will confirm the policy regarding monthly meetings. Don Mabrey made a motion to approve the revised board calendar, Erin Walker seconded, and all approved.

V. Executive Director Report

Susan Tenner provided an update on major indicators:

- A. Student enrollment is strong and a report on demographics will come at the end of September/early October. The school is working to secure a lottery preference for FRPL and ELLs.
- B. Staff retention is strong and recruiting for open positions is almost concluded. Enriched co-teaching is in full throttle.
- C. Susan is continuing to work on final approvals from NYSED on policies and handbooks.
- D. BUGS is partnering with the Goldie Hawn Foundation's MindUp program for a launch of Quiet Time 2.0.

Public Comment - there was no public comment

At 8:06pm, Felice Ekelman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Don Mabrey seconded, and all approved.