



## Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School

### Board of Trustees Meeting

Sept 27, 2022

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School, 500 19th Street, Brooklyn, NY (quorum in person, with other members on the phone)

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

**Members Present:** Ana Bast, Felice Ekelman, Regina Fechter, Christine Kang, Jackie Piccolo, and Erin Walker

**Members Remote:** Jamal Deek, Hallie Iannoli, Louis Green

**Others present:** Susan Tenner (BUGS Executive Director) and William Romney (prospective board member), Virginia Almendarez

#### I. Welcome and Approval of the Minutes

- Jackie Piccolo called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.
- Felice Ekelman motioned to approve the August minutes and Erin Walker seconded, all members approved.
- Mission moment: the board participated in 3 mins of mindful meditation, as the students do in the morning and after lunch. Susan Tenner explained the new mindfulness training that BUGS is doing with resources from the Goldie Hawn foundation.
  - The board walked around the 7<sup>th</sup> grade writing classroom to notice what is present and on the walls. Christine commented on how far a writing classroom has come since the founding of the school, demonstrating such growth and organization – focus on the writing community and how we give each other feedback; classroom demonstrates inclusivity and diversity.

#### II. Ed & Accountability

- Susan Tenner shared that the school leadership is unpacking performance data and will share next month.

- Parents are asking questions around Standards Based Grading (e.g., how it translates to regular grading and whether it will impact high school admission). Curriculum night is tomorrow night, and we expect more questions.
- Team discussed other schools that have implemented SBG and to observe and cull experiences from guidance counselors at SBG schools to understand how it is positioned and received by high schools.

### **III. Finance Committee: Jamal Deek provided an update.**

- BUGS audit and Friends of BUGS audits are in full swing; all materials have been submitted, and we expect to hear a response 6-8 weeks from end of August (so in time for October meeting).
- \$2.8M CD came due last week (9/22); we got a month extension, and are going through process of evaluating the next financial instrument for funds (another CD or Tbills); getting numbers from ASNY.
- There was a discussion around standards based grading and funds allocated to this in particular.
- Jamal Deek reviewed the financial statements. Cash remains strong, but there is a change in accounting standards on how we will reflect rent payments in our financial statements.
- Susan Tenner shared that student enrollment is currently high at 320, and committee is comfortable with our ability to serve this level of enrollment.
- The team discussed how current co-teaching model is set up to support additional students and decided to discuss increasing BUGS impact and strategic use of funds during Annual Board offsite.

### **IV. Gov Nom reported out by Regina Fechter.**

- Regina shared that Ana is now an official board member; William (present) is still very interested.
- Regina gave an update on Open Meeting Law (OML) and the temporary authorization that ran out on Sept 12, 2022.
- Jackie shared the perspective that we could ensure that the meetings in person are more focused on strategic discussion. Board aligned that we should allow more flexibility and that we should hold the public hearing and pass the resolution next month.
- Team discussed potential plans for board retreat and topics to be covered at a high level.

### **V. Fundraising Report by Virginia Almendarez**

- Virginia Almendarez came to speak to the board about the plans for fundraising within the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary campaign, and how the board can support efforts to celebrate and raise funds this year.

Christine moved to adjourn the meeting, Erin seconded, all in favor.

Public Comment – there was no public comment.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28.