



Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School

Board of Trustees Meeting

November 28, 2023

6:30pm - 8:00pm

Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School, 500 19th Street, Brooklyn, NY

<https://meet.google.com/iww-pkee-pye>

+1 470-250-1672 PIN: 639951412#

Members present by video: Ana Bast, Jamal Deek, Felice Ekelman, Regina Lee Fechter, Christine Kang, Don Mabrey, Jackie Piccolo, Erin Walker

Others: Susan Tenner, BUGS Executive Director; Wynette Caesar, BUGS Principal; John Johnston, BUGS PTA Vice President; Susan Bakst, BUGS Director of Outreach; Betty Freibusch, Garden Train; Linda Timko Liang, Coney Island Prep

I. Welcome and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- A. The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm
- B. Don Mabrey made a motion to approve the October board meeting minutes, Regina Lee Fechter seconded, and all approved.

II. Mission Moment

- A. The Mission Moment connected the importance of board fundraising to the school's success in mission implementation.
- B. Susan Tenner and Susan Bakst provided an update of the Giving Tuesday goal and fundraising to date with \$13,375 of \$15,000 achieved by the beginning of the meeting.
- C. There was a review of the board's peer-to-peer fundraising page efforts with a thank you to the members who had started fundraising and discussion of next steps for board members who were interested in developing pages.

III. Board Business

- A. The board discussed the below resolution for a material change to adjust BUGS enrollment maximum from 300 to 330, and the potential benefits and impact for the school:

"The Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School ("BUGS") does hereby adopt the following resolutions at a duly held and noticed meeting on the date set forth above:

WHEREAS, the BUGS Board notes that BUGS has been experiencing increasing community demand reflected in its enrollment numbers, admissions acceptance rates, high retention rates, and high waitlists numbers which are each increasing since 2021; and

WHEREAS, the BUGS Board notes that BUGS has a commitment to serving special populations, and is currently serving its largest population of Students with Disabilities which is 38% of its 6th grade class; and

WHEREAS, the BUGS Board notes that BUGS has a commitment to serving more students in need and special populations through its existing admissions preference for Economically Disadvantaged and English Language Learners (ELL students) and students; and

WHEREAS, the school is chartered to serve 300 students but is currently serving 324 students (due to community demand and low student attrition) in its current model by providing individualized student instruction through co-teaching in all core classes with a current average class size of 27 students and a teacher:student ratio of about 1:14; and

WHEREAS, the BUGS Board proposes a Material Charter Revision Change to adjust our chartered enrollment from 300 to 330 students; and

WHEREAS, this Material Charter Revision Request to adjust our chartered student enrollment maximum from 300 to 330 would not change our educational model but would allow us to receive funding for students we are currently serving to meet community demand; and

WHEREAS, in order to effectuate these changes, the BUGS Board proposes to submit the Material Charter Revision Request to the school's charter entity, the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York (the "Board of Regents"), in substantially the forms presented to the BUGS Board and attached hereto as Exhibit A (the "Request"), to be effective upon approval by the Board of Regents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Requests, having been reviewed by the BUGS Board of Trustees are hereby adopted and approved; and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BUGS Board of Trustees does hereby authorize and direct the Executive Director of BUGS, in the name and on behalf of BUGS, to do all such things and take all such acts and to expend such fees for and on behalf of BUGS as may be necessary or advisable in order to give effect to and, generally, carry out the intent of these Resolutions including, without limitation, to execute and deliver the Requests to NYSED CSO and the Board of Regents, in substantially the forms presented to the Board of BUGS, along with any other documents in connection with the Requests as may be required by NYSED CSO, with such changes or amendments thereto as the Executive Director deems necessary or appropriate, with such approval to be conclusively evidenced by the execution and delivery thereof by the Executive Director; and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED, that all actions of any kind heretofore or hereafter taken by any trustee or officer of BUGS, the Executive Director of BUGS and/or other member of BUGS school leadership, or any appointed or authorized person or persons authorized to act on behalf of BUGS in connection with the matters contemplated by the foregoing resolutions be, and each of them hereby is, confirmed, ratified, approved and authorized in all respects."

- B. Felice Ekelman made a motion to approve the resolution above, Jackie Piccolo seconded and the resolution was approved.
- C. Committee reports were yielded to allow for additional Strategic Plan Discussion.
- D. The board will determine at a later date the location of the December board meeting.

IV. Strategic Plan - Review

Jackie Piccolo led a review and discussion of the Strategic Plan with a focus on the first goal to improve academic achievement across all student populations and to provide a framework for BUGS through the 2025 renewal. She encouraged the board to consider the plan as a foundation for setting short term goals, key steps, and a filter to use for decision making and oversight of BUGS progress.

There was no Public Comment.

Felice Ekelman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Don Mabrey seconded, and all approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.