



Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School

Board of Trustees Meeting

September 26, 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: Ana Bast, Chrstine Kang, Felice Ekelman, Erin Walker

Members by video: Jamal Deek, Regina Lee Fechter

Others: Betty Feibusch, Garden Train; Susan Tenner, BUGS Executive Director; Kirstin Kelly, BUGS PTA Co-President, John Johnstn, BUGS PTA Vice President, Susan Bakst, BUGS Director of Outreach

I. Welcome and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 7pm
- B. Board members and guests introduced themselves.
- C. Ana Bast made a motion to approve the August board meeting minutes, Erin Walker seconded, and all approved.
- D. Two motions were brought for approval before the board
 - 1) **Changing Banks for our Investments:** *"I, Susan Tenner, would like to make a motion to close our Money Market and ICS accounts with Israel Discount Bank (IDB), open up similar interest-bearing accounts with Flagstar and transfer the funds from IDB to Flagstar immediately."*

Felice Ekelman made a motion to approve; Christine Kang seconded, and all approved.

2) **RESOLVED:**

*That **Susan Tenner**, as the **Executive Director of Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School (BUGS)**, is hereby authorized and directed to sign a contract with the Catskill Watershed Corporation for an education grant in the amount of **\$9,850** for a project titled **Trout in the Classroom** and to ensure that activities and programs funded by said grant are carried out in accordance with grant requirements.*

Felice Ekelman made a motion to approve; Erin Walker seconded, and all approved.

- 3) Louis Green Resolution - Regina Lee Fechter read the Board of Trustees Resolution of Appreciation to Louis Green. See below for the full text of the Resolution.

Felice Ekelman made a motion to approve; Ana Bast seconded and all approved.

II. Mission Moment

- A. Susan Tenner passed the mission moment to the onsite meeting attendees to discuss what they had experienced visiting BUGS 6th grade classrooms. There was appreciation for the creative energy captured by the posters and information for students as well as the directions for accountability talk activities.

III. Education & Accountability Committee - The committee did not meet in September and will present at the October meeting.

IV. Finance Committee - The committee did not present because it is too early in the school year to report on financials. The audited financials will be discussed at the October meeting.

V. Governance and Nominating Committee

Regina Lee Fechter presented on behalf of the committee.

- A. With board recruitment being the committee's #1 priority, members shared recent outreach initiatives including presenting at the Green Leadership Trust and the NYC Green Schools Conference. The committee's goal is to have 12 board members; there are currently 9 members. The board was asked to focus on recruiting individuals with sustainability and/or education expertise.
- B. Regina spoke about the need to finalize the strategic plan with the suggestion to devote time at the next board meeting for an in-depth discussion that could lead to decisions about action items and timeline. There was an exchange of ideas about also developing a theory of action and for the board to be able to articulate it. Felice suggested that this document could be something the board shares with parents/guardians and teachers.
- C. Ana Bast suggested that board members attend Curriculum Night because it provides a great glimpse into the school. There was discussion about coordinating the board meeting with curriculum night next year. Another suggestion was for the November or January board meeting to be at BUGS in the morning to provide opportunities to visit classrooms.

There was no Public Comment.

Christine Kang made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Erin Walker seconded, and all approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm.

The board moved into Executive Session.

Board of Trustees Resolution of Appreciation to Louis Green

WHEREAS, Louis Green has served with distinction on the of Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School (“BUGS”) for the last 4 years and is retiring from service as of this date, September 26, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Green served on the Finance Committee over the tenure of his service and displayed leadership and dedication. Executive Director Susan Tenner said: "Louis brought a steady board presence on both the BUGS Board and more recently on Friends of BUGS. He lent his financial oversight and investment advice with a drive to make his community a better place and impact kids' lives - and he did so with his characteristic humility."

NOW therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School take official recognition of Louis Green’s devoted service and extend to him this statement of appreciation for his contributions to Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School and the community of Brooklyn, New York;

AND be it further resolved that this statement of appreciation be appropriately inscribed and conveyed to Louis Green, with a copy to be included in the official minutes of the September 2023 meeting of the Board of Trustees.