

# Gathering Waters Board Agenda

May 22, 8:30 a.m.

The mission of Gathering Waters Chartered Public School is to offer students in the Monadnock region an education that enables them to discover their interests and capabilities; explore the surrounding world; and cultivate a lifelong love of learning, a sense of community responsibility and understanding of environmental sustainability. We carry out this mission by providing a rich and engaging curriculum that integrates the arts, meaningful practical work, outdoor education and service to the larger community.

Our vision is an inclusive school culture of compassion and respect where deep interest in others goes hand in hand with individual growth. The educational environment enables students to develop self-confidence, self-knowledge, intellectual flexibility, and the capacity for creative problem solving that supports ethical action in their local and global communities.

## **Core Principles of Public Waldorf Education**

### **1. Image of the Human Being:**

Public Waldorf education is founded on a coherent image of the developing human Being.

Each human being is a unique individual who brings specific gifts, creative potential, and intentions to this life. Public Waldorf education addresses multiple aspects of the developing child including the physical, emotional, intellectual, social, cultural, moral, and spiritual. Through this, each child is helped to integrate into a maturing whole, able to determine a unique path through life.

Rudolf Steiner's educational insights are seen as a primary, but not exclusive, source of guidance for an understanding of the image of the human being.

### **2. Child Development: (Janet 5 min)**

**An understanding of child development guides all aspects of the educational program, to the greatest extent possible within established legal mandates.**

Human development proceeds in approximate 7-year phases. Each phase has characteristic physical, emotional, and cognitive dimensions and a primary learning orientation.

The Public Waldorf educational program, including the curriculum, teaching methodologies, and assessment methods, work with this understanding of human development to address the needs of the individual and the class in order to support comprehensive learning and healthy, balanced development. Our developmental perspective informs how state and federal mandates, including curriculum sequence, standardized testing, and college and career readiness, are met.

### **3. Social Change Through Education:**

Public Waldorf education exists to serve both the individual and society.

### **4. Human Relationships:**

Public Waldorf Schools foster a culture of healthy relationships.

### **5. Access and Diversity:**

Public Waldorf Schools work to increase diversity and access to all sectors of society.

## **6. Collaborative Leadership:**

School leadership is conducted through shared responsibilities within established legal structures.

## **7. Schools as Learning Communities:**

Public Waldorf schools cultivate a love of lifelong learning and self-knowledge.

**In Attendance:** Gabrielle, Dan, Anny, Janet, Jonny, Holly, Eliza, Emily, Elizabeth, Melanie

**No Voting:** Luke

**Other Attendees:** Fiona, Marci, Theresa, Justin, Sara,

### **I. Janet-Principle #2**

**II. Approve Minutes from 3/27/2021 meeting** Motion to approve: Jonny /  
Second: Eliza / Vote: Unanimous

**III. Community EC Update** (Eliza Murphy) U- Spring Hill E.C. in the works to  
open Fall 2021

### **IV. Updates**

- A. Enrollment** (Fiona) A few more applications are coming in here and there. 6th and 9th grades still have openings, waiting lists on all other grades. Enrollment packages due Fri, May 28th. Will know then who is fully committed.
- B. Admin & Facilities** (Fiona) - Admin working on finalizing faculty , etc. to open Sept 8th. Good feedback on parent zooms. Final enrollment packages sent out. School handbook went out (some revisions needed). Admin team meeting Fridays. Marcy working on community art project. Looking for newsletter content from board committees, as well as community ads.

31 Washington - July 1st - will have access for teachers to visit classrooms to start planning. August 1st - Lease starts - will be able to start bringing in equipment and supplies

98 S. Lincoln - Lease is almost finalized. Taking inventory of supplies. Construction to start July 1st (Dillon Eastman) - Expanding classrooms, reconfiguring basement. ADA bathroom on main floor. To be completed by end of July. Outdoor space will be inspected by city inspector (TBD)

- C. Marketing** (Elizabeth) - Working with Chrissy Lee on branding package. Three logo versions to be presented (one based on original “swirls” and two others with changes). Looking for new ad placements for summer. Getting word out to community & potential donors. Rough draft of press release on facilities in the works. Logo

work needed by July to add visible signage on buildings (especially Washington st). School clothing should be ready by August.

- D. **Business Asks** (Elizabeth) Collaborating w/ Fundraising Comm. to approach businesses (community is growing, school will attract new residents). One page letter to send to businesses & two sided handout, colorful, including bullet points in the works (fundraising comm to review on Wed. to finalize).
- E. **Development/Fundraising** (Holly) - Raised \$32.9k so far (from 42 individuals). All donors by beginning of school will be part of Founder's circle, for equitable fundraising model. Reviewing levels of support - possibly specifically for sports teams?. Larger donors to be approached soon.

**V. Approve Lease for South Lincoln** - Motion to approve: Gabrielle / Second: Anny / Vote: Unanimous

**VI. FOGW Bank Account** - Garielle will be added as signer in order to close account and transfer to main account - Motion to approve: Jonny / Second: Melanie / Vote: Unanimous

**VII. Finance** (Justin-45 minutes) - Budget presented is a combination of Pre-op & 1st. Year. Yellow highlights are still unknown amounts. Moving forward, Finance Comm. will review individual sub-categories monthly, and broad category updates will be presented at board meetings.

- A. **Budget Approval** Motion to approve: Gabrielle / Second: Jonny / Vote: Unanimous
- B. **Financing**
- C. **Approval of \$5175 for letter for ADA compliance for South Lincoln** - Included in approved budget under Facilities Buildout (no separate vote needed)

**Fundraising Follow-up** Gabrielle reiterated ask to Board Members to give this year what they might have paid in tuition elsewhere. Need to also ask 3-4 people per board member. Families donating will instill confidence and encourage business donors to contribute. Elizabeth shared pointers gleaned from her talk with Susan Webber. Fiona will update enrolled student list and add to drive folder, so we will know which parents will have children enrolled to aid in donation asks.

**VII. Hiring** (Luke) - Luke gave hiring committee update. Current open faculty positions - Full Time Humanities teacher (see below), Part Time Spanish teacher,

**Part Time Guidance Counselor, Kindergarten (aftercare) assistant, Part Time Dev. Coordinator.**

**5th Grade opening will be filled. 8th Grade position will possibly be co-taught with class teacher & guest block teachers (similar to 9th grade model).**

**Support is being given to teachers moving from long distance to make re-location and housing easier.**

**Approval of HS Humanities Teacher - Motion to approve: Jonny / Second: Gabrielle / Vote: Unanimous**

**Closing Verse- Reading of Mission - Gabrielle looking for new updated closing verse.**

**Next Meeting: Saturday June 19th 8:30 a.m.**

#### **Committees:**

**Enrollment:** Sara Norris, Fiona Laurie, Gabrielle Schuerman

**Marketing:** Elizabeth Hamshaw (Website and Facebook), Fiona Laurie (Constant Contact), Dan Kurz

**Outreach:** Melanie Everard, Marcy Schepker

**Development and Fundraising:** Holly Gibson, Sara Ciborski, Marcy Shepker, Gabrielle Schuerman, Elizabeth Hamshaw

**Finance:** Jonny Norris, Gabrielle Schuerman, Kathy Gross

**Facilities:** Fiona Laurie, Gabrielle Schuerman, Janet Gordon, Theresa Majoy, Dan Kurz, Marcy Schepker

**HR:** Anny Hamshaw, Justin Somma

**Hiring:** Emily Sherwood, Janet Gordon, Gabrielle Schuerman

**Diversity, Equity and Inclusion:** Eliza Murphy, Emily Sherwood, Gabrielle...

**Kindergarten/EC Working Group:** Eliza Murphy, Marcy Schepker, Sara Norris