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April 29, 2021

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April Q & A Transcript

### Parent Evening a Big Success!

Thanks to all the wonderful faces who attended our very first Parent Evening as the Gathering Waters Community! Even across a computer screen the energy and excitement was palpable! The Admin Team would like to extend a big thank you to all who attended and the great questions that were asked. We hope to see many more faces at our May Zoom events and we are very excited to be able to introduce the faculty and full staff at that time.

For those who missed the April meeting, there is a condensed transcript of the questions and answers on our website and at the link to the left.

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### SAVE THE DATES

#### Upcoming School Events

Tues. May 4th:

- 6:30pm- 8:30pm - All School Zoom: Q & A with Luke and Faculty

Wed. May 5th:

- 6:30pm - 7:30pm - K thru 5th Grade
- 7:30pm - 8:30pm - 6th thru 9th Grade

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It Takes a Village...to make a Charter School!

What does it take to start a charter school you ask?

Well, let us tell you!

Lots and lots of hard work, many volunteer hours, and a community that supports us in so many ways.

We have been able to do so much already because of our dedicated Board of Trustees and large circle of supporters and volunteers. So many individuals have given their time, energy, and expertise to our cause that we have been able to accomplish a staggering list of tasks with a very small budget. The 200+ page application and appendices to the NH State Board, the months and months of property tours and real estate research, the newsletters, website creation, social media and word of mouth outreach, the country-wide hunt for faculty and staff, the Board recruiting, business connections and City of Keene communications; all of these things were done through dedication and basically for free.



But good wishes and lended hands can only get us so far. The time has come that we need to raise a substantial amount for startup costs that can only be covered by money in the bank.

But this is a free school you say!

Yes, it is absolutely a free school, open to all NH residents, and we are dedicated to it being available to as many students as we can enroll given the size of our facilities, the scope of our faculty, and the approval of the State Board of Education. But in order to bring this education to our enrolled students, furnish our classrooms, pay our faculty starting in July, lease our facilities, and hopefully expand our program over time, we need to bridge the gap between now and when State funds are sent to us in mid-September.



Yup, you heard that right, we won't be getting any of our State funding until at least two to three weeks *after* school starts. And that federal start-up money that we are so excited about? The State has accepted the funds from the Federal government, but let's face it, they don't work at nearly the speed that we do, and it may be weeks if not months before we find out how we can even use those funds, much less receive

the actual funds.

**In order to meet our pre-operational goal we need to raise \$300,000.** It's a big number, but we are not daunted and we know that with everyone's participation and creative thinking, we can get there!

So what can you do, you ask?

Please consider joining our Founders' Circle by making a donation before July 1st. Reach out to friends and family who might be willing to give. Talk us up in your

community and help spread the word. A gift in any amount supports Gathering Waters in our pre-operational phase, raising the funds needed to prepare the school for the children joining us this fall. Pre-operational costs include administrative work, building renovations, and faculty salaries. In coming together as a community, we can realize the vision of Gathering Waters as a tuition-free elementary- middle- and high school, accessible to all, guided by the principles of public Waldorf education.

If you have ideas for fundraising, would like to help pass out flyers or pamphlets, or you would like further information about helping to raise funds, please email [info@gatheringwaterscharter.org](mailto:info@gatheringwaterscharter.org)

[Our budget, in a nutshell](#)

[Donate Here](#)

### Busy, busy, busy.....

So much work is being done to prepare for the coming year! Even as everyone wraps up the school year in other schools, towns, and even across the country, faculty, staff, and volunteers are working to outfit our new classrooms, plan for indoor and outdoor spaces, and begin the process of connecting with students and the GW community as a whole. The Upper School is swarming with electricians and painters, an ADA bathroom is going in, lending hands are moving donated furniture, and the power team of Fiona & Kevin are dissassembling and relocating 46 lockers for students' use, one bolt at a time!





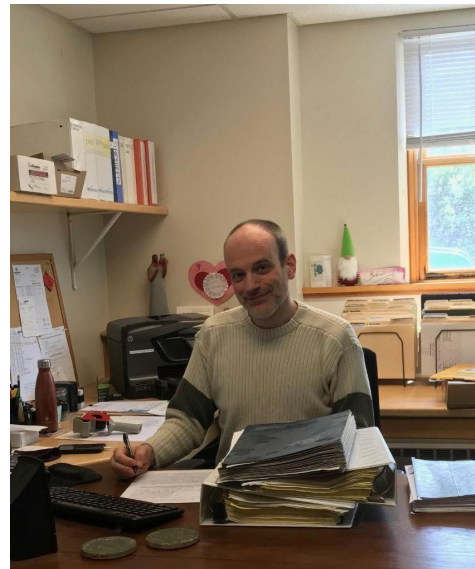
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## Spotlight On: Behind the Scenes

### Minding the money and managing the details

Justin in his office, crunching numbers and scouring stacks of State reporting requirements. He is our finance wizard, our human resources guru and the mastermind for meeting our budget. We're not sure when he sleeps, but we are so grateful to have Justin on the team!

In September, Justin can be found manning the front desk at the Upper School, dusting off his School Nurse skills, and upping his game to interact with the 6th to 9th graders.



### Keeping it all organized and on track

When she's not answering your emails, Fiona spends her time prepping the new Student Information System, organizing the multiplying Shared Drives that connect everyone's daily work, and communicating with all of the contractors, city officials, and volunteers. When she's not in her office, Fiona can be found rolling up her

sleeves to sand floors, paint walls and move furniture.

In September, Fiona will be ruling the Main Office at the Lower School, keeping everyone connected, and maintaining order amongst any chaos.

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### Admissions & Enrollment Extraordinaire

She may be behind the scenes, but she's central to all the work getting done! Sara's edits, writing skills and mind for details can be found in almost every GW document and throughout the complex lottery system and Admissions process. With her background in Early Childhood and prior experience in a Waldorf Charter, Sara's tireless contributions of time and wisdom have been invaluable to our budding school.



For the moment she prefers to be an invaluable volunteer, but we think there are many possible roles for Sara in the future of Gathering Waters!

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## Looking for Housing

We have several newly hired faculty who will be relocating from other parts of the country and we are hoping to help make their transition as smooth as possible. If you know of any long-term rentals in the area please contact:

[marcyschepker1@gmail.com](mailto:marcyschepker1@gmail.com)

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## Job Postings

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### Part Time Development Coordinator

We seek founding faculty and staff who will make the school's mission accessible to all students in the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire. The Development Coordinator will lead Gathering Waters in the development of fundraising goals and work to meet these goals.

### 8th Grade Founding Faculty Member

We seek candidates with proven teaching experience and a pioneering spirit who are excited to collaboratively build our school. Ideal candidates possess a strong interest in Waldorf education, a multi-disciplinary background, and are committed to serving a diverse population of students. Founding faculty will be required to teach across a breadth of disciplines, as well as within an interdisciplinary team; we encourage candidates with expertise in multiple areas of the physical and life sciences, as well as mathematics.

Employment Opportunities





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