



BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS – NOVEMBER 2020

Audit Committee Report: Eva Maria Janerus - Chair

There was a joint Finance and Audit Committee meeting with Management, Auditors and Accountants on **October 26th at 5:00pm** to review the draft financials. As previously noted, this was actually a little ahead of schedule from last year. Some modifications were suggested by the Committee (additional disclosures, typos, etc) and the auditors turned around an updated copy which Debra Hess and Eva Maria Janerus have reviewed in addition to Management. A final clean copy is expected to be delivered to both the Finance and Audit Committees shortly for a final vote of approval and then to the Board in advance of November's Board Meeting.

Eva Maria and Debra also had a call with the accountants on November 4th as a follow-on to the Executive Session of the Committees' meeting on October 26th. We discussed controls, specifically the recent implementation of bill.com which provides greater controls around check issuing and accounting.

Board Designated Reserve Fund (BDRF) Committee Report: Mario Forlini - Chair

Nothing to report

Community Planning Council (CPC) Committee Report: Joui Hessel - Chair

Thursday 10/29, 8:30am, Children and Youth: Greenwich Public Schools

Speakers: Dr. Toni Jones (Superintendent, Greenwich Public Schools) and Gordon Beinstein (Principal of Western Middle School)

Highlights from the Presentation:

Governor Lamont and the school principals are taking a number of recommended cautionary measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 such as mandatory masks, 50% of student capacity in public areas, plexiglass dividers, opening gymnasium for lunch, and giving children a mask break outside. The school district has not adopted the use of the Governor's contact tracing phone app.

The superintendent and WMS principal agreed that our greatest strengths as a school community have been our resiliency and our teachers embracing educational technology with sometimes little to no experience with three months left in the school year. The students and parents have been fantastic coming together to help distribute food and taking care of families who have been devastated by the pandemic.

Juniors and seniors will be visiting college and university campuses virtually. Greenwich was also supposed to host two SAT tests. The first was cancelled due to the pandemic and they are evaluating how to host another one in Greenwich. The schools recognize the tests' importance and are evaluating to find solutions.



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There is concern over screen fatigue, so teachers are trying to balance the right amount of computer work versus nonscreen activities. They will continue to use assessment tools to identify gaps in learning and outcomes. Teachers and principals are learning through webinars, Twitter, connecting with colleagues, and learning new pedagogies of teaching with technology. They mentioned the growing achievement/opportunity gap due to the pandemic and it is something they are closely monitoring.

Take-aways from the latest Key to Education Report from the Governor's office were that the direct interviews with the parents were most helpful, and that more interventions are needed. Some Greenwich schools are working on being more consistent and transparent in the way they communicate with parents (e.g., newsletters every month), Individualized Education Plans (IEP), and training for teachers.

Next Community Planning Council Meeting:

Thursday, 11/12, 8:30 am, Virtually via Zoom, Topic: Human Services in Greenwich

Direct Impact (DI) Programs Committee Report: Nancy Weissler - Chair

Report Period: October 2020

The DI Programs Committee continues to meet regularly to discuss program topics for the Early Childhood Achievement Gap Solutions (ECAGS) program and expanding/enhancing Youth Impact (YIP) programs. The Committee did not meet in October. The next meeting is scheduled for November 12th.

The COVID-19 public health crisis continues to have an impact on all programs.

I. Early Childhood Achievement Gap Solutions Update:

Staffing: The program is fully staffed.

Data and Measurements: G UW staff continues to review program data regularly to ensure the program is operating effectively. Staff is in the process of scheduling a meeting with Greenwich Public Schools (GPS) leadership to discuss achievement gap data. It is not uncommon for community-based programs to wait on data from GPS. Leadership at other nonprofits have stated that they have experienced delays when trying to work with GPS leadership to collect and analyze data.

Fiscal: G UW staff continues to review all invoices and supporting documentation to ensure accurate payment. G UW staff received the August invoice in October.



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Greenwich Parents as Teachers (GPAT)

Program Updates: Overall, GPAT is operating smoothly and FC program staff completed all program reports on time. G UW staff and GPAT staff continued their regularly scheduled program meetings, all of which are virtual. The program has 37 families; the maximum capacity is 40 families. All families will receive a free Thanksgiving meal which were donated by Greenwich Country Club.

G UW staff is in the process of filming an impact video with GPAT clients and the Parent Educators, one use for which will be fundraising.

Data and Measurements: G UW continues to review and analyze data for accuracy and make program improvements. All program objectives were met in the October quarterly report.

Pre-School Instructional Coach (PSIC)

Program Updates: Virtual instructional coaching continues since the pre-school closures in March 2020, there continues to be a no visitor policy at the pre-schools. The PSIC and Early Childhood Expert (ECE) continue to speak weekly to discuss program barriers and make improvements. The PSIC has been working with infant/toddler and pre-school teachers at the Family Centers sites since the start of the academic year. She conducted 50 coaching session with 36 teachers in October. Key areas of focus included: lesson planning, aligning Teaching Strategies Gold (TSG) objectives and early learning standards with the lessons and discussing personalized learning strategies.

The PSIC has started working alongside our MSW intern from Fairfield University. She has already signed a confidentiality form with FC and is observing teaching sessions with the students.

Data and Measurements: G UW staff continues to review and analyze data for accuracy and make program improvements.

II. Youth Impact Programs Update:

Reading Champions: G UW staff continues to work with the following program sites: Boys and Girls Club, YWCA and Department of Human Services (DHS) After-School (New Lebanon School) to implement the program. Reading Champions will occur at all of these sites this fall with a focus on virtual delivery of the materials. After-school programs have started at the Boys and Girls Club and YWCA but the DHS program was delayed because the program had to shut down for 10 days because a staff person tested positive for COVID-19.

G UW staff is scheduled to meet with GPS leadership in early November to discuss the start of the program in the elementary schools.

Greenwich Junior United Way (GJrUW): GJrUW continues to host weekly, virtual meetings. Members submitted all of the paperwork to organize as an after-school club at Greenwich High



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School. Members are conducting a virtual fundraiser and organizing a Care-a-Van for seniors for November.

Finance Committee Report: Debra Hess – Chair

Nothing to report

Fund Development & Marketing Committee Report: Diane Viton – Chair

Sole Sisters Luncheon – Update from Nicole Kwasniewski

We had our kickoff meeting on November 2nd, with a great mix of new and past committee members! We are currently filling in our subcommittees with volunteers, and we are well into creating our speaker 'ask' list. As of this report, we have one ask out and are awaiting a response.

Jeremy, Kristen Forlini and Nicole Kwasniewski continue to speak very regularly, and we will begin planning and/or goal setting with each of our subcommittees this month.

Marketing – Update from Hagar Chemali

The article on David and the GUW's efforts in Greenwich Magazine were fantastic, especially that he was on the cover and under his face was a nice figure about our fundraising efforts. Perfect message, really, and truly inspiring amount raised for COVID relief efforts.

We also had a great Sole Sisters meeting last week and are getting ready to host an event in April 2021. How the event will look remains to be seen, but we're still planning for that day. There are three committee members who each have some kind of PR/production background including me and Angelique from Starr Films.

Direct Impact Programs – Update from Anne Sherrerd

The DI Fundraising committee met by conference call on October 22nd, our first meeting since the beginning of the pandemic. We received an update on funds on hand for each program, the status of outstanding pledges, and DI fundraising goals for FY 2020-21. We also heard about communication with current DI donors that has taken place since March.

Jeremy and David then outlined the plan for providing in-depth progress reports for current donors and asking for their renewed support. Once those (online) meetings have taken place, we will begin to reach out to prospective new donors to introduce them to the DI programs and solicit gifts. We also discussed different ideas for a program of more broad-based outreach at lower giving levels.

Finally, we talked about ways in which the members of the committee can support David and Jeremy in these efforts, such as reviewing presentation materials and participating in meetings with prospective donors.



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Governance Committee Report: Bill Finger - Chair

Nothing to report

Grants Committee Report: Erin McCall - Chair

Rob Moore sent out an email to community agencies relaying the 2020 CIP Application is available to complete:

Greetings,

I hope everyone is doing well. Below is the application and password to access and complete the 2020 CIP application.

Link to the application:

<https://greenwichunitedway.org/greenwich-united-way-fall-2020-community-investment-application/>

Password:

Fall2020

The deadline to submit an application is 11/9/20 at 5pm.

Please feel free to share the application with any organizations that may be interested and meet the eligibility criteria.

Please contact me if you have any questions or experience any challenges with the application.

Best,

Rob Moore

Human Resources Committee Report: Eva Maria Janerus - Chair

Nothing to report

Nominating/Officers Nominating Committee Report: Grace Djuranovic - Chair

Nominating Committee members are engaged in ongoing conversations with several prospective board candidates and continue to discuss additional candidates for further consideration.

Strategic Initiatives Committee Report: Grace Djuranovic - Chair

Nothing to report