

02.11.22

Update on Green Acres Strategic Planning Initiative

In December, Green Acres launched its strategic planning process to establish goals and priorities for the next 3–5 years. The school engaged a local consulting firm, Compass Pro Bono, to partner with us and we established a 13-member Steering Committee—representing parents, teachers, alumni, board members, and staff—to lead the work.

The initiative is highly collaborative and involves many of you from the Green Acres community. Since its launch in early December, we’ve made significant progress in not only confirming the school’s many strengths and successes, but in also identifying areas for improvement. Our efforts have been collaborative and major activities have included:

- More than 14 1X1 interviews with Board members, staff, parents, alumni, and faculty
- A peer school benchmarking analysis, with invitations to 16 peer schools to participate in interviews and a survey
- Focus group sessions with 30 members of the Green Acres faculty
- Monthly sessions with the Steering Committee and Compass to discuss early findings regarding the school’s current strengths, challenges, trends in the market, financial results, and priorities.

Next Steps

Thanks to so many of you for sharing your valuable insights, experience, and feedback to-date. **Stay tuned for an opportunity to participate in a stakeholder survey scheduled to be emailed to you during the week of February 13.** Also during February, Compass will continue with 1X1 interviews and will facilitate a focus group session with members of the staff Leadership Team.

The Process and Timeline

The project has three major phases that started with an analysis of the current environment, moves to an evaluation of future options, and culminates with the development of a strategic plan and path forward. The timeline for the project is provided below.

Timeline for Strategic Planning Activities	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Phase I: Assess current environment and develop baseline facts	■									
Phase II: Identify and evaluate future scenarios				■						
Phase III: Develop strategic plan & evaluation framework							■			■

Reach Out to Compass and Member of the Steering Committee

The Steering Committee members are your ambassadors for the project and are listed below. If you have any questions about the process, key dates, or the approach, feel free to reach out to members of the Committee (below) or to the Compass Co-Leads, Joan Barclay (jbarclay@compassdc.org) and Wendy Gualtieri (wgualtieri@compassdc.org). For security and confidentiality reasons, we cannot provide personal contact information for all SC members but will forward questions to members on request.

You will receive regular updates on the status of findings and the process, along with ongoing opportunities for feedback. And thank you again for all that you do to support the school and this initiative.

Green Acres Steering Committee		
Rebecca Geary	rebeccag@greenacres.org	Head of School
Julia Martin	strategicplan@greenacres.org	Committee Co-chair, Parent (1st and Pre-K), Alum '97
Heather Walter	strategicplan@greenacres.org	Co-chair, Parent (2nd), Board Member
Liz Burton	strategicplan@greenacres.org	GASPA Co-chair, Parent (5th, 3rd, K)
Ewunike Brady	strategicplan@greenacres.org	Parent (Pre-K)
Susan Persky	strategicplan@greenacres.org	Parent (2nd and 4th)
Eric Butters	ericb@greenacres.org	Art Teacher, Parent
Tracey Marks	traceym@greenacres.org	Head of Lower School, 4 Children were Alum
Dana Dorrier	strategicplan@greenacres.org	Parent (Pre-K and 1st), Alum '95
Annie Groat	annieg@greenacres.org	Director of Institutional Advancement, Parent (8th)
John Sanchez	strategicplan@greenacres.org	Parent (K)
Luis Benveniste	strategicplan@greenacres.org	Board Member, Parent (6th)
Bart Aronson	strategicplan@greenacres.org	Chair of the Board, Parent (6th)