

*Great Oaks Bridgeport Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 14th, 2018
5:30pm-7:00pm*

Board Members Present: Susan Briggs, Edwin Farrow, Pastor Dexter Upshaw, Leticia Sepulveda, Albertha Brown, Corey Sneed

Board Members Absent: Dr. Christiana Otuwa, Wade Eyerly, Pamela Fraser-Abder

Foundation Members Present: Michael Duffy, Lauren Perkins

GO-BPT Staff: John Scalice, Latoya Hubbard, Nadina Juarez, Jasmine Cruz

Called to order at 5:30 pm by Susan Briggs

New Board Member

Motion to Approve Michele Garcia (parent added to the board) - passed unanimously

Facilities Report

- Michael Duffy gave a brief report about the parent and staff info session in which parents were given updates on the Cherry Street move. Michael noted the importance of consistent communication as requested by parents.
- Gary Flocco gave a brief report on our Cherry Street location. Mr. Flocco noted they have been working with a group called Access that has been making referrals for tenants and almost all apartments have been rented to families who fall within the median income range.
- The first group of residents will be moving in on Tuesday, and units are expected to be fully rented by February and the expected number of people residing in the rental units is about 4500.
- Mr. Flocco noted several details of the project including that all items in apartments and building are green and smart materials, School is currently 22% complete, exterior has been stripped, all new window sills will be installed this week, tutor housing is completely gutted and framed, electric and plumbing is complete, roofing is 75% complete.
- Mr. Flocco gave an update on the workforce shifts which will be increased to include day and night shifts and noted that the majority of the work will be done by Union workers.
- Mr. Flocco informed the board that based on the current schedule, construction should be complete by July 15th and the school should be able to begin move in June.
- Mr. Flocco informed the board that the project will also include commercial components, they are currently speaking with Aldis, Health Care Centers and local small businesses about potentially using space.
- Mr. Flocco extended invitation for board members to contact him anytime they would like to visit or they are welcome to attend weekly scheduled site visits that take place every

Tuesday at 1pm. A separate meeting regarding the school construction takes place at 11:00 am each Tuesday at 375 Howard Avenue.

- Board chair Susan Briggs asked about parking. Mr. Flocco advised there will be designated parking for staff, busses and a parent drop off.
- Mr. Flocco noted Middle School students will enter the school on Cherry and Howard and High School students will enter the school on Howard and Railroad
- Vice Chair Ed Farrow asked about bus arrival and spacing for busses. Mr. Flocco noted only 2 busses could be in the drop off location at one time.
- Board Chair Susan Brigg suggested the need of a Facilities Committee and asked for volunteers. Pastor Dexter and Ed Farrow volunteered.
- Mr. Flocco said he would share a facilities folder with minutes and updates with John Scalice, Dexter Upshaw, Latoya Hubbard, Susan Briggs, Edwin Farrow, Jasmine Cruz, Michelle Garcia, and Lauren Perkins.
- Assistant Principal of SPED Ms. Juarez asked about Background screening for tenants. Mr. Flocco advised all tenants go through a finance and criminal background check.

Minutes

- Motion to approve minutes with changes proposed by Leticia and Susan. Approved by Albertha Second by Susan. Passed Unanimously

School Leader Report (John Scalice and Latoya Hubbard)

- Mr. Scalice gave an overview on plan for Teacher Recruitment for next year.
- Teacher posting expected to begin in December or January to capitalize on pool of recent grads or tenure teachers looking for new opportunities.
- Jasmine Cruz spoke to board about Enrollment and recruitment efforts going into next school year a different marketing approach will be used for Middle School and High School.
- Michael Duffy spoke about the need for more partnership between schools in the community.
- Mr. Scalice spoke about push to market tutoring component and after school clubs.
- Mr. Scalice noted that Culture and Climate Highlights for October have been updated to class managed behaviors with teacher access and updated process on how to refer students to Culture for additional support.
- Suspension Data included only 13 out of school suspensions compared to 27 for just the month of October in 2017.
- Physical/Psychological Management Training was done last week. Mr. Scalice explained the purpose of PMT training is to prevent teachers from needing to restrain and promotes de-escalating students using non physical measures.
- Attendance Data- ADA 90%. Mr. Scalice noted ADA isn't the best indicator of attendance he noted the best data to look at is chronic absenteeism which he noted that Middle School had 3% and High School is at 4%. School Wide Chronic Absenteeism is at 7%.

- Professional Development Goals- based on walkthroughs data, Mr. Scalice explained new process of Climate and Culture Structures includes questioning and checking for understanding which is a section on the Marshall rubric.
- Mr. Scalice presented a highlight in the High School of Mr. Lico's recent Social Studies project.
- Director of Operations Latoya Hubbard shared an update with board on student safety measures.
- Mrs. Hubbard noted that currently police patrol takes place in the school district area before and during morning arrival as confirmed by the Bridgeport Police Department.
- Mrs. Hubbard gave an update on on internal safety protocols including monthly fire drills, an upcoming lockdown drill, and working with the Bridgeport Police Department to facilitate a future high security threat training for staff.

Governance Committee (Susan Briggs)

- Ms. Briggs informed the board that she will be presenting Conflict of Interest Disclosure Form to Board Members to sign.
- Mr. Scalice reported feedback from State walkthrough regarding teacher certification, and teacher evaluation plan, need to submit Marshall Rubric, and ELL Grant.
- Mr. Scalice advised that we have an extensive plan in place for certification
- Goal is to have significant progress on suggestions from State prior to January.
- Mr. Scalice informed the Board that 1/3 staff is currently certified, 5 or 6 teachers eligible for DSAP (designated shortage area placement) and we are able to carry 12 teachers under CSEP.
- Mr. Scalice noted will be working with representative from BOE to come in and do school credit review consultations with teachers and assist with certification process.

Academic Excellence Committee (N/A)

- Pam Fraser-Abder was not present at meeting and no academic excellence report was given.

Finance Committee (Corey Sneed)

- Board Treasurer Corey Sneed talked about added components to financial dashboard.
- Mr. Sneed stated a goal to grow 6 months reserves for the school.
- Mr. Sneed suggested incorporating proforma, and forecasting, and putting the dashboard in a format that is easier for Board Members to read.
- Mr. Sneed proposed including an October vs October of the previous year to give the board more insight about where we are, in comparison to last year. Helps to create more transparency and advise on controls.
- Mr. Sneed also proposed improving the fluidity of each line item.

- Mr. Sneed noted deliverables that are outstanding, specifically noted revisions that will need to be made in the financial policy and procedures documents.
- Mr. Sneed proposed that all new vendor contracts should be presented to the board before contracts are signed.
- Mr. Sneed suggested dual signatures on checks over \$25,000.00 and checks \$50,000 and up would need to be presented to the board.
- Ms. Briggs suggested getting more information about our grants and what they are on the dashboard.
- Motion from the board to accept recommended changes to the dashboard moved by Albertha Brown second by Pastor Dexter Upshaw, unanimously approved.

Community Engagement (Pastor Dexter Upshaw Jr.)

- Pastor Upshaw informed the board that the Community engagement team met this week. Albertha Brown and Ivan Rodriguez were present.
- Pastor Upshaw noted strong need for outside community organization partnerships to make sure our families are supported.
- Pastor Upshaw spoke about providing transportation for parents to get to Parent Teacher Conferences and PTA meetings.
- Pastor Upshaw noted need for mentorship, and support for mental health.
- Pastor Upshaw expressed concern for hunger connected learning and how we can provide meals.
- Pastor Upshaw spoke about student morale, and suggested need for a school mascot, school pride and how we can support that culture.
- Pastor Upshaw asked in what way are we sparking leadership in students to allow them to be connected to the community through volunteer opportunities and how effective is our student recruitment?
- Pastor Upshaw made recommendations for service project for each grade.
- Mr. Sneed suggested partnering with the Bridgeport Education Fund for mentoring.
- Mr. Sneed suggested meeting with John and Latoya to help facilitate some of these suggestions.

Meeting Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Albertha Brown Second by Treasurer Corey Sneed .