

*Great Oaks Bridgeport Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 12, 2018
5:35 pm - 7:00 pm*

Board Members Present: Susan Briggs, Edwin Farrow, Dexter Upshaw, Pamela Fraser-Abder, Michelle Garcia, Albertha Brown, Corey Sneed, Christiana Otuwa

Board Members Absent: Leticia Sepulveda

Foundation Members Present: Michael Duffy, Lauren Perkins

Guests: Josh Moreau (BoostEd), Joe Blatt (BKD)

GO-BPT Staff: Latoya Hubbard, Nadina Juarez, John Scalice, Christopher Pellegrino

Called to order at 5:28 pm by Susan Briggs

Auditors Presentation (Joe Blatt)

- Mr. Blatt gave an overview of the GOBPT Independent Auditor's reports and Financial Statements.
- Mr. Blatt noted that security deposits have increased as part of our initiative to acquire the new location.
- Mr. Blatt noted an increase of our per pupil revenue due to our student enrollment increase and that a majority of our school expenses are related to salary and payroll.
- Mr. Blatt noted as our lease comes to a close our depreciation and amortization has increased.
- 80% of our funding is coming from CT Dept of Education
- Mr. Blatt noted that management at the GOBPT foundation is working on separation of duties in managing the finances.
- Susan Briggs noted an update needed to the document that we should be noted as a nonprofit not an education corporation.
- Motion to accept the audit subject to corrections made by Albertha Brown Second by Dr. Christiana Otuwa.

Review of Minutes from November Meeting (Susan Briggs)

- Motion to approve minutes by Albertha Brown Second by Ed Farrow.

Governance Committee (Susan Briggs)

- Susan Briggs advised the Board that Wade Eyerly has resigned from the Board.
- Susan presented the possibility of reaching out to an outside attorney to consult with on policies and services agreements, as well as other issues that may come up.
- John Scalice noted he agrees that it would be a valuable resource.

- Motion to approve engaging Mark Sommaruga at Pullman & Comley to be our School attorney for consultations, and to authorize Susan Briggs to sign the Engagement Letter, made by Corey Sneed, second by Dexter Upshaw.
- Susan updated the Board on the School's renewal application, and noted that members of the Foundation and the Board participated in a call with State Ed to review the proposed Services Agreement. Clarifications needed by the State Dept of Ed are due in mid-January, and the State Board of Ed will vote on our application in March.
- Susan further noted that in order to accommodate Corey's schedule, the time of Governance Committee meetings will be changed to first Wednesdays at 4:30pm.

Finance Committee Report (Corey Sneed)

- Corey Sneed noted significant improvements to the financial documents made by our new COO Lauren Perkins and Josh Moreau of BoostEd.
- Corey noted that the updated reforecast includes the budget, the monthly budget, and what the actual is.
- Improvements were also made to the dashboard to give a better overview.
- Corey noted that notwithstanding the reduction in philanthropy shown on the reforecast for future years, the school expects that the Foundation's fundraising efforts will be ongoing annually, even after target goals are met.
- Michael Duffy noted that due to the lower amount of per pupil funding we will need continued fundraising efforts.
- Motion to accept the current budget with future years not appearing by Edwin Farrow Second by Dexter Upshaw.
- Dashboard overview was presented by Lauren Perkins.

Community Engagement Committee (Dexter Upshaw)

- Dexter Upshaw noted he visited the Cherry Street Site for their weekly meeting.
- He noted framing is done and progress is moving forward.
- Pastor Dexter noted Community engagement meeting and update on bus passes for HS students that do not currently have them.
- 53 kids in need. Would cost \$1500 per month (\$30 per student)
- Dexter presented to the board for consideration whether next year's budget may include a line item to assist with transportation.

Academic Excellence Committee (Chris Pellegrino)

- Mr. Pellegrino noted that the CT standards for graduation are minimal but are not preparing students for college
- Chris noted that he is working with the Great Oaks network to rebuild program and graduation requirements to make them more competitive. This includes the following
 - Credit Accumulation
 - Early College opportunity

- Mandatory Finals/Project Based/Assessment Tasks
- Individualized Approach to college acceptance
- Assessments to determine if students producing quality work and if students are prepared and on track to going to college.

Principal's Report (John Scalice)

- Mr. Scalice presented the Language Leaders Program to the Board.
- The program will offer Spanish, French, German, Korean, Arabic
- Mr. Scalice also noted the potential to purchase more chromebooks through our SIG grant, which will bring the school close to 1 to 1.
- Suspensions have significantly decreased compared to this time last year
- Professional Development Goals highlight on parent phone calls based on parent feedback that they need more information.
- Mr. Scalice noted a revised student tier based communication plan.

Meeting Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Corey Sneed, Second by Pamela Fraser-Abder.