

Great Oaks Bridgeport Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2019
5:36 pm - 7:00 pm

Board Members Present: Susan Briggs, Edwin Farrow, Dexter Upshaw, Pamela Fraser-Abder, Corey Sneed

Board Members Absent: Michelle Garcia, Christiana Otuwa, Albertha Brown, Leticia Sepulveda

Foundation Members Present: Michael Duffy, Lauren Perkins, Josh Thomases

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

Guests: John Treschette, Nick Mazzarato

Called to order at 5:36 pm by Susan Briggs

Facilities Update - Presentation from CORE

- The CORE team advised the board of a potential delay on the windows for the new school building, however they are looking into a potential temporary alternative so it will not impact building delivery date.
- The CORE team gave an update on their dispute with their architect.
- The CORE team advised the board that they are still on track to meeting August 1st Delivery Date and delivering tutor housing by October.
- Once the issue with the windows is resolved they will confirm storage accommodations.

Finance Committee Report (Corey Sneed & Lauren Perkins)

- Lauren advised the board that we are in a strong financial position and expecting 100k surplus.
- Lauren noted there is no change to private fundraising since the update given at the last board meeting.
- Lauren noted consistent collaboration with School including John, Josh T, and Latoya to discuss budget for next year.
- A Motion to vote to accept March budget moved by Ed Farrow second by Pam passed unanimously.
- Corey explained the intent to utilize private grant funding towards meeting the School's obligation to the Cherry Street project. A Motion to authorize Corey to approve wire transfer of private grant funds to fund Cherry Street project moved by Dexter Upshaw and second by Ed Farrow passed unanimously.

- Corey proposed that the board ratify ACS as a sole source provider. A Motion to ratify the approval of ACS as a sole source provider moved by Ed Farrow and second by Pam Fraser-Abder passed unanimously.
- A Motion to accept the proposal from ACS for cabling and the installation of hardware, and authorizing Corey to sign off on invoices against the proposal, moved by Ed Farrow seconded by Dexter Upshaw passed unanimously.
- A Motion to approve Powerschool as a sole source provider and to accept the Powerschool proposal moved by Ed Farrow second by Pam Fraser-Abder passed unanimously.
- A Motion to authorize Corey Sneed to sign the Form 990 was moved by Dexter Upshaw and second by Ed Farrow passed unanimously.

Review of Minutes from March Meeting (Susan Briggs)

- Motion to approve March minutes with corrections (as to which Board members were in attendance) was moved by Ed Farrow second by Dexter Upshaw passed unanimously.

Principal Report (John Scalice)

- John gave an update on the recent NWEA testing.
- John noted student incentives given for performance on test and attendance which included dress down day.
- John noted significant increase in the percentage of change from Fall to Winter in the ELA Conditional Growth Index.
- Math showed significant increase in growth from fall to winter as well, 9th grade showed slight decrease. Mr. Scalice noted this is not uncommon when students start learning Algebra content.
- 7th and 10th grade saw significant increase against the National RIT score averages.
- John noted high cost associated with relocating students for SBAC testing so it will not be a viable option.
- John noted working with ACS to come up with protocols to avoid internet issues during SBAC testing.
- John informed the board of significant decreases in suspensions. 83 OSS to date compared to 204 this time last year.
- John advised the board of the school lottery conducted on April 3rd.
- John gave an overview of the Corrective Action Plan that was submitted to CTSDE on Friday April 5th.
- John gave an overview of an updated data collection that will help the school analyze student performance more easily and quickly.
- John also gave an update on additional common threads to develop curriculum, increase communication between admin to staff, teachers to tutors, and staff to parents.
- John showed the board a highlights video from the Be the Proof Campaign led by 6th grade Science teacher, Mr. Santos.

Academic Excellence Committee Report (Pam Fraser-Abder)

- Pam discussed the March 27th walkthrough and noted the importance of board members to attend scheduled walkthroughs in order to see the “why” of what they do.
- Pam advised the board that after she met with tutors she found potential issues that warrant further discussion.
- After observing students meeting in small groups, Pam noted that if we don't invest in the needs of our brightest students we could potentially lose them.
- After observing tutors meeting in small groups. Pam noted curriculum used by tutors was different from what teachers are using. She noted the need for tutors and teachers to be more aligned.
- Pam noted significant progress in the classroom stating “there is calmness in the school that can lead to effective learning”

Governance Committee Report (Susan Briggs)

- Susan discussed the status of the renewal Charter Agreement, which will be signed shortly.

New Business

- Josh noted he has been working with Pam and Susan on John's midyear evaluation for John. A Motion was made by Dexter Upshaw to authorize Pam and Susan to sign John's Mid Year review on behalf of the Board.
- A Motion to ratify the approval of the wellness policy back in July moved by Pam Fraser-Abder second by Ed Farrow and passed unanimously.

There was no report from the Community Engagement Committee.

Meeting Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ed Farrow and Second by Corey Sneed, passed unanimously.