

Great Oaks Bridgeport Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 11, 2020
5:25pm - 7:35pm

Board Members Present: Susan Briggs, Pamela Fraser-Abder, Corey Sneed, Brea Mangrum, Dexter Upshaw

Board Members Absent: Michelle Garcia, Denise Carey, Leticia Sepulveda

GO-BPT Staff: Latoya Hubbard, John Scalice,

Foundation Members Present: Ben Chan, Michael Duffy, Lauren Perkins

Called to order at 5:25 pm by Susan Briggs

Review of Minutes from the February Board Meeting (Susan Briggs)

- The board independently reviewed the February Board meeting minutes.
- Motion to approve the February board meeting minutes moved by Pam second by Corey and passed unanimously.

Principal's Report (John Scalice)

- John gave the board an update on current suspensions which are currently at 10.3%, still reduced over 50% since this time last year.
- John gave the Board an Update on COVID and proactive measures the school is taking to ensure the safety of students.
- He noted that the school closed today to do a deep cleaning of the school.
- John advised the board that testing would not be impacted as the CSDE had previously factored in additional time in the testing window which gives the school additional time to test students if the school will be closed for more than 2 weeks.
- John gave the board an overview of the plan to implement Long Distance learning in the event of an extended school closing and noted a survey was sent home with students to determine technology needs at home.
- John's Teacher Spotlight was on multiple members of the Americorps Fellow Team. John noted their efforts in helping students to develop skills closely aligned with the school curriculum.

Finance Committee (Corey Sneed and Ben Chan)

- Ben noted that the school is on track to meeting finance goals through the end of the year due to the school's careful spending.
- Ben advised the board that benefits have slightly increased based on the number of teachers and that there has been an increase in expenses due to Johnson Controls installation fees and moving expenses.

- Ben also noted that Lori from the finance team at the Foundation would be at the school three days per week to assist in budget planning and ensuring that the school does not exceed the budget.
- Corey asked John and Latoya if there would be any increase in staff based on the additional seat allocation approved by the State and John responded at this time no.
- Corey gave the Board an overview of the Form 990, and asked for an authorization to be approved as a signer pending board review.
- Motion was moved to authorize the board treasurer Corey Sneed to work with Ben Chan to finalize the 990 and and sign it moved by Susan, Second by Dexter passed unanimously.

Director of Operations Report (Latoya Hubbard)

- Latoya gave the board an update on additional cleaning measures implemented by the maintenance staff.
- Latoya informed the board that she and Michael Little would be in touch with the State regarding approval to continue to serve meals to families in the event of an extended school closing.
- Latoya noted that the school attendance team has been closely monitoring student absences due to flu-like symptoms and she will be contacting the CT State Department of Health to inform them of any students diagnosed with the flu and that will be out for 10 or more days.
- Latoya stated the school will continue following emergency contact routine – emails, text, social media, news sources.
- Latoya informed the board of the concern over our attendance in the fact of COVID-19, especially since this was part of our corrective action plan. However, the school has not seen a huge impact on attendance through this. CSDE will provide us with any updates to chronic absenteeism policy based on COVID-19; phone call tomorrow. If we do move to distance learning, plan to track attendance through student work completion and Google Hangout platform attendance.
- Latoya gave the board an update on teacher certification and noted 50% of our teachers must have permanent certification; 50% may have temporary certification. Several teachers with temporary certifications are expected to have permanent certifications by the end of the year. The CT CSDE has certification applications for 12 of our teachers that are pending. 2 teachers are out of compliance: there is a plan, these are being addressed.
- Latoya noted that plans for next year are in place. We are adamant about only hiring certified staff. They held a meeting with staff who have temporary or pending certification to advise them that if they do not have some type of certification by the end of this school year, we cannot hold their position.
- Latoya informed the board of the new enrollment target of 661. Applications are coming in for all grades. Trending pretty well. Hope to see a spike over the next few weeks

based on ads: Facebook, billboard. We are waiting to receive a list of 6th graders, and we will outreach to them once it is received.

- Latoya informed the board that the school issued an intent to return survey back in early February. Deadline to return was March 6th. Got nearly 100% returned. In the process of meeting with staff members who indicated “maybe.”
- Latoya gave the board an update on facilities damages and noted recently there has been an increase in vandalism around the building. Boys’ bathroom – broken stall. Writing on the wall. Screen damage turned out not to be students. John and Latoya are meeting with grade level teams to discuss the vandalism and let them know that if they cannot identify a particular responsible student, it will impact the budget for that grade. The goal is to make this a community issue. Since the conversation with the 8th grade, no further vandalism. Have also let students know that they will be disciplined if they are found to be responsible, and parents will be held financially responsible.
- Latoya gave the board an update on the Naviance/College prep program and noted all of our students have an account and can build a profile. Gauges things like credits and keeping on track to apply to college. Naviance is up and running. Latoya has worked with Kasey Genovese to upload all the data. All HS students have an account. College trips are planned for the end of the year (Boston and DC). Students will be going to UConn on SAT day. COVID-19 could impact these trips. Naviance is synced with PowerSchool. Kasey meets with students regularly to guide them through the process and the use of Naviance.
- Child Nutrition Program: Latoya gave an overview of the school child nutrition program for school year 2020-2021 and approvals needed by the Board.:
 - Motion moved to approve the following certification statement: “We will comply with the CNS during the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30,2021. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and fundraising activities on school premises, whether or not school sponsored. Corey moved / Pam second, unanimously approved.
 - Motion moved to approve the exemption statement to permit the sale to students of any food items that do not meet the CNS, provided that (1) such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store. Motion moved by Corey / second Dexter, unanimously approved.

Governance Committee Report (Susan Briggs)

- Susan noted she would not be able to attend the next Board meeting so it would be led by Pam.
- John explained the State requirement for a waiver in the event that the school would need to move to a digital learning platform temporarily if the school is closed.

- John noted that only certified teachers would facilitate mini lessons, and non certified teachers would provide additional small group support.
- Motion to authorize John and Susan to sign the waiver from the CSDE for Distance Learning moved by Corey, second by Brea, passed unanimously.

Motion to adjourn the Board meeting moved by Corey and second by Dexter. Meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.