

Great Oaks Bridgeport Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 8, 2020
12:34pm - 2:21pm

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, Kyla Dunn, Chris Pellegrino, Angelina Cardoso

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

Called to order at 5:25 pm by Susan Briggs

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

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

Principal's Report (John Scalice)

- John advised the board that all school reporting would be frozen at this time and that we are still waiting on an update from the CSDE for additional guidance on taking student attendance.
- John informed the board that though the State is not currently tracking attendance the school has put multiple measures in place to track attendance. The school is also implementing a tiered intervention system for students that have not signed in or turned in work.
- Special Education - Initial guidance from the State not to have PPT's at this time however John noted if Digital Learning extends through the end of the year there may be a need for PPTs.
- Great Oaks has reached out to all parents to find out if they have a need for PPTs and to date all parents have said no.
- John noted partnerships with websites called Fast Forward, Learning Legends and Rosetta Stone. These services will be offered to students in addition to our normally scheduled classes, differentiated work, and or sessions for students with IEPs, 504s, or ELL needs.
- John also noted we received additional licenses from Rosetta Stone for families to use.
- John provided the board with an update on Teacher Certification. He said the State plans to extend some certifications for up to 1 year.

- John shared a video that was watched by the board which included testimonials from students and staff on how the Distance Learning platform is working.
- Kyla Dunn (Middle School Administrator) informed the board that students have been responding very well to the Distance Learning Platform.
- Chris Pellegrino (High School Administrator) noted that it was helpful that students had previously been accessing the digital platform and it made the transition easier.

Operation/Facilities Report (Latoya Hubbard)

- Latoya provided an update on the Child Nutrition Program during the COVID-19 circumstances. The State of Connecticut provided a waiver to allow GO-BPT to serve grab-and-go lunches while school is not in session in the building; the waiver requires the school to meet the tracking and compliance guidelines (e.g. student and parents must be present); recently that requirement was waived, so any family from the community can participate in the grab-and-go food program. On average, between ten and fifteen families pick up lunches daily. The school has set up a pre-ordering process, so that we do not over-order daily lunches.
- Susan inquired into whether there is a place to donate food that is not picked up. Latoya noted that we can ask the state for guidance, though because the food provided (cold service) does have an expiration date, that will need to be taken into consideration.
- Latoya provided context on the maintenance schedule for the school during closure; janitorial staff is on site from 10:00am-2:00pm daily. Latoya, John, and Michael Little are the only staff on-site on a rotating schedule throughout the week.
- Lauren provided an update on the Fellow housing relocation due to the remediation work. Over the past two weeks, Fellows have moved to temporary units from the second floor and remediation work commenced this week. In addition, nine Fellows have moved out of Great Oaks housing permanently as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, and the foundation is covering the costs of those moves through AmeriCorps dollars.
- Latoya provided an update on the student enrollment process. Recruitment efforts to date have included postcards, phone banking, social media marketing, a virtual open house, a “like and share” contest for current students, a billboard, and lottery acceptance calls. The school has also issued robocalls to rising 6th graders in the area and in two days, received an additional 20 applications. Michael Duffy suggested that the Fellows conduct some calls to accepted and prospective students during spring break, as an opportunity to earn additional hours. Latoya noted that this is something that we can absolutely consider. Latoya also encouraged members of the Board to spread the word that the school is accepting students.

Finance Committee Report (Corey Sneed)

- Corey asked Ben to lead the presentation.
- Ben noted that the cash balance of the school was low however now that the school has received the per pupil distribution the school is in a better financial position.
- Ben noted the school will be able to draw down the rest of the Sig Grant to purchase additional items needed for the school.

- Ben noted he would be working with John on the Special Ed grant and Title 1 and will provide an update on a draw down at a later time.
- Ben noted due to the increase in insurance premiums for the school we will see a significant change in the budget.
- Corey encouraged the school team to think about ways that we can repurpose dollars for school needs.
- Susan asked if the school has seen an increase in spending due to Digital Learning.
- John noted there is no high outlay or change in expenses to the school due to distance learning at this time. Expenses have stayed relatively the same.

Governance Committee Report (Susan Briggs)

- The Governance Committee had no additional information to report.

New Business

John gave a highlight of the great work that Megan Benay and Tom from the Foundation have done to support the school with Distance Learning.

Motion to adjourn the Board meeting moved by Corey and second by Pam. Meeting was adjourned at 2:21 pm.