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*Great Oaks Bridgeport Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 10th , 2020*

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

Board Members Absent: Michelle Garcia, Denise Carey

GO-BPT Staff: Latoya Hubbard, John Scalice, Chris Pellegrino, Angelina Cardoso, Jessica Ramos-Mouning

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

Called to order at 5:25 pm by Susan Briggs

Thoughts for Our Community (Dexter Upshaw)

- Dexter opened up the board meeting by sharing his thoughts on the current racial climate of the country and some of the impacts it has had on our communities and in the workplace.
- Dexter shared the following advice - the 4 Ls - to consider:
 - Lament- Give Space for people to be honest about what they feel.
 - Listening- Give Space for People of Color to share their experience without judgement.
 - Learning- Understand systematic racism, noting that while working in education in an urban district we may see systematic racism and we should learn about systems and dynamics that include the wealth gap that impact people of color and understand historically what has contributed to where we are today.
 - Leverage- Understanding what areas we have Power and what areas do we have privilege so we can help be a part of the solution and not the problem. Ask yourself, what is your responsibility to speak up? When you have access to opportunities, power, and wealth what are you doing to help? Be in a place of empathy and understanding.

Review of Minutes from the May Board Meeting (Leticia Sepulveda)

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

Principal's Report (John Scalice)

- John informed the board that we are still waiting for the results from the air quality report that was done at the school.

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- John noted that as more information comes from the State regarding state regulation about reopening of schools, the school is planning for 3 scenarios that are possibilities.
- John advised the board that there are currently plans to offer summer school and remediation conducted through distance learning.
- John also advised the Board that the Keep CALM with culture virtual rooms will be open to provide ongoing support to students over the summer months.
- John gave the board several State updates including a new process to access State funds connected to ESSR as part of the CARES act, which has been recently released. Great Oaks is estimated to receive a one time payment of approx \$193k through ESSR funds.
- John advised the Board that GOBPT was officially approved to receive approx 70 free laptops from CSDE which were awarded through a technology program.
- John noted that GOBPT has also been selected to receive 3 novels per student through Scholastic donated by the Nooye Family.
- John advised the board that GOBPT is officially approved for a second round of funding for the High School Development work through the BARR Foundation for \$400k (\$200k per year)
- John shared with the Board a list of supports that have been provided to staff and students in the wake of George Floyd's murder and ensuring events, which include the following:
 - Resources distributed to staff through email from the Foundation and CSDE
 - Time in the schedule dedicated to teacher review of student concerns.
 - Friday, June 5th dedicated day of solidarity for staff and students.
 - Staff Sacred Circle to promote dialogue facilitated by members of the Foundation.
 - Development of a Town Hall with Senator Bradley and Representative Felipe, inclusive of Police Commissioner Armando Perez and several Great Oaks students in partnership with Faith Acts.
- John provided the Board with an update on student attendance during distance learning and noted the following:
 - Attendance Rates for MS were at 93% which include video and google classroom participation; 80% google coursework and video average daily
 - High School Attendance Rates 86% video and google classroom participation; 71% coursework and video average daily
- An update on the High School was provided by Chris Pellegrino to the Board.
- Chris noted the abrupt closing during trimester 2 has presented many challenges as they await more guidance from the state.
- Chris advised the Board that 11th grade students have been engaging more in these past few weeks due to more efforts made by the High School team that promote student engagement.
- Chris noted the team would like to provide optional opportunities for students to take non recovery classes to engage students over the summer.
- Angie gave the board an overview of recent writing assessments completed by students.

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- Angie noted students were monitored in google classroom while they were completing the assessment.
- Angie noted 87% of students scored above an 80 on a pilot Edmentum ELA exam.
- John shared the school's "Plan A" visual representation that showed each classroom, which will include 10 students and 1 teacher. He noted we have 28 spaces that can be used as classrooms. Students would be with the same teacher for the entire day, and students would eat lunch in the classroom, and limited or no hallway movement, no recess, assembly or large gatherings.
- John advised the Board that there will be some online assigned teachers that would work from the school site to ensure enough coverage, in the event that families opt to keep their children home for remote learning only.
- John advised the board that the table of Organization would look different. Teachers would be first organized by their certification area. He noted that CT content certified teachers can teach 7-12 grade.
- Plan A for fellows would include each group of 2 teachers having 1 fellow supporting classroom teachers.
- John advised the Board that the admin team is currently looking into a new LMS program that would allow for increased engagement of students.
- Staffing plan would include 28 traditional classroom teachers working with HS and MS students in teams, and 2 online only teachers, 5 Special Ed teachers, 1 ESL teacher and 47 fellows available for distance support of which 19 would be available for distance learning at all times.
- John noted that because students are grouped in pods if a student were to become ill the school would ask that the entire pod of students be quarantined and would notify the parents.
- Corey asked about wifi needs for students working remotely next school year. John noted the current agreement with Optimum to support families without wifi.
- Corey also asked about staggered start times that would support transportation issues and John advised a staggered start time is currently being considered.
- John shared a student spotlight on two students who have gone above and beyond taking exams that they were exempt from.
- John shared a teacher spotlight on Mr. Pollak. Mr. Pollack gave HS students the opportunity to be creative with chemistry by allowing students to do a social media project to demonstrate their learning of chemistry.

Director of Operations Report (Latoya Hubbard)

- Latoya provided the board with an update on the child nutrition program and noted that the US Department of Agriculture recently announced the National School Lunch Program Equipment Grant. Through this grant our school could be awarded up to \$25,000 to be used on kitchen equipment that could improve the quality and efficiency of our kitchen, and that the grant was completed and submitted.

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- Latoya advised the board that the Ops team facilitated a classroom clean out process allowing teachers to sign up for times to access the building to clean out their classrooms.
- Latoya advised the board that only 1 staff member would be allowed in the building per floor at the same time.
- Latoya advised the board that a curb side pick up would be facilitated for students who needed to pick up items that were left behind in their lockers.
- Latoya provided an enrollment and recruitment update and advised the board a total of 357 applications have been received to date, which is an increase of 52 applications since the beginning of May.
- Latoya advised the board that the school would be facilitating a virtual book fair through Scholastic. The book fair will take place June 12th through September 4th, and the school will receive 25% of all sales during that time. Following the fair students will still be able to purchase books through scholastic and the school will also continue to receive 2% following the book fair dates through the end of the year.
- Latoya noted all books will be delivered directly to students.

Finance Committee Report (Corey Sneed)

- Corey noted that the school has closed out FY20 very well.
- Ben noted the finance committee met Monday and noted that for the rest of the year we will preserve cash and control expenses.
- Ben advised the board that the Blue Hub Loan has consistently been reduced due to paying down interest.
- Ben noted the operating expenses are shown in the red but this is before the SIG grant is applied and for the end of the year we should be \$100k under budget.
- Ben noted that the engagement letter for the Auditor was signed by Corey so we will retain the same company that we used last year.
- Ben gave the board an update on PPP and noted there are still funds left and there may be an opportunity to apply.
- Corey noted that the school was able to save in multiple areas due to the building being closed, however we don't foresee that saving in the future with the anticipated hybrid model and the unknown of some funding and that if some of that funding would be cut it could put us in financial constraints. He also noted some of the changes and clarity around guidelines for applying for PPP. Based on the recent amendments to the PPP rules and current reviews by Corey and Ben, Corey believes at this time we would be in a better position to apply for PPP.
- Corey noted we would still be conservatively applying, and would use it to cover 2 months of payroll.
- A motion was moved to approve applying for the PPP and authorizing Corey to sign, moved by Leticia second by Pam.
- The board also reviewed the FY20 budget guided by Ben.

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- A motion was moved to go to an executive session by Corey and second by Leticia at 7:20pm.
- A motion was moved to move out of the executive section at 7:46pm by Corey and second by Leticia.
- A motion moved to authorize Susan to work with the Foundation and its partners to make a decision around the personnel matter discussed during the executive session.
- Ben resumed the review of the FY20 budget, and noted this does not take into account the PPP funds and possible ESSR funding.
- Motion was moved to approve the FY20 budget as proposed. Moved by Leticia 2nd by Pam and passed unanimously.
- Corey advised the board that the fuel cell original agreement that was presented to us was not favorable. The original agreement was for 20 years. The revised agreement is for 10 years. Motion was moved by Pam to allow Corey to sign the revised fuel cell agreement on behalf of the board. The motion was second by Leticia and passed unanimously.

Governance Committee Report (Susan Briggs)

- Susan reminded the Board of the upcoming Board retreat on Wednesday, July 29th.

Motion to adjourn the Board meeting moved by Corey and second by Pam. Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.