

*Great Oaks Bridgeport Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 13th, 2021*

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

Board Members Absent: Denise Carey

GO-BPT Staff Present: Latoya Hubbard, John Scalice, Ayanna Brown

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

Guests:

Called to order at 5:21 pm by Susan Briggs

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

- Leticia asked the board to review the December board meeting minutes.
- Motion requested to approve the December minutes with the requested changes moved by Corey, seconded by Pam, passed unanimously.

Finance Committee Report (Ben Chan)

- Corey asked for a motion to ratify the Robert Half and Associates agreement for accounting and bookkeeping services in the amount of \$7,000. Motion moved by Leticia, seconded by Dexter, passed unanimously.

Principal's Report (John Scalice)

- John opened his report by going over the dashboard and updating the board on our current dashboard data, which includes enrollment, teacher certification, attendance, and suspensions.
- Teacher certification - Increases in Teacher Certification with some teachers being dual certified. Some fellows that are involved in relay are getting close to being able to sit for their certification soon.
- Attendance/Enrollment/Suspensions - Attendance is at a 98.1% & 97.1% for High School, under 2% for Middle School & 3% in High School chronic absenteeism

- COVID-19 numbers for Bridgeport have seen a 4% decrease since the New Year. Bridgeport has dropped below the State reported cases with the state reporting a 10.6% positivity rate while Bridgeport has reported at 8.5%.
- We are now getting daily updates from the Bridgeport Department of Health.
- John informed the Board about the Phase 1 ReEntry plan for High Priority students to return. 81 students are slated to return (47% of our students are returning of the 170 that were eligible.) The school will be enforcing the same COVID-19 social distancing guidelines that it observed the beginning of the year.
- John went over the flow of the day during the Phase 1 ReEntry plan. He stated that students will be receiving Culture check-in's and will also be receiving breakfast & lunch while in the building.
- John went over the differences between this model and the previous Hybrid model. He stated that there is an emphasis on in-person learning with designated time outside of screen interactions.
- John went over highlights that we have received. We were recognized by the State Department of Education for our Practice of Board Check-Ins as a best practice to be shared with other schools.
- We have been nominated by the Barr Foundation to The Canopy Project as a school of Innovation for our practices towards equitable and responsive approaches towards education.
- Our NWEA testing has a 94% participation & completion rate at this time which is higher than 2019-2020 in person data.
- One of our Seniors has received an invitation to interview at Harvard.
- Spotlight teacher of the month is Courtnie Patrick for her work with our 12th grade students.

Director of Operations Report (Latoya Hubbard)

- Latoya informed the Board that for the first time ever our educator data system at the State reports that there are no staff out of compliance within our district and we are at 100% compliance.
- Latoya gave the Board an update on Facilities stating that all of our COVID cleaning procedures will remain the same and students will continue to complete a survey at the start of the day that the nurse will review to ensure students are not displaying any symptoms.
- Staff will also receive full PPE materials. Arrival and dismissal will be done by bus to limit contact.
- The main office will continue to enforce no contact visiting/early dismissal and chromebook pickup/ chromebook swap.

- Latoya discussed that we are currently in enrollment season and gave a shout out to [Tiffany Kwong](#) for putting together a panel with the Bridgeport and New York Teams to discuss best practices for enrollment.
- John will be recording a virtual tour of the building and we will be hosting virtual open houses March 6th and 13th.
- Latoya informed the board that there will be mailers sent out to the rising 6th grade families in Bridgeport.
- Corey asked when the school might be eligible to submit an application for grades K-5.
- Michael Duffy noted there may be an opportunity to submit a request during renewal.
- John noted the school has talked about it and that discussions have been had of this being a long-term goal, starting with a K-1 model to start and adding ascending grades.
- Susan inquired about where we would be able to accommodate K-5 in this building .
- The board engaged in a discussion regarding opening up an elementary school grades K-5.

Finance Committee Report (Continued) (Ben Chan)

- Ben reviewed the December dashboard with the Board.
- Ben noted that we have continued to pay down the Blue Hub loan each month.
- Ben informed the Board that the school was able to draw down the security grant which will further reduce the Blue Hub loan.
- Ben noted the SIG grant was approved and finalized.
- Ben also noted that school operations cost has been low due to reduction in items such as school lunch and facilities needs.
- Corey informed the Board that we are currently waiting to get the final audit report from Jennifer at PKD to be signed.
- Corey noted that once he is able to review the draft audit, he will work with Ben to discuss a plan to discuss the ODR.

Governance Committee Report (Susan Briggs)

- Susan mentioned we are still looking for additional Board members.
- Michael reminded the Board about an invitation to come to the Americorp vesting ceremony on Thursday at 5pm.
- Michael Duffy discussed a litigation strategy in balancing the per pupil funding per student.
- Susan asked how the Board feels about moving forward with this.
- Pastor Dexter noted he has done a lot of work with Faith Acts and that Faith Acts facilitates a class to inform the community about how charter schools are funded.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Corey and 2nd by Dexter. The board meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm