

*Great Oaks Bridgeport Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 10, 2021*

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

Board Members Absent: Denise Carey, Leticia Sepulveda

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

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

Guests: N/A

Called to order at 5:28 pm by Susan Briggs

Review of Minutes from the February Board Meeting

The Board postponed the approval of the February Board meeting minutes until the April 2021 Board meeting.

Principal's Report (John Scalice)

- John opened the meeting with a review of our data dashboard.
- John informed the board on the support that we have received from the Bridgeport Department of Health in regards to securing a vaccination date and our welcoming back of students in our Hybrid model.
- John went over what is to be expected of our Hybrid return model and the benefit that it will provide to our students.
- John informed the board that Great Oaks was recognized by the Connecticut State Department of Education, in its Charter Schools Best Practices Annual Report, as having a Best Practice in the area of Stewardship, Governance, and Management. It should be noted that we were listed as "Best Practice #1" for our consistent and joint communication between the school, the Board, and the Foundation around instruction, finance, and operations.

- This month's Spotlight Teacher goes to Mr. Blake and Ms. Patrick, our 9th grade Math teacher and 12th grade ELA teacher. Mr. Blake and Ms. Patrick took part in a separate evaluation of practices by our Barr Foundation Partners which afforded us an opportunity to continue working on the development of our instructional framework in a hybrid environment with a consultant.

Director of Operations Report (Latoya Hubbard)

- Latoya opened up with an enrollment update showing the comparison to last year's numbers.
- Great Oaks has partnered with the Connecticut Charter Schools Association to meet with other office teams to discuss best practices. Latoya Hubbard & Jessica Ramos will be speaking on behalf of Great Oaks to discuss mitigation strategies, PPE, Recruitment & Enrollment.
- Latoya informed the board that Claudia Phillips will be supporting us in developing a parent leadership committee as well as informing them on how to advocate for charter schools and share their experiences and how to speak in front of Boards about their experience within the charter school community.
- Latoya informed the board about Jessica Ramos' testimony shared with the Connecticut Appropriations Committee in support of the Executive Budget Charter School Per Pupil Increase and played Ms. Ramos' testimony for the Board. The Board was extremely proud of Ms. Ramos and appreciated her for making these statements.

Finance Committee Report (Corey Sneed)

- Lauren introduced the HRIS & Payroll plan for next year after our previous payroll provider acquisition and reported that we will be moving away from a PEO into an administrative service organization.
- Corey asked for a motion to approve Austin & Co., Employee Navigator and PayCor to be the benefits service provider for our fiscal year 2022. Dexter moved, Brea second, all in favor.
- Latoya introduced 4 quotes from local advertising companies. First quote from Doing It Local was \$275 for internet advertising, The Daily Voice was \$500 for internet advertising and a banner to appear on social media sites, The Patch was \$315 for an online newsletter ad, and lastly, Hearst Media service which is a partner of the CT Post for \$800 which includes an online billboard, geographical targeting for families in Bridgeport, Trumbull & Stratford, advertisement to household with children 9-15, ad in their online platforms and a report on

impressions and 100,000 monthly impressions. Latoya asked for a motion to approve Hearst Media & Doing it Local. Pam moved, Brea second, all in favor.

- Latoya informed the board about the Fire system service provider for an initial approval based on a quarterly quote prior to entering into an annual contract. 3 quotes were provided. Fire Protection Team for \$272.50, Break Fire Protection for \$300, and Fairfield County Sprinkler Company for \$428.75. Brea moved to approve the Fire Protection team as a new vendor, Dexter second, all in favor.
- John called for approval to move forward with a purchase of \$15,000 for Pearson from our SIG Grant for additional math materials for our math labs. Brea moved to approve the motion, Dexter seconded, all in favor.
- John called for a motion to approve for Glencoe, for an extensive forensics lab as a part of our SIG Grant for \$15,000. Pam moved to approve the motion, Dexter seconded, all in favor.
- John called for a motion to approve Slooh as a sole service provider for our online astronomy lab as a part of our SIG Grant. Dexter moved to approve the motion, Brea seconded, all in favor.
- John called for approval of math lab items from Amazon as a part of our SIG Grant for \$22,357. Moved by Pam seconded by Dexter and passed unanimously.
- Ben reviewed the financial dashboard.
- Ben stated that the Blue Hub Loan is now under \$900,000.
- Ben brought up that there has been talk of an ESSER 2 (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) due to COVID-19 for funds to help with learning recovery and safety of the school facility during remote and Hybrid learning.

Governance Committee Report (Susan Briggs)

- Susan suggested moving into the executive session.

Susan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting was moved by Corey and 2nd by Dexter The board meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.