

*Great Oaks Bridgeport Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 9, 2021*

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

Board Members Absent:

GO-BPT Staff Present: Latoya Hubbard, John Scalice

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

Called to order at 5:21 pm by Susan Briggs

Reflections from Pastor Dexter

Pastor Dexter opened up the meeting by addressing the board and advising the board that he would be stepping down from the board effective immediately. He advised the board that an official resignation letter was sent to Susan. He shared reflections of serving on the board for the past three years and noted that he was grateful for the opportunity to serve and to be a part of the several school transitions including the move to Cherry Street and several other initiatives. He noted that his decision was based on the growth of his family, and other personal responsibilities. He noted that the school is in a great place and he was grateful for the opportunity to be a part of that and to be able to serve students and families at Great Oaks. He advised the board that he would be giving the convocation at the upcoming commencement ceremony and that he would always be a friend of the school and a part of the Great Oaks Family.

Susan thanked Pastor Dex for his time serving on the board.

Review of Minutes from the May Board Meeting

- The Board independently reviewed the May minutes and a motion was moved to approve the minutes with changes by Pam, seconded by Corey and passed unanimously.

Finance Committee Report (Corey Sneed)

- Corey advised the board that we would collectively review the FY21-22 budget. He noted that he was very pleased with the new format, which was easy to read, and then turned it over to Ben for further presentation to the Board.
- Ben shared the draft summary financial plan and noted it was broken down into 3 categories. Ben explained different grant funding, and several State & Federal Sources.
- Bob Carlson raised a question about the sustainability of the school without ESSER funding and Corey and Ben explained that ESSER funding is more project specific and a one time use, and noted that the school would not continue to take on expenses that they can't continue to fund.
- Pam asked what are the school's plans to continue to seek funding, and Corey explained that the school's Foundation partner would continue to seek funding as outlined in the services agreement and the school would continue to make decisions around programs based on receiving those funds.
- Lauren added that the grants team would continue to look into grant funding made available by the Federal government and the State that the school can take advantage of.
- Corey noted conversations around ESSER 3 and noted that based on this and the successful efforts of the security grant, this could play a role in being able to free up per pupil dollars that could be used to pay down the Blue Hub loan.
- Ben further discussed the budget and explained the Operations budget in more detail along with items specific to facilities and maintenance contracts.
- A motion was moved to approve the FY22 budget by Bob and seconded by Brea and passed unanimously.
- Following review of the budget Ben reviewed the dashboard and noted that based on the school's current cash position the school is in a healthy financial position.
- Ben also added that the Blue Hub loan continues to be reduced by \$4k to \$5k each month.
- Corey noted that with the school being in a healthy position the objective is to stay the course. Corey thanked the school and our Foundation partners for their work.

Director of Operations Report (Latoya Hubbard)

- Latoya opened up the Operations portion of the meeting by presenting several items that needed to be approved by the board.
- A motion was requested to approve the following Healthy Food option of which the board voted "yes" that *"Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This 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, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups. Motion was moved by Pam and seconded by Leticia and passed unanimously.

- A motion was requested to approve the following exemption statement of which the board voted “yes” that *The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the Page 3 of 3 | Connecticut State Department of Education location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.*

Motion moved by Corey and seconded by Brea, passed unanimously.

- A motion was moved to approve Austin & Co and the annual premium as a sole source provider of HR coverage for the 2021-2022 school year. Moved by Bob and seconded by Corey and passed unanimously.
- Latoya requested an approval from the board based on the RFP process carried out to approve Fire tech as the school’s new fire monitoring company. Open Systems was previously voted as the sole source provider in October of 2019 where the board voted *to ratify Open Systems (fire monitoring) contract as a sole source provider*
- Bob Carlson asked that the school get additional information regarding hourly fee structure since the annual cost does not include hourly fee service.
- Corey noted that from a compatibility standpoint the school should move forward with Firetech, since the equipment was installed and programmed by Firetech. Bob noted that he agreed since it is their equipment.
- A motion was moved to approve Firetech as the new fire monitoring company with additional information based on the hourly rate for service. Moved by Bob and seconded by Corey and passed unanimously.
- Approval was requested to approve Hand to Mind, School Mart, and Cotton Candy Clowns as new vendors moved by Pam and seconded by Leticia and passed unanimously.
- Motion moved to ratify Empire as our charter consultants for the 2020-2021 school year moved by Bob, seconded by Pam and passed unanimously.
- A motion was moved to ratify the decision to use Bismark Fencing to repair the fence at the school at the amount of \$250 per hour. Moved by Pam and seconded by Leticia.
- Latoya gave the board a brief enrollment update and noted that as of June 9th out of the 76 students offered seats, they have all been fully registered and verified.
- Latoya noted that now that the school is fully enrolled the focus would be shifted to retention and paying close attention to attrition.

Governance Committee Report (Susan Briggs)

- Susan noted that the Board Retreat would take place on July 21 from 5pm to 8pm and noted the governance meeting would be moved to July 14th. She also informed the board that there would not be a board meeting or governance committee meeting during the month of August.
- Susan also noted that we are working closely with the Foundation to review the services agreement, and noted that further discussion will take place between the school and the Foundation.
- Prior to requesting a vote to approve Susan to sign the extension of the services agreement, Susan asked the board if there were any questions at which time there were no questions.
- A motion to approve Susan to sign the extension of the services agreement was moved by Bob seconded by Corey and passed unanimously.

Principal's Report (John Scalice)

- John opened up the Principal's Report with a Student Performance update and advised the board that the school average daily attendance is currently at 96% with a chronic absenteeism rate of 6%.
- John also shared SBAC participation percentages and shared participation percentages of over 90% or higher all across grade levels.
- John spoke briefly about our state accountability meeting and noted that the meeting focused on four primary areas which included, Academic Achievement, Attendance Improvement, Culture Improvement, and Teacher Certification. He noted that the meeting that the school attended last year was met with a lot of hard feedback, however this meeting was met with positivity and praise for the great work. John shared clips from the meeting and also highlighted the work done by Latoya to bring the schools certification compliance to 100%.
- John shared student support initiatives moving forward and what it would be like, and shared plans to implement academic after school programs in areas which include:
 - ZAP- Zeros aren't permitted
 - Credit Recovery for High School
 - Business and Entrepreneurship
 - Math and Reading Assistance
 - Writing Center Assistance
 - Invention Convention and STEM opportunities

- Homework Help and extended hours
 - Saturday Academy distance based learning opportunities for students to continue advancement and for remediation from home on Saturday mornings.
- John also noted looking to increase social and emotional opportunities for students which will include
 - Keep calm with culture
 - My brother and sisters keeper
 - Mentoring periods
 - Staff Training for Trauma Informed Teaching
 - Increased Training for restorative practices
 - Student initiated meeting requests
- John shared that the school is in the process of getting quotes for building a ZAP program, which will be an indicator of whether the student accessed the learning, does not understand the learning, does not understand the assignment, or needs extra guidance through the assignment.
- John advised the board that this month's teacher spotlight is on Lily Vu, a 2nd year teacher who started as a fellow and is now a teacher. Ms. Vu started the Great Oaks Grizzly Magazine which she plans to turn into a club next year.
- Susan expressed how proud she is of the work done by the school and foundation partners, and how excited the board is to attend the graduation ceremony for the first Great Oaks Senior Class.

Susan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion moved by Corey and second by Bob. The meeting was adjourned by 6:48pm.