

*Great Oaks Bridgeport Monthly Board Meeting  
Wednesday, September 8, 2021*

**Board Members Present:** Susan Briggs, Corey Sneed, Pamela Fraser-Abder, Leticia Sepulveda, Bob Carlson

**Guests:** Dr. Selena Morgan, Christopher McMillan

**Board Members Absent:**

**GO-BPT Staff Present:** John Scalice, Latoya Hubbard, Ayanna Charles, Christopher Pellegrino, Denise Linares

**Foundation Members Present:** Ben Chan, Michael Duffy

**Called to order at 5:24 pm by Susan Briggs**

**Review of Minutes from the July Board Retreat (Leticia Sepulveda)**

- Leticia asked the board to review the Board Retreat meeting minutes.
- Susan noted to update a date missing at the top and inquired if Denise Carey was present at the retreat.
- Motion requested to approve the Board Retreat meeting minutes with the requested changes moved by Bob, seconded by Pam. Vote passed unanimously

Susan informed the Board that Christina Smith resigned from the board due to a potential conflict of interest. Susan noted that she is a supporter of GO-BPT and that we are saddened to see her go.

**Governance Committee Report - Susan Briggs**

Members of the Board, Foundation and GO-BPT Staff introduced themselves to Dr. Selena Morgan and Christopher McMillan as new potential Board members.

The board voted to approve Dr. Selena Morgan as Superintendent's designee on the board. Leticia Moved, seconded by Pam. Vote passed unanimously

The board voted to approve Christopher McMillan as Teacher Representative on the board. Leticia Moved, seconded by Corey. Vote passed unanimously

Susan informed the board that we are considering including a request to expand to include grades K-5 in our renewal application, and asked John to present this proposal to the board.

John provided the board with an overview of the grade expansion proposal, including the need for a new facility, grade growth configuration, and Literacy and Math programs designed to prevent learning gaps. He discussed creating throughlines for social and emotional learning at the Middle School and High School levels and addressed the importance of structuring the expansion to ensure that there will be 6th grade seats open to the community.

Motion to authorize the school to include the proposal to expand the school to grades K-5 in the charter renewal application. Pam moved, Bob seconded. Vote passed unanimously.

#### **Finance Committee Report – Corey Sneed**

Ben stated that the finance committee will meet on 9/20/21 to discuss the August close.

Our current cash position is that we have received 2 per pupil installments which will fund the school's checking account up to the end of December.

The amount that was budgeted for food service was transferred into the school's account for the 21-22 School Year. Money was moved into the reserve account as well. The ESSER funding this year is quite significant. The Blue Hub Loan balance is \$811,058 (internal est.) The Great Oaks Foundation loan to the school was reduced for July per the board's discussion and approval with \$10,000 paid every month per the board's resolution.

The EFS (Education Financial System) Report was due September 1 and was submitted with no alerts or notifications. We are currently in the middle of the audit for the school.

ODR update- Corey set up a meeting with Geof Ravenstine to arrange for the return of the ODR, which will then be applied to the BlueHub loan.

The bottom line being that the school is at a very healthy financial position.

The board would need to approve Corey's authorization to sign the asset transfer form for the repayment of the GO-FDN loan and to ratify Corey's authorization for the Led by Us Seat Program as a sole source provider.

Motion to approve Corey's signature on the Great Oaks asset transfer form. Leticia moved, Bob seconded. Vote passed unanimously

Motion to ratify Corey's authorization of the Led by Us Seat Program as a sole source provider. Bob moved, Leticia second. Vote passed unanimously.

### **Principal's Report**

#### **Executive Director's Report - John Scalice**

John opened up the principal report with a hiring update stating that the only position that needs to be filled is an additional guidance counselor with an offer ready to be made just not accepted at this time. John indicated the new staff members that have been added to the school.

80% of our staff will be fully state certified (CSDE License), 13% will be Charter specific (CSEP) & 6% Long-Term Sub (LTS).

Program updates begin with an embedded club time for middle school students from 2:55-3:40 p.m., with opportunities for high school students to help facilitate with teachers' approval. There will be an incentivized Study Hall for High school students earning them the opportunity to leave at 2:30 p.m. Additional afterschool clubs will be offered from 3:45-4:45 p.m. Twice monthly Parent updates will begin to be sent to families directly via the Remind App .

Testing cycle begins 9/9/21 going through 9/14/21. EdMentum data will be turned around immediately after completion and we will be switching from NWEA interim testing to SBAC with the goal to create smaller testing periods.

#### **Head of High School Update - Chris Pellegrino**

Chris Pellegrino opened the High School update by noting the 3 priorities at the start of the year being the full school reopening, family engagement and culture & community. The highlights so far being 9th grade orientation, new teacher orientation, Spirit week, purposeful and intentional community building amongst teachers and students, constant and consistent communication to families from admin and teachers.

Chris gave a shout out to Dorrell Spence and the amazing work that he has done setting up the schools systems and setting them up for success.

### **Head of Middle School Update - Denise Linares**

Denise Linares opened the Middle School update with the highlights so far being our 6th grade orientation and what that looked like to students. She noted the strong start to the year with staff commitments around the following focuses: Community meetings per grade level, Spirit week, classroom walkthroughs, support for new teachers & Communication with families.

### **Director of Operations Report - Latoya Hubbard**

Latoya opened up the Operations report by sharing that we needed approval from the board for a nursing temp agency due to only having 1 school nurse servicing 661 students. This year in particular we have a very high special-needs student population that requires quite a bit of medical care a few times a day. We wanted to be prepared in the event that Nurse Pat is out, to contact a local agency that would be able to provide us with on-call nursing services for the day. We are also working with the city of Bridgeport to try to see if we can get some additional nursing services for her but in the meantime we need to have a back up.

Latoya requested approval for AAA nursing care, a local agency out of Stratford. Three other agencies were contacted: Kelly Services did not provide nursing services, No response from Acct Positions & Maxim Healthcare, Nursing services INC. did not service Bridgeport. AAA nursing care has no upfront cost to the school and they service other school districts in the area.

The motion to approve AAA nursing care was moved by Bob and seconded by Leticia. Vote passed unanimously

Latoya discussed the current enrollment numbers stating that as of yesterday we had 658 students currently enrolled and for the remaining 2 students we do have offers out to families and they will be moved into the verified numbers once completed. Latoya noted that we do have a number of retained High school students that can affect enrollment numbers.

Latoya informed the board of the daily ops check-in where the team reviews attendance/no shows, withdrawn students, registration in progress, PowerSchool data & PSIS Data.

Latoya revisited the operations goals being a safe school reopening, new & returning family engagement, enhanced parent communication, IT support and certification compliance. To meet some of the goals an Operations PD was held to go over operations systems and processes. A successful back to school night was held for all families. We are offering uniform vouchers to families in need. Our communication system Remind has been configured and we are utilizing

SchoolMessenger in a larger capacity. Our new IT company TBNG has been a great support that was lacking in years past, assisting with chromebooks and school wide technologies that are ready for use.

Susan asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion moved by Bob and second by Leticia. The meeting was adjourned by 7:05pm.