

*Great Oaks Bridgeport Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 13, 2021*

Board Members Present: Susan Briggs, Corey Sneed, Pamela Fraser-Abder, Leticia Sepulveda, Bob Carlson, Selena Morgan, Christopher McMillan

Guests: Tiana Verner, Monica Valerio

Board Members Absent:

GO-BPT Staff Present: John Scalice, Latoya Hubbard, Ayanna Charles, Denise Linares, Karen Francis-Barnes

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

Called to order at 5:20 pm by Susan Briggs

Review of Minutes from the September Meeting (Leticia Sepulveda)

- Leticia asked the board to review the September meeting minutes.
- Motion requested to approve the September meeting minutes was moved by Corey, and seconded by Bob. Vote passed unanimously

Governance Committee Report - Susan Briggs

Members of the Board, Foundation and GO-BPT Staff were introduced by Susanto Tiana Verner the new potential Board member.

Susan introduced John to inform the board on the status of the renewal application.

John informed the board on the current status of the renewal application which is due November 1st, 2021 and the annual report which is due October 22nd, 2021.

Susan requested a motion authorizing herself and Bob to work with GO-BPT and our foundation partners to finalize and sign the Renewal application. Motion moved by Corey, and seconded by Leticia. Vote passed unanimously.

Michael gave the board information about Tiana Verner and informed the board of what she could bring to the board.

Susan called for a motion to vote Tiana Verner onto the board. The motion was moved by Corey, and seconded by Bob. Vote passed unanimously.

Susan requested a motion to approve new classes of the board as Class 1 (Bob & Corey), Class 2 (Susan, Pam & Tiana), Class 3 (Leticia, Selena & Chris). The motion was moved by Bob, and seconded by Leticia. Vote passed unanimously.

Principal's Report

Executive Director's Report - John Scalice

Head of Middle School Update - Denise Linares

Denise Linares opened the Middle School update with highlights. Denise noted that a great success is that clubs have started. Another success being a smooth transition into remote learning when it was needed for 2 weeks. Denise gave a shout out to fellows supporting in all aspects of the school and assisting the students.

Head of High School Update - Presented by John Scalice

John opened up the High School report by stating that our students had a seamless transition into virtual learning. He noted a partnership with Squads Abroad for our HS Seniors and how students will have opportunities to work with scientists on location in Nicaragua to discuss, plan and see their results.

Curriculum Implementation Specialist (Humanities) Update - Karen Francis-Barnes

Karen introduced Data teams and what it means at GO-BPT. Karen explained that it is for the Educators in the building to analyze the effect of what they are doing to assist the students with the understanding that this data is ever changing year over year as students change. Karen discussed how GO-BPT will utilize this data to support students and how it will work for our students.

Finance Committee Report – Corey Sneed

Corey reminded the board that any items that the school needs, should be brought to the finance committee meeting via RFP prior to the board meeting.

Corey requested a motion from the board to approve the vendors Squads Abroad, Fisher Scientific, School Fix, Safety Sign, My Safety Sign, Zoom, Allied Communications & Perkins

Eastman. The motion was moved by Leticia , and seconded by Selena . Vote passed unanimously.

Corey requested a vote to ratify his signature on an internal transfer form that Ben created to use for auditing purposes, reflecting the release of the ODR by our landlord and the transfer of the money to reduce the balance of our BlueHub loan by 50%. The motion was moved by Pam, and seconded by Bob. Vote passed unanimously.

Lauren informed the board of the status of the Race and Equity task force with a sub committee to ensure that the fiscal policies of the Foundation and its two schools consider using language that encourages good faith efforts of soliciting the business of Women and Minority Owned Business Enterprises. The task force came up with recommended language to include in our Fiscal Policies and Procedures.

Lauren requested a vote to update our Fiscal Policies and Procedures with the recommended language. Susan asked for a motion to approve the language in the dropbox regarding Minority and Women Owned Businesses. The motion was moved by Corey, and seconded by Leticia. Vote passed unanimously.

Corey requested a vote from the board to authorize the finance committee to engage in the facility process for the development of the K-5 School. The motion was moved by Leticia, and seconded by Pam. Vote passed unanimously.

Ben gave an update on our dashboard and noted the current cash balances. Ben also noted the reduction in our Bluehub loan & our status in paying down the loan to the Foundation.

Ben stated that our current enrollment is 652. Ben also noted that the school is in a healthy financial position.

Corey noted that we are on/ahead of schedule for our audit.

Principal's Report -Continued

Director of Operations Report - Latoya Hubbard

Latoya opened up the Operations report by giving an update on the current enrollment numbers with the final enrollment number being 652.

Latoya provided an update of our COVID Facilities updates and provided information on how the GO-BPT team maintenance and staff will be working to reduce the spread and ensure the building is as safe as possible for students and staff.

Latoya updated the board on Operations team staff updates. Ayanna Charles is moving into a position as an Executive Assistant to John Scalice & Board Liaison. Laura Nivia is joining our team as the Office Coordinator.

Latoya informed the board on Business After School Programs that will be offered to our students; CIC- CT Invention Convention Program- offered to all students; Intro to Real Estate- Offered to High School Seniors; and Technology Program(BeTechnology)- Offered to High School Students. Corey expressed concerns about the Intro to Real Estate Program, Bob noted that he understood Corey's concerns but also understood the benefits of the program. Latoya stated that someone from the program can possibly come and speak to the board.

Executive Director's Report - John Scalice

John informed the board on COVID-19 protocol and closure. John discussed how COVID-19 data is collected, reported and how the information is utilized in the school. John discussed how the decision to go remote in a timely fashion prevented a larger increase in COVID-19 cases within the school. He informed the board of our current relationship and communication with the Bridgeport Department of Health and the CSDE.

John gave an update to the board on the status of learning loss and recovery and how the school is utilizing SBAC numbers to learn from and assist the students, as well as how there has been a curriculum review and reallocation of SAVAAS licenses that the school already purchased. Learning Loss and Recovery After-school programs will begin October 18th, 2021. Our online after-school and homework help opportunities will begin October 25th, 2021. He also discussed how the school is supporting students with behavior and trauma associated with COVID. John noted the fellow and teacher shortages and the difficulty filling positions due to the climate post COVID-19.

John presented our September Teacher Spotlight to Jessica Lewis, Culture Lead, for organizing and coordinating our Hispanic & Latinx heritage month content that was added to our morning announcements.

Susan asked for a motion to move into Executive Session with all board members at 7:13pm including Josh, Michael & John. The motion was moved by Bob, and seconded by Corey. Vote passed unanimously.

Susan asked for a motion to move out of Executive Session and back into public session. Moved by Bob, seconded by Leticia. Vote passed unanimously.

Susan requested a motion authorizing the Board Chair to work with the School Leader on an employment matter as discussed in Executive Session. Moved by Bob, seconded by Leticia. Vote passed unanimously.

Susan requested a motion to approve the Executive Director's evaluation and goal setting for the upcoming school year, as discussed in Executive Session. Moved by Corey, seconded by Bob. Vote passed unanimously.

Susan requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Moved by Selena, seconded by Corey. Vote passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.