

*Great Oaks Bridgeport Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 12, 2022*

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

Guests:

Board Members Absent: Tiana Verner, Selena Morgan

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

Foundation Members Present: Ben Chan, Michael Duffy

Called to order at 5:21 pm by Susan Briggs

Review of Minutes from the December Meeting (Leticia Sepulveda)

Leticia asked the board to review the December meeting minutes. A motion was requested to approve the December meeting minutes pending recommended changes. The motion was moved by Bob, and seconded by Corey. Vote passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report - John Scalice

John opened the report by reporting the data from the bi-monthly update to the state by noting the attendance, discipline & academic performance of the school.

John stated that the updated COVID-19 Protocol was released on 12/31/21. These new guidelines will impact the day to day operations of schools and the ability to open based on new isolation requirements which will significantly impact attendance. The new procedures state that any vaccinated person experiencing any COVID related symptoms must isolate until able to test which will impact the day to day operations of the school and the ability of the school to open.

John went over how these protocols affected the schools reopening after winter break. The data that was collected from the health survey sent to staff, showed that 40% of the staff would have to isolate deeming the school unable to open. After reaching out to Rob Kelly the school was given guidance to remain closed. John noted that our school nurse picked up home testing kits. Of the test kits that were given out to staff and fellows that noted they were experiencing

symptoms only one was positive. Upon the receipt of a negative test you must be fever free for 24 hours and have significant improvement from their symptoms. These same policies apply to unvaccinated or partially vaccinated persons.

John informed the board of the update in GO-BPT's COVID-19 Protocol. The school has updated their protocol with a heavy significance on mask wearing where students will run the risk of accessing tutoring and LMS work only if they continuously violate mask protocol. There will be a daily health survey for teachers and students to make the data easier to manage. In the event that we are unable to staff our school due to symptomatic or positive results, we must notify the state after we announce the closure through an online form.

On December 31st, 2021, CSDE released new guidelines for schools regarding remote and distance learning. It stated that distance learning may not be used district wide without gubernatorial order, legislative action or permission from the State Department of Health. The guidance for students who have contracted or are isolating due to COVID-19 is that they may engage in remote learning as an attendance day. In unique circumstances students may be granted the opportunity to engage in remote learning through a PPT.

Test kits were distributed to the school through the Phase 1 plan of distribution. Schools were projected to receive enough kits for half of the combined population of staff and students meaning GO-BPT should have received 402 kits. The school received 100 kits.

John informed the Board on the outcome of the school's state visit. As a part of the renewal process, CSDE sent a team from the turn-around and charter office to visit Great Oaks. The team conducted a Special Education Audit, ELL Audit, Classroom Observation, Finance Audit, Board Meeting, Student Meeting, Teacher Meeting, Parent Meeting & an Administrative Meeting to ensure the correct processes are being followed at the school. John provided the board with a few quotes that were made during the visit from the CSDE with the positive feedback that GO-BPT received.

John informed the board of the Teacher Spotlight being our Exact Path Fellows: Noel Goodrich, Rilind Abazi, Jamila Douglas, and Kudra Kagabo for implementing our Exact Path program, analyzing data and helping the school start a new approach to integrating Fellows into the data work at Great Oaks Charter School.

Director of Operations Report - Latoya Hubbard

Latoya opened up her report by informing the board on the COVID-19 Self-Test Kit distribution. Access to these tests has changed the level of care that our nurse is able to provide to the

school community. The state gave specific distribution guidelines for the self-testing kits. The iHealth kits are to go home with students and the Flow Flex kits are for staff. The iHealth kits have multiple tests in the box so that other members of the family at home can test as well. The state is recommending that in the event that a class is experiencing multiple cases, that the kits be sent home to that entire classroom.

Latoya gave an update on the COVID 19 food distribution impact. The school has been experiencing shortages in food items due to supply chain & labor shortages. This is impacting student participation in the lunch program. The child nutrition program has extended the Summer Seamless Option which allows more options for students such as breakfast for lunch in an effort to increase student participation in the program. This option will also allow us to offer meals to families for curbside pickup if there is a school closing.

Latoya updated the board on the status of the Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC) after school program which was able to resume this year. This program kicked off in December and incorporates STEM and Entrepreneurship. Students are learning about how to invent, innovate and pitch to small businesses.

Finance Committee Report – Corey Sneed

Ben gave an update on our dashboard and noted the current cash balances. Ben noted that the loan to the Foundation is continuing to be paid down as well as the loan payable to Bluehub. We received confirmation that the school will be receiving a security grant to assist with paying down the Bluehub loan. Receipt of this grant will only accelerate the track that the school was already on to pay down the loan even faster. Ben noted that in terms of the operating support from the approval of the FY22 budget in June the school experienced a favorable shift due to Title 1, ESSER funds and meal support from the state. Based on that information and the schools enrollment of 652 students most of these are positive variances. Ben stated that payroll is on track and facilities have had an increase in depreciation due to the computers that have been purchased with grants received. The HVAC, Elevator & Janitorial contract plans will be fed into the FY23 Budget Plan.

Corey noted that with the FY22 Budget planning that the team was conservative and that no one would be aware that the per pupil would be adjusted and due to the conservative nature in approach to planning the budget, the revenues are still at or greater than budgeted for which is tremendous news. Ben gave an example that by converting the ODR from a Security account to pay down the Bluehub loan the school has reduced the interest rate.

Susan inquired if there was to be a vote on the amendment to the budget to which Corey responded not yet.

Susan requested a motion to amend and replace the Agenda item to state "Discussion/Possible action regarding draft response to landlord on lease issues and Discussion/ Consideration of related written communication protected by attorney client privilege." Corey moved, seconded by Bob. Vote passed unanimously.

Susan made a motion to go into Executive session to discuss a draft response to the landlord on lease issues to which the school has determined the public interest in withholding clearly outweighs its disclosure and to discuss and consider a related written communication protected by attorney client privilege. Corey moved, seconded by Bob. Vote passed unanimously. Susan invited the entire group into executive session.

Susan requested a motion to move back into the general session. Corey moved, seconded by Bob. Vote passed unanimously.

Susan requested a motion to authorize Corey to make a response to the landlord based upon the discussion that was just held in executive session. Bob moved, seconded by Leticia. Vote passed unanimously.

Governance Committee Report - Susan Briggs

Susan requested a vote to recognize the schools Executive Director John Scalice a one time stipend. Josh Thomases noted that the foundation fully supports this recognition. Pam and Leticia noted that this recognition is well deserved. Corey noted that from a financial standpoint what would have to be done is to submit a resolution for audit purposes and that Corey and Ben will discuss the line item and submit a request to cut the check. Susan requested a motion to offer a one time stipend to John Scalice in recognition of his extraordinary efforts. Corey moved, seconded by Leticia. Vote passed unanimously.

John extended a huge thank you to the board for the support that they give to him and the school.

Academic Committee Report - Pam Fraser Abder

Pam shared that in the coming months the committee will focus on college and career readiness by looking deeply into two questions: How are our students in Middle School and High School

progressing? & What pathways are we pursuing to provide options for those students to make sure that they get into their right pathway whether it is college or career?

Susan inquired if there was anything that needed to be presented by the foundation. To which Ben and Josh answered no.

Susan requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Corey, seconded by Leticia. Vote passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51pm