

*Great Oaks Bridgeport Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 9th, 2022*

Board Members Present: Susan Briggs, Corey Sneed, Leticia Sepulveda, Christopher McMillan, Bob Carlson

Guests: Diane Gordon, Benjamin Feit

Board Members Absent: Selena Morgan, Pamela Fraser-Abder

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

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

Called to order at 5:20 pm by Susan Briggs

Review of Minutes from the January Meeting (Leticia Sepulveda)

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

Susan introduced potential board member Diane Gordon. Members of the Board, Foundation and GO-BPT Staff introduced themselves. Susan asked for a motion to approve Diane Gordon as the Parent Representative on the Board. Corey moved, seconded by Bob. Vote passed unanimously.

Governance Committee Report - Susan Briggs

Susan went over the classes of the board and reviewed how the classes were currently divided. Susan requested a motion to add Christopher to Class 1, Dr. Morgan to Class 2 and Diane to Class 3. Corey made a motion to approve the slate as Susan stated. Seconded by Bob. Vote passed unanimously.

Susan noted that there are new board members needed and noted that she previously mentioned starting a nominating committee to find additional board members.

John stated the importance of creating a plan to have a sustainable board. John noted that it is important to make decisions and determinations about what the makeup of the board is and the importance of people that we want to recruit for the board and the areas of expertise and diverse input that they bring to the board.

Bob inquired about the nominating committee and what it would look like. Susan noted that she touched base with the lawyers as this is not a standing committee and stated that she would like to have 3 board members on the committee and open it to anyone else that would be willing to serve. Bob, Leticia, Christopher from the board volunteered as well as John and Latoya. Susan informed the committee to work with Ayanna to schedule a date and time to meet.

Bob inquired if Michael Duffy would be willing to be a starting point for finding new board members.

Susan requested a motion to create a nominating committee of 3 board members to serve as a special committee of the board of directors for the purpose of screening, interviewing and recommending candidates for positions on the board. Corey made a motion to approve. Seconded by Bob. Vote passed unanimously. Susan asked for a motion to appoint Bob, Leticia, Christopher from the board as well as John and Latoya from GOBPT. Corey moved to approve. Bob Seconded. Vote Passed unanimously.

Corey requested a motion to move the meeting to executive session. The motion was moved by Bob, and seconded by Leticia. Vote passed unanimously.

Susan informed our guest Benjamin Feit that he would be moved into the waiting room until the conclusion of executive session.

Susan requested a motion to move the Board out of executive session and back into public session. The motion was moved by Corey, and seconded by Bob. Vote passed unanimously.

Susan requested a motion to authorize our Treasurer Corey Sneed to finalize the draft lease amendment that was presented to the board in executive session and to sign the finalized lease amendment. The motion was moved by Bob, and seconded by Leticia. Vote passed unanimously.

Executive Director's Report - John Scalice

John noted that Albertha was supposed to present information on the new mental health

program that the school was awarded; however she is unable to attend this evening to discuss the grant that was received due to illness. John stated that Albertha will join the March Board meeting to discuss this program further.

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

Susan informed Michael Duffy about the nominating committee and Michael stated that he is delighted to join the committee.

John provided the Board with a mask mandate update. John noted that the two key dates are 2/15/2022 & 2/28/2022. John stated that the Governor's emergency powers expire on 2/15/2022 and that the CSDE has informed schools that an extension of those powers have been requested from the legislature with updates to be provided. The Governor has stated that he will remove the mask mandate as of 2/28/22 and that districts will decide next steps. However, Bridgeport Public schools has declared that schools will require masks to be worn.

John noted that at the present time, due to the high positivity rate, GOBPT will continue to keep the mask mandate in place. John noted that GOBPT will review procedures with the Department of Health, as advised by the CSDE, to discuss when it would be appropriate to make mask mandates optional for students and staff. GOBPT will keep the Board informed of any information and update the Board with action steps when conditions change.

Susan noted that should John need the Board for anything to let her know and the Board can call a special meeting if needed.

John gave the Teacher Spotlight to the Culture team and Mrs. Jessica Lewis for the work that she is leading on our Great Oaks Daily Dose- Black History Month, where each day, students are presented with facts of the day, an artist of the day song of the day and an introduction from one of our beloved staff or student community members discussing why Black History is important to them. John showed the Board a compilation video of the first week of daily dose.

Director of Operations Report - Latoya Hubbard

Latoya opened up the operations report by giving a facilities update. Latoya informed the board about the 2 security guards from Metro Guard Security that started upon return from winter break and gave a brief overview of what they have been doing. Latoya also gave an update on the emergency exit route & parking updates stating that the area of rescue change in location to

Pine Street due to construction and closed parking lot. The GOBPT Facilities team has ordered signs and cones to assist with the safe transition into the new area of rescue. Latoya also discussed how the closure of the tenant parking on Hancock Street Parking lot resulting in limited to no open street parking. Latoya stated that GOBPT has worked to make sure that all staff have parking passes which as a result has created an increase in ticketing and towing.

Latoya provided the Board with an enrollment update stating current enrollment numbers, finalization in target enrollment by grade as well as noting that the SY 22-23 Application launched January 18th, 2022. Latoya noted that the marketing campaign will kick off next week with the anticipation of the application number increasing over the next few weeks.

Latoya gave an update on the Child Nutrition Program informing the Board about the CSDE continuing to support schools and provide resources given the National supply chain shortage. The Northeast Regional Office (NERO) recently developed the Supply Chain Toolkit for Northeast School Meal Partners. The toolkit includes resources such as: memos with information about shortages and major closures so that schools can plan appropriately, information on how to make last minute substitutes for meals and a CSDE Survey that schools can fill out to report supply chain issues impacting operations.

Latoya highlighted the Great Oaks Charter Renewal Public Hearing that took place on Tuesday, January 25th. This year due to COVID the state took a blended approach including virtual and in person attendees. GOBPT had 35 speakers including CT State Representative Antonio Felipe, Members of the Dominican American Coalition, Alumni students from their college dorms, Current Students, Staff, Americorps Volunteers, Parents, and members of the Bridgeport Community. Latoya highlighted how wonderful all the presenters were and expressed gratitude for all of the speakers and the school operations team. Latoya gave a shout out to Dasean Willams for his statement during the renewal saying that “We need a 4-5 year renewal because I was promised a role as a tutor.” Latoya expressed that it was great to see one of our Alumni wanting to come back into our community and serve as a part of the amazing Americorps program.

Michael requested that Dasean’s contact information be sent to him so he can have Dasean be a part of the foundation recruitment team for the upcoming year.

Susan thanked Latoya, Ayanna and the entire operations team for all the work that they did and the efforts of all the speakers and that it was amazing to see.

Finance Committee Report – Corey Sneed

Ben gave an update on our dashboard and noted the current cash balances. Ben noted that GOBPT has been paying down the loan to the foundation given the strength of each month. Ben stated that the loan payable to BlueHub is remarkable according to the calculations in comparison to the reserve account.

Michael inquired if the amount included the pay down from the security grant proceeds. To which Ben replied that it did not include it as it has not been officially awarded and they are working on finalizing that number and that once those funds have been processed that it will go against this lowering the interest expense even further.

Ben stated that the school budget was based on 652 students as the enrollment number and that there was a reforecast and update that will be presented at the March meeting showing a healthy surplus at the end of the year.

Corey stated that the work on the loans and the schools financial position is a team effort and congratulating everyone on the prudence and stewardship and the foundations support. Corey stated that it is wonderful to see where the school is going and to be able to put more into our students and have more success stories like the students that were present at the GOBPT Public Charter Renewal.

Michael introduced Benjamin Feit and that he is looking into the idea of Charter Management Organizations particularly one's that support schools across multiple states. Benjamin expressed appreciation for the board allowing him to be an observer for the evening.

Michael noted that the State Board of Education is composed of volunteer members and one of the members Karen Dubois-Walton has expressed interest in coming to visit GOBPT. Michael noted that he will work with John to set up a date for Karen to come visit.

Susan noted that on April 6th, she, John and Michael will be going up in front of the State Department of Education.

Corey requested a motion to move the meeting to executive session to do the annual evaluation of the Great Oaks Foundation.

Susan requested a motion to move the board out of executive session and back into public session. The motion was moved by Corey, and seconded by Leticia. Vote passed unanimously.

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