

Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport
Governance Committee Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2022

In Attendance:

Committee Members Present: Corey Sneed (Treasurer) Bob Carlson

Committee Members Not Present:

GO-BPT Staff School Leadership: John Scalice (Executive Director), Latoya Hubbard (Director of Operations)

Foundation Members Present: Michael Duffy (President), Lauren Perkins (Chief Operating Officer)

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM by Bob Carlson

Overview of Discussion:

John Scalice opened the meeting by giving an update on the school opening. John shared that the school opening was phenomenal. He noted some new logistical changes including the High School's new department model. John also noted the start of teacher and admin observations, and shared that classrooms look great.

John provided an update on hiring and noted almost all open positions have been filled, and shared the diligence of the team in trying to secure certified staff.

John informed the committee about the planning being done around Teacher Career Pathway for students through a partnership with Post University. He shared the requirements for the program and noted several ideas that would support in offsetting college costs. He noted that he would share more details of the program at the board meeting including scholarship opportunities for students, potential employment opportunities for students following completion of the program, and opportunities for current High School students to earn college credits at no cost.

Bob asked a question about using grant dollars to cover the cost of the program and John noted wanting to be able to sustain the program if grant dollars were not available, which will be further discussed once all details are finalized.

John also shared that Dr. Caitlin Meyer met with Fairfield University and was able to secure a partnership through which Great Oaks will host 4 student teachers over the course of the 2022-2023 school year.

Latoya shared an update on school enrollment, and noted within the first week of school the Operations team was able to identify 30 students who would not be returning to Great Oaks shifting the school enrollment numbers from 661 to 630. Latoya shared that there are 30 offers extended to families and marketing efforts will continue through the remainder of the month. Some of those marketing efforts will include community canvassing, call banking, and social media marketing. Latoya will provide another update at the board meeting next week.

Latoya shared some transition within the school security team and shared that the school's contracted security company, Metroguard Security, is working diligently to replace the security team.

Corey asked if the school is able to access any resources through the State Emergency Portal, and Latoya shared that the team would explore that, but also shared the shortage of licensed and trained security professionals across the state.

Bob asked about additional structural security measures at the school, and John shared plans for quotes from several construction companies who will draw up plans to better secure the High School main office area and the High School first floor bathrooms. Lauren mentioned the potential to be able to use grant dollars for these projects to be further discussed.

Latoya also shared that she looked into Board on Track as suggested by former Board Chair Susan Briggs. Latoya shared that the program seemed more efficient than it was when the school previously used it several years ago, and shared that she would set up time to view a demo and report back to board once she has more details and information about the program.

Latoya also shared an issue with one of the boiler units which will need to be replaced, and a meeting that would be set up to further discuss the warranty on the unit and the cost for the work.

Michael Duffy shared that he would not be present at the next board meeting but shared that Lauren Perkins and Vanessa Ceas would be present. Michael also suggested that some time be placed on the calendar to do some long term planning with the foundation and the school.

Bob asked that given several transitions at the foundation, The Board should discuss John's annual review be done by the Board moving forward, to be further discussed by the Board at the next Board meeting.

The Governance Committee Meeting was adjourned at 5:07 pm.