Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport

GOBPT October Board Meeting

Published on October 10, 2025 at 1:49 PM EDT

Date and Time

Wednesday October 15, 2025 at 5:30 PM EDT

Location

375 Howard Ave. Bridgeport, CT or virtual.

Agenda

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
I.	**Opening Items**			**5:30 PM**
A.	Record Attendance & Begin Recording Meeting		Bob Carlson	2 m
B.	Call the Meeting to Order		Bob Carlson	1 m
C.	Approve Last Month's Board Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	Bob Carlson	1 m
	Approve minutes for GOBPT September Board Meeting on September 15, 2025			
II.	**Finance Committee**			**5:34 PM**
A.	Vendor Approvals	Vote	David Zieff	3 m
B.	Finance Committee Updates	FYI	Benjamin Chan	30 m

		Purpose	Presenter	Time
III.	**Governance Committee**			**6:07 PM**
A.	Chief Operating Officer's Report	FYI	Latoya Hubbard	10 m
B.	Chief Executive Officer's Report	FYI	John Scalice	10 m
IV.	**New Business**			**6:27 PM**
A.	New Business	FYI	Bob Carlson	2 m
V.	**Closing Items**			**6:29 PM**
A.	Adjourn Meeting	Vote	Bob Carlson	1 m

Attention: Times and Locations are subject to change.

Coversheet

Approve Last Month's Board Meeting Minutes

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: C. Approve Last Month's Board Meeting Minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material: Minutes for GOBPT September Board Meeting on September 15, 2025

APPROVED

Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport

Minutes

GOBPT September Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday September 15, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Location
375 Howard Ave. or virtually via Zoom.

Directors Present
Bea Bagley, Bob Carlson (remote), Daniel Luciano (remote), David Zieff, Matthew Nwosu (remote), Tenssie Ramsay

Directors Absent
Robert Traber

Guests Present
Benjamin Chan, Farah Martin, John Scalice, Latoya Hubbard

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance & Begin Recording Meeting

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Bob Carlson called a meeting of the board of directors of Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport to order on Monday Sep 15, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

C. Approve July Board Retreat Meeting Minutes

Bob Carlson made a motion to approve the minutes from GOBPT July Board Retreat on 07-22-25.
David Zieff seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Finance Committee

A. Vendor Approvals

No vendor approvals needed.

B. Finance Committee Updates

CFO, B. Chan went over dashboard.

As of the end of August 2025, we are 3.2M in the bank. to last us through the end of December. That is excluding any grants we can draw from until about the end of October. This is sufficient enough to last us till then.

David would like to compare budget to actual of FY25.

B. Chan reports the school tracked everything very closely. We ended year with the cashflow at about $230,000.

D. Zieff reports that as we go through Fiscal 26, we will see how much we can end the year with as surplus. Non-traditional fundraising might be something we can do.
In the beginning of the year B. Chan put together a budget of about 11.5M$, a lot of it was a wild card. At the end of the year we ended with about 800,000 of a difference. If we take 65% personal and 10% school operations and 20% to facility.

B. Chan went over State Reconciliation statement. B. Carlson shared that given the upside of any surpluses we come across, with our efforts regarding the classrooms to increasing our enrollment to 750, how much would that surplus be? J. Scalice mentioned that we will most likely be close to 450k.

When will our part of our audit process be done? J. Scalice reports that they are coming tomorrow and we are about a month ahead of schedule. If we keep doing what we are doing and meeting with them, we hope to be done by November. The deadline by the state is end of December. We loaded everything to the portal so we are looking good for now.

III. Governance Committee

A. Chief Operating Officer's Report

L. Hubbard went over enrollment updates for the board.

Unanticipated 9th-Grade Attrition (Aug–Sept)

- **36%** of 9th-grade students **withdrew** unexpectedly.
- **Preliminary destinations** (pending full data review):
  - District schools *(incl. New Bassick)*
  - Trade/CTE schools *(Bullard-Havens, Platt Tech)*
  - Private schools

As of today, we are at 641 students.

6th grade: 51 out of 70 seats filled (Compared to 43 out of 70 last year)
9th grade: 36% Attrition (Compared to 10% last year)
10th grade: 27% Attrition (Compared to 10% last year)

What are our recruitment efforts?

- Radio & Social Media
- Mass Mailing
- Robocalls
- Canvassing
- Open House

What's our 2 week plan?

- Call Banking
- Direct Mailing
- Canvassing at Parent Events
- Contacting Waitlisted Families

COO, L. Hubbard, went over Teacher Certification Updates:

- 2 uncertified returning staff
- 12 Uncertified New Staff
- 81% All Staff Certified

B. Chief Executive Officer's Report

CEO, J. Scalice, went over school updates.

Professional Development for summer focused on establishing strong routines within the classroom and promoting student engagement.

- Emphasis on Year 2 goals of collaborative student engagement
- Reduction of technology during instructional periods
- Increased student ownership of learning

New Cell Phone Policy:
Parent Communication:
Direct to parent principal communication and district communication over the summer; parent
and student info sessions; Parent updates
Replacements:
Activities opportunities in cafeteria (card and board games), and more opportunities for student discussions in class to reduce the desire to access phones
Consistency:

1. Verbal Warning
2. Device Removal
3. Additional infractions require a parent pick-up

Results:
Walk-through results (9/12)

- 0 cellphones observed in MS (100%)
- 3 Cellphones observed in HS (<1%)

Reducing Phone Time Through Increased Positive Student Climate and Culture

Reducing Chronic Absenteeism-
Increased Contact: Significant increases to daily contact through personnel contact instead of automated contacted has shown a decrease in Chronic Absenteeism from this point last year of 48%
Quicker Removal: Identifying “ghost” students through parental contact has reduced absenteeism and conflicts related to enrollment. This has reduced the overall number (currently being filled) but has increased the reliability of our numbers.

Attendance Plans:
Reducing “ghost” students allows us to place more emphasis on students who are enrolled to design actionable support plans.

Grading Policy:
Grading policy changes have placed more emphasis on student participation; equating to a higher demand on attendance

More Support:

The addition of a Social Worker focused on “Historically Absent” students has helped us align more direct support with the actual needs of students.

Calendar Updates:

Beginning October 1, 2025, the State of Connecticut will officially recognize Diwali (The Hindu Festival of Lights) as a State Holiday. This occurs on October 20, 2025.

In honor of our families, we have amended our calendar to reflect this State level change and will be closed.

We will open on Tuesday, November 4, 2025 (this year) to reclaim the day. Tuesday’s are half-days and will still provide staff with time to exercise their voting rights.

IV. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Carlson

Attention: Times and Locations are subject to change.

Coversheet

Vendor Approvals

Section: II. Finance Committee
Item: A. Vendor Approvals
Purpose: Vote
Submitted by:
Related Material: 2025-10 GO-BPT Dashboard.pdf

Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport
Financial Dashboard
10/15/2025 Meeting

Cash

	9/30/2025	8/31/2025	7/31/2025
Starting Cash Balance	3,241,412	2,428,194	2,318,857
Deposits	237,194	2,428,194	2,318,857
Ending Cash Balance - Chase Operating Account	2,566,717	3,241,412	1,948,991
Cash Burn/Month	911,889	1,135,773	818,895
Cash Balance to Burn Rate (months)	2.81	2.85	2.38
Cash Balance - Chase Food Account	5,129	9,198	86,507
Cash Balance - Chase Reserve Account	284,125	284,123	284,121
Total Cash Position:	**2,855,971**	**3,534,733**	**2,319,619**
Receivables from grants/SpEd		866,610	866,610

Key: Greater than 2 months in reserve
Between 1 and 2 months in reserve
Less than 1 month in reserve

Balance Sheet

	9/30/2025	8/31/2025	7/31/2025
Current Ratio (current assets to current liabilities)	2.06	2.06	2.24
Debt to Assets Ratio	-	-	-

Fundraising

	FY 26 Target	FY 26 Target
Capital/Building		
Operating Support		

Summary of Material Expense Variances

Enrollment	Budget 661	Actual	Delta
			+ is favorable
Description			
SpEd Funding	149,313	149,313	0
State Funding	2,456,519	2,415,471	(41,048)
Federal Funding	326,646	156,413	(170,233)
	2,932,478	**2,721,197**	**(211,281)**
Personnel - Salaries	1,679,091	1,538,665	(140,426)
Personnel - Payroll Taxes	86,462	77,518	(8,944)
Personnel - Benefits	185,647	176,736	(8,911)
Professional/Contracted	177,364	96,169	(81,195)
School Ops	242,622	253,247	10,625
Facilities	600,845	611,289	10,444
Tutor/Other	288,397	272,937	(15,460)
Sum of All Known Material Variances	**3,260,428**	**3,026,561** -	**233,867**