

Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport

GOBPT June Board Meeting

Published on June 11, 2026 at 11:58 AM EDT

Amended on June 15, 2026 at 11:00 AM EDT

Date and Time

Monday June 15, 2026 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 April, May's Board Meeting Minutes and June's Special Meeting Minutes	Approve Minutes	Bob Carlson	3 m
D. Public Comment	Discuss	Bob Carlson	2 m

We welcome members of the public to address the Board. This portion of the meeting allows the Board to hear comments and concerns from the community.

	Purpose	Presenter	Time
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In accordance with Board policy and standard meeting procedures:

- Each speaker is limited to **three minutes**.
- Speakers are asked to **state their name** for the record before beginning.
- Comments should be **directed to the Board Chair**.
- The Board will **not engage in dialogue or respond during public comment**, but will take remarks under advisement.

We ask that all speakers maintain a respectful tone and avoid discussion of confidential student or personnel matters.

The purpose of this section is for the Board to listen.

Members wishing to address the Board during public comments may do so by raising their hand in Zoom or indicating they wish to be recognized in the Chat feature.

II.	Finance Committee		5:38 PM
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|-----------|---------------------------|------|---------------|------|
| A. | Vendor Approvals | Vote | David Zieff | 5 m |
| B. | Finance Committee Updates | FYI | Benjamin Chan | 15 m |

III.	Governance Committee		5:58 PM
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|-----------|----------------------------------|-----|----------------|------|
| A. | Chief Operating Officer Report- | FYI | Latoya Hubbard | 10 m |
| B. | Chief Executive Officer's Report | FYI | John Scalice | 15 m |

IV.	New Business		6:23 PM
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|-----------|--------------|-----|-------------|-----|
| A. | New Business | FYI | Bob Carlson | 5 m |
|-----------|--------------|-----|-------------|-----|

- Graduation for GOBPT is on Thursday June 18th at the Klein Memorial Auditorium. Middle school graduation is at 12:00PM and High School graduation is at 5:00PM. Please let Farah know if you can attend one or both.
- Board retreat to be scheduled for the week of July 20th. Please send Farah your availability.

V.	Closing Items		6:28 PM
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| A. | Adjourn Meeting | Vote | Bob Carlson | 1 m |
|-----------|-----------------|------|-------------|-----|

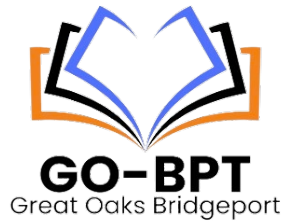
Attention: Times and Locations are subject to change.

Coversheet

Approve April, May's Board Meeting Minutes and June's Special Meeting Minutes

Section: I. Opening Items
Item: C. Approve April, May's Board Meeting Minutes and June's Special Meeting Minutes
Purpose: Approve Minutes
Submitted by:
Related Material: Minutes for GOBPT May Board Meeting on May 18, 2026
2026_06_05_gobpt_special_board_meeting_minutes-2.pdf
2026_04_20_board_meeting_minutes.pdf

APPROVED



Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport

Minutes

GOBPT May Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday May 18, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Location

375 Howard Ave. Bridgeport, CT or virtual

Directors Present

Bob Carlson (remote), Daniel Luciano (remote), David Zieff, Matthew Nwosu (remote)

Directors Absent

Bea Bagley, Marie Casper, Robert Traber, Tenssie Ramsay

Guests Present

Benjamin Chan, Farah Martin, John Scalice, Latoya Hubbard, Thomas Herrmann

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 May 18, 2026 at 5:31 PM.

C. Approve Last Month's Board Meeting Minutes

The Board was unable to approve the April 2026 board meeting minutes due to the absence of a quorum.

D. Public Comment

B. Carlson, Board Chair, read through the public comment. There is no public comment made at this time.

II. Finance Committee

A. Vendor Approvals

No vendor approvals.

B. Finance Committee Updates

Cash position is adequate throughout the school year.

End of April Update:

- We received a 4th quarter per pupil payments. After paying some bills the ending balance is 1.2M
- Food account is low because we are waiting for March food revenue to come in.
- The reserve account is 284,000 and the total amount of cash on hand is 1,559,000.

Fundraising- D. Zief and F. Martin are working on this. The 94,000 is from the Barr Grant.

- D. Luciano, board members and teacher representative asked the finance committee and CFO, does the awarding of grants, we play catch up a lot depending on when we receive the funds. Does that play a role on the ratio of where it is and timeliness or when it gets awarded? CFO, B. Chan states we have to be sure of the revenue before we can book it. If it's not in the system then we can't say we have it. We are almost always a quarter behind on Sped funding, food spending so we always have to be mindful.

Budget to Actual

- B. Chan reports we are where we expect to be. We are in a negative number because of outflow of afterschool stipends but it should clear up by the next board meeting.
- Salaries are a little higher compared to last month. B. Chan reports he will look into that.

III. Governance Committee

A. Chief Operating Officer Report-

L. Hubbard, COO, went over the report with our board members.

Enrollment:

We ran our lottery in April. Currently Grades 6 and 7 have open seats. All other grades are at 0 open seats. We expect this to change as the year comes to an end.

Food Service Vendor Review & RFP Exploration-
Ongoing concerns with current vendor:

- Inconsistent service quality
- Limited diversity in meal options
- Late deliveries impacting service
- Frequent last-minute menu changes
- Inability to consistently provide CSDE-approved snack menu

Exploring formal RFP process to identify stronger vendor partnership : Whitson's, Sysco, and Thurston.

- Key operational consideration:
 1. No full kitchen on-site
 2. Requires vendor capable of providing high-quality, pre-cooked meals
- Priority moving forward:
 1. Reliable delivery
 2. Menu variety and student appeal
 3. Full compliance with CSDE requirements

B. Chief Executive Officer's Report

B. Carlson introduced Thomas Herrmann. All board members present as well as Executive team introduced themselves.

CEO, J. Scalice went over report with the board of directors.

Personnel Budget:

Drivers to increase- Personnel Side

Healthcare - \$150,000 increase

Federal Funding- Potential flat and removal of funding streams estimated at \$85,000 in revenue loss.

Adjustment to Fringe- A move from a 17% calculation to an 18% calculation

No change to Funding Formula- Funding formula remains unchanged - \$11,525 per pupil and only 56.7% of weighted funding

Drivers to increase - Response

Natural Attrition- Reduction of costs through non-posting and reduced need due to longevity

Restructuring- Internalizing some contracted positions to internal positions, saving funding

Supplemental- CT State Legislative Funding as a one time increase

Conservative Approach- Consistently conservative approach to non-instructional positions

Initial Budget Deficit- \$177,934

Supplemental Funding-

- Unknown Amount for Charter Schools
 - Non-disclosure of potential amount planned
 - Distributed no later than June 30th 2027
-
- CT Finance Project predicts 517,475 - \$536,732
 - Strong metric for prediction
 - Ongoing discussion related to disbursement timeline

Operating Capital- \$323,066

Historical Perspective - Per Pupil Impact

Historical- After Grant Allocations, typical remaining per-pupil amount sits between 3.0 million and 3.1 millions

Current Budget- After Grant Allocation, our projected budget remaining per-pupil sits between 3.3 and 3.4 million

What's impacting the range?

Final Fringe- The final Fringe Benefit calculation changes the amount on the per-pupil by approximately 70-80K

Applied Funds- Great Oaks, after discussion with the Finance Chair, has allocated a smaller than projected amount of the Supplemental Funding (501,000)

Final Hiring- Final Hiring could impact the budget by small increments up or down (between 50-100K) based on experience of teachers and shortage areas

The Real Cost...No Change to Funding

ECS Weighted Funding Part 1:

MLL, Title I, and Concentrated Poverty numbers are used to calculate a more “realistic” picture of the schools population

ECS Weighted Funding Part 2

Our 2025-26 population of 661 students is considered 881 students because of need, creating funding for 881 students.

ECS Weighted Funding Part 3

Charter schools only receive 56.7% of the new calculation (traditional districts are at 100%) - Resulting in a loss of over \$1,000,000 in revenue

Update:

Pending a quorum and full board approval, the Finance Committee has given initial approval under the emergency provision for the personnel side of the 2026-27 budget due to the need to send out offer letters.

Teach for America - Partnership

Great Oaks Charter School is entering into a three year agreement with Teach For America for 5 or more teachers annually.

The cost of each certified teacher through this program is between \$53-58K, an approximate \$7K over open market savings.

In addition to nearly \$35K savings per year (not calculated in this budget), Great Oaks also completes a three-tiered certification incubation program for incoming personnel through Fellows, Residency, and now Certified Teaching status opening more opportunities for grant funding and donations.

IV. New Business

A. New Business

Graduation is on June 18th, 2026 at the Klein Memorial Auditorium. Details will be sent via email from Farah.

Board retreat possibly week of July 19th.

V. Closing Items

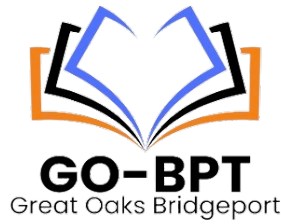
A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Carlson

Attention: Times and Locations are subject to change.

DRAFT



Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport

Minutes

GOBPT Special Board Meeting

Date and Time

Friday June 5, 2026 at 11:00 AM

Location

This meeting is virtual.

Directors Present

Bob Carlson (remote), Daniel Luciano (remote), David Zieff (remote), Matthew Nwosu (remote), Tenssie Ramsay (remote)

Directors Absent

Bea Bagley, Marie Casper, Robert Traber

Guests Present

Benjamin Chan (remote), Farah Martin (remote), John Scalice (remote), Latoya Hubbard (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Bob Carlson called a meeting to order on Friday Jun 5, 2026 at 11:10 AM.

C. HFC Statement

L. Hubbard, COO, reviewed the HFC statement as required by the CSDE for the upcoming school year 2026-2027.

Matthew Nwosu made a motion to approve the annual Healthy Food Certification (HFC) statement as required by CSDE for the 2026 - 2027 school year.

The board voted unanimously to approve the motion made by board member Matthew Nwosu Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, Great Oaks Charter School certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

The board voted unanimously to approve the motion made by Matthew Nwosu Great Oaks Charter School will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

D. Amendment to Board Composition

B. Carlson, Board Chair, discussed board composition with the board of directors. Bob Carlson made a motion to make an amendment to our bylaws and increase the size of the board composition from the present seven up to nine members in order to broaden our representation, expertise, diversity, perspectives to support the continued growth the governance needs of the organization.

Tensie Ramsay seconded the motion.

The team **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Reminders

Board Chair, B. Carlson, discussed upcoming events with the board of directors such as graduation on the 18th and our June Board meeting on June 15th.

II. 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 11:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Carlson

DRAFT



Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport

Minutes

GOBPT April Board Meeting

Date and Time

Monday April 20, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Location

375 Howard Ave. Bridgeport, CT or virtual.

Directors Present

Bob Carlson (remote), Daniel Luciano (remote), David Zieff, Marie Casper, Matthew Nwosu (remote), Tenssie Ramsay (remote)

Directors Absent

Bea Bagley, Robert Traber

Guests Present

Benjamin Chan, Farah Martin, John Scalice, Latoya Hubbard (remote)

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 Apr 20, 2026 at 5:39 PM.

C. Approve Last Month's Board Meeting Minutes

Daniel Luciano made a motion to approve the minutes from GOBPT March Board Meeting on 03-16-26.

Marie Casper seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Finance Committee

A. Finance Committee Updates

D. Zieff states we should be on track to break even.

The column that says End of March is where we stand, 176,000 it's low but it is the end of the quarter. In beginning of April we have been funded for the last few months.

The food account is at 7,000 and reserve account was on 284,000. We had a lot of receivables that we hadn't collected yet but those came in right after March with a total of 343,000 and we have SpEd funding of 145,000 and School meal is coming in with a total of 172,000.

As of today we are at 1,808,692 in the operating account. The food account is 7,335 and the reserves account is at 284,140. Our total cash on hand is at 2,100,167.

B. Chan went over fundraising and material expenses. The facilities are higher because we have two full security staff which is 40 Hours a week times 2 people. We have installed new cameras and phone lines so things are higher.

The bottom line is that everything is in line at the moment and things should fall as predicted.

Budget- B. Carlson asked for B. Chan to go over the good and the bad with the budget. B. Chan reports we have DRIP. CT has realized that there is no funding for repairs. With DRIP we will be getting 75,000 this year and next year. This is a big benefit to the school. We should get those funds by end of May.

B. Vendor Approvals

3 new vendors as a slate.

1. Partners for Educational Leadership- part of Commissioners Network
2. Custom Ink- staff appreciation
3. Perkins Eastman- Architectural plans

David Zieff made a motion to approve a slate of vendors which include Partners for Educational Leadership, Custom Ink and Perkins Eastman.

Marie Casper seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Governance Committee

A. Chief Operating Officer Report-

COO, L. Hubbard went over COO report with our board of directors.

- **100% Certification as of March of 2027**

- Retention
- Recruitment Collaboration
- HR Streamlined Process
- CSDE Partnership

- **Preparation for 2026-2027 School Year**

- Intent to Return Survey (Over 90% plan to return next year)
- Returning staff on temp licenses, paperwork due by the end of May
- 8-10% New Staff Next Year - certified or offer contingent on paperwork

- **Goals**

- All returning staff certified by August 15th
- All New Staff Certified by November 15th

Today, we successfully hosted our **2026–2027 student application lottery**.

- We accepted **129 new students** across **grades 6–11**.
- Following the lottery and placement process, **grades 8–11 are now fully enrolled**.
- We currently have **remaining openings only in grades 6 and 7**.

Year-over-Year Comparison:

Compared to last year, we are in a similar position at this point in the enrollment cycle, particularly in our upper grades, which are now fully enrolled following the lottery.

This reflects continued demand for our program and positions us well heading into the new school year, with a focus on filling remaining seats in grades 6 and 7.

B. Chief Executive Officer's Report

J. Scalice went over CEO report with our board members.

Update on potential grant funding and partnership opportunities with CT AmeriCorps State Grant , Teach for America.

CT AmeriCorps State Grant Opportunity:

Great Oaks submitted an application for the *Bridgeport Fellowship Corps for Academic Success* on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, meeting the required timelines and submitted documentation. Special thanks to Ben and Brian for their assistance with this application.

Summary

The Fellowship Corps will provide Corps members with hands-on training in the field of education through civic engagement and skill development by providing high-dosage tutoring to students directly.

Award Impact - \$352,000

Teach for America:

Potential Partnership

Great Oaks is currently in discussion with both TFA Connecticut and National TFA members for two opportunities:

- Using TFA CT to fill projected vacancies with certified teachers who are part of the Teach For America program
- Using Great Oaks as an intensive training site to support the New England area TFA training over the summer

What is Teach for America (TFA)

TFA is an AmeriCorps program that recruits college graduates looking to go directly into a teaching career. TFA provides a hands-on summer intensive program (through summer school teaching) to get candidates ready to teach full time for the upcoming fall. TFA members must pass their certification exams *before* their summer intensive and receive a "Resident Teacher Certification" from CSDE.

Why TFA for Great Oaks?

Completion of Our Teacher Incubator Program

The addition of Teach For America (TFA) allows Great Oaks to fully operationalize a three-tier teacher development pipeline, creating clear entry points for candidates at different stages of readiness.

Fellowship

Residency

Teach for America

Together, these pathways form a cohesive system: **Explore - Engage - Immerse**

Teacher Pipeline- Fellowship (Explore) - Our existing Fellowship program serves as the entry point into the profession: *Low-risk, high-support exposure to teaching*

- Provides hands-on experience through tutoring and small-group instruction
- Includes structured training and coaching
- Allows participants to determine interest in pursuing a career in education

Residency (Engage) - Our Residency program is designed for candidates committed to teaching, but not yet ready to lead a classroom independently: Build skill, confidence, and certification readiness

- Two-year model aligned to a Master's degree pathway
- Mirrors high-quality student teaching/residency programs
- Emphasizes gradual release, coaching, and instructional development

TFA Corps Member (Immerse) - Partnership with Teach For America adds a pathway for candidates ready to lead immediately: Immediate impact with structured external support

- Full-time classroom teaching role
- Access to TFA coaching, professional network, and AmeriCorps benefits
- Additional pipeline for high-quality, mission-aligned educators

Why This Matters

- Serves candidates from exploration to full classroom leadership
- Meets candidates where they are, rather than forcing a single entry point
- Internal development and external support systems
- Builds our own talent while leveraging national partnerships

There is a delay to the Budget Presentation-

- Federal Impact- Potential reduction of Federal Funding due to consolidation of grant programs. **Potential Impact -\$85,000**
- Healthcare Costs- Changes from our underwriter based on population served resulting in overall increases to expenditure. **Actual Impact -\$154,000**
- Considerations- Reduction of \$250,000 in spending with minimal to no impact on student experience

Areas most likely impacted:

- Teacher support (Coaching)
- Non-Classroom Student Support aligned to grant reduction
- Non-Essential programs - non 21-CC afterschool programs

Renewal Steps-

Filing and Data Collection: CSDE filing completed under due dates assigned (typically in May), SBAC data collection and Board Presentation, Board Data (survey through Mind Trust)

Availability: Dates of visits, public hearings, and renewal hearing will be shared in advance with Board Members with urgency to attend.

B. Carlson asked for the board to keep dates in mind and the support helps.

Expansion Details: What is currently happening?

Design- Creation of four (4) classroom spaces and additional office space using existing square footage

Construction- Two-Stage Plan: 2026 summer - room construction on floors 2 and 3; 2027 removal of lockers from floor 2

Financial Impact- Increase student population at the HS by 75 students grossing 1.1 mil in additional revenue

Restructuring- 2027 - 2028 school year. MS moves to 3rd floor, HS moves to floors 1 and 2 creating a cohesive flow and distinct separation of programs

Immediate Finance- Self-funded reducing long-term debt exposure and requiring a 51 student increase in year 1 to recoup all costs

Year Over Year- At no-debt service, this expansion nets approximately \$720,000 direct to student service programs and long-term projects for 4 years.

IV. New Business

A. New Business

No new business.

V. 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 6:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Carlson

Attention: Times and Locations are subject to change.

Coversheet

Finance Committee Updates

Section: II. Finance Committee
Item: B. Finance Committee Updates
Purpose: FYI
Submitted by:
Related Material: 2026-05 GO-BPT Dashboard.pdf

Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport
Financial Dashboard
 6/15/26 Meeting

Cash	5/31/2026	4/30/2026	3/31/2026
Starting Cash Balance	1,274,051	176,421	771,868
Deposits	340,302	2,581,829	321,473
Ending Cash Balance - Chase Operating Account	698,559	1,274,051	176,421
Cash Burn/Month	915,794	1,484,199	916,920
Cash Balance to Burn Rate (months)	0.76	0.86	0.19
Cash Balance - Chase Food Account	3,700	806	7,335
Cash Balance - Chase Reserve Account	284,951	284,144	284,140
Total Cash Position:	987,210	1,559,001	467,896
Key Receivables:			
Bridgeport District - SpEd:	\$ 145,125		
Commissioner's Network	\$ 369,258		
	\$ 514,383		
Key:	 Greater than 2 months in reserve		
	 Between 1 and 2 months in reserve		
	 Less than 1 month in reserve		

Balance Sheet	5/31/2026	4/30/2026	3/31/2026
Current Ratio (current assets to current liabilities)	1.17	1.01	1.26
Debt to Assets Ratio			

Fundraising	Budget	Actual	Delta
Barr/Spinelli/Zieff	119,000	94,000	(25,000)

Summary of Material Expense Variances	Budget	Actual	Delta
Enrollment	661	661	
Description			
SpEd Funding	547,479	549,210	(1,731)
State Funding	8,915,571	9,084,230	(168,659)
Federal Funding	1,331,382	1,178,905	152,477
Private Funding	109,083	133,939	(24,856)
	10,903,515	10,946,284	(42,769)
Personnel - Salaries	6,149,259	6,332,578	(183,319)
Personnel - Payroll Taxes	324,435	350,963	(26,528)
Personnel - Benefits	680,707	670,009	10,698
Professional/Contracted	650,336	655,435	(5,099)
School Ops	889,613	901,947	(12,334)
Facility Support	864,594	929,367	(64,773)
Rent	1,338,502	1,368,368	(29,866)
Subtotal	10,897,446	11,208,667	(311,221)

DRIP, Security grants
 Missing \$259k 21st Century
 Missing \$259k 21st Century
 After school stipends
 Insurance , security & phone lines
 ROU adjustment to actual rent