

APPROVED



Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday May 10, 2017 at 5:15 PM

Location

Great Oaks Charter School; 510 Barnum Ave (2nd Floor Conference Room)

The Board of Directors of the Great Oaks Charter School of Bridgeport will hold its May board meeting on the 2nd floor of the school at 510 Barnum Ave at 5:15 on Wednesday, May 10, 2017

Directors Present

Amy Marshall, Dexter Upshaw (remote), Ed Farrow, Pamela Fraser-Abder (remote), Susan Briggs (remote), Tamara Smith

Directors Absent

Leticia Sepulveda, Wade Eyerly

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened

Amy Marshall

Directors who left before the meeting adjourned

Dexter Upshaw, Pamela Fraser-Abder, Susan Briggs

Guests Present

Christine English, Michael Duffy, Michael McGregor, Monica Maccera Filppu, Rashaun Reid, Rick Iandoli, Shana Hurley

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Ed Farrow called a meeting of the board of directors of Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport to order on Wednesday May 10, 2017 at 5:28 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

Dexter Upshaw made a motion to approve minutes from the Board Meeting on 04-05-17. Board Meeting on 04-05-17.

Susan Briggs seconded the motion.

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

II. Report from the Executive Director

A. Dashboard Review

Executive Director M. Maccera provided updates on the data dashboard. Several Tutor Corps Members who have completed hours have been moving on to their next assignments. As the school approaches the end of the year, the Smarter Balanced Assessment has started this week. GO-BPT staff is piloting a new testing schedule in which students are losing about three days per student of instructional time in total. In addition, there is a new structure for the Culture Team with a Dean at each grade level.

B. Update on state funding and seat allocation landscape

Executive Director M. Maccera, Director of Operations and three GO eighth graders attended Charter Awareness Day at the State Capitol. There are several outstanding questions about funding for grade growth, per-pupil funding and funds for the charter school facilities grant program. The state is likely to start the fiscal year without an approved budget; Great Oaks will have to adopt a budget without knowing about grade growth. The Connecticut State Department of Education Charter School Program Office is providing on-going guidance.

Amy Marshall arrived.

C. Review Community Eligibility Provision Authorization

Amy Marshall made a motion to continue participating in the Federal Free and Reduced Price Lunch Program's Community Eligibility Provision program.

Tamara Smith seconded the motion.

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

Tamara Smith made a motion to decline participation in the Healthy Food Certification program.

Pamela Fraser-Abder seconded the motion.

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

D. Review of 2017-2018 school calendar

M. Maccera presented a draft school calendar for 2017-2018. Great Oaks will start four days before the host district, Bridgeport Public Schools, and continue to maintain the same holidays.

Pamela Fraser-Abder made a motion to approve the 2017-2017 school calendar with corrections of typographic errors.

Amy Marshall seconded the motion.

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

III. Governance and Policy

A. Planning for FY 18

The board discussed prospective dates for the 2017-2018 school year and placed a hold for the board retreat on August 3, 2017.

Susan Briggs left.

IV. Academic Excellence

A. Report from the Academic Committee

Academic Committee Chair P. Fraser-Abder shared an update from the Academic Committee. The Academic Committee will meet in May to support the leadership transition of Great Oaks Bridgeport.

Dexter Upshaw left.

V. Facilities and Finance

A. Finance Committee Report on April Financials

Director of Finance R. landoli reminded the board plans to review the 2017-2018 budget at the June meeting. He also shared that AmeriCorps has funded equal number of Tutor Corps Members for the coming year. There are outstanding grant requests to support operating expenses, including a federal Charter Schools Program Grant that could provide \$170,000 for start up and expansion-related expenses. After receipt of the final per-pupil funding installment, the April cash position was very strong. Given the uncertainty about the state's fiscal landscape, the Great Oaks Foundation will be willing to be flexible about accepting its management fee.

B.

Facilities Update

Chief Operating Officer M. McGregor provided an update on the ninth grade wing. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of June and under budget. There continues to be challenges with financing for the long-term space. We continue to expect that the long-term facility will open for the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

VI. Development

A. Development Report

Pamela Fraser-Abder left.

Chief Operating Officer M. McGregor shared an update about development. In addition to two philanthropic foundation grant applications, the Great Oaks Foundation has also submitted the grant for charter school facilities fund. The Foundation is also considering the prospect of a School Improvement Grant application. Member A. Marshall shared insights from her experience working with the State Department of Education in the two SIG grant programs. Discussion ensued.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Amy Marshall made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Tamara Smith seconded the motion.

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ed Farrow