



Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport

Minutes

GOBPT October Monthly Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday October 11, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Location

Great Oaks Charter School
375 Howard Ave
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Directors Present

Bob Carlson, Corey Sneed (remote), David Zieff, Matthew Nwosu (remote), Tenssie Ramsay

Directors Absent

Bea Bagley, Eva Vega, Selena Morgan

Guests Present

Benjamin Chan, Farah Martin, John Scalice, Kay-Ann Hewell-Walker, Latoya Hubbard,
Samantha Daley

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance & Begin Recording Meeting (if remote participants are present)

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 Wednesday Oct 11, 2023 at 5:45 PM.

C. Approve September meeting Minutes

Bob Carlson made a motion to approve the minutes from GOBPT September Monthly Board Meeting on 09-13-23.

David Zieff seconded the motion.

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

II. Governance Committee

A. Executive Director's Report

J. Scalice shared founding regarding AI in schools. He shared concerns like using Artificial Intelligence (AI) reduces student learning, student use of AI is widespread and is creating major issues with cheating and a few others but there are also important facts. The reality is that using AI can enhance learning by providing guides, also knowing students and work products can eliminate the opportunity for cheating.

J. Scalice stated AI should be used as a tool for citation, research and fact checking. Another way it can be used is by enhancing learning and lesson planning. Recent success with AI during a Professional development day for staff and were encouraged to develop small group instructions using specific prompts to help ask deeper thinking questions, task complexity and promote student discussion.

D. Zieff asked if this is more popular with Middle School or High School students. J. Scalice stated that middle schoolers actually want to do more AI. Older high school students don't want to rely on technology so much.

J. Scalice invited K. Hewell-Walker- Director of Curriculum for STEM and Samantha Daley- Instructional Coach at the school to speak about MidSchool Math Curriculum including the productive struggle, math language development, student collaboration and story telling.

S. Daley shared that there is more interactive lessons, a blend of digital and print materials for students. There are also math simulators which provides an immersive experience for students to practice defining variables and creating problem-solving strategies. Mid School Math enables students to engage in a math problem within its context, explore data and understand the purpose.

S. Daley shared 90 minute Instructional Framework and the 4 day schedule. S. Daley discussed how students use the schedule.

B. Carlson asked, What's your impression of student engagement with this model? S. Daley stated that students have been more engaged from the last year. S. Daley and K. Hewell-Walker stated that they used the data from the previous year to figure out what to do this year.

H. Hewell-Walker also discussed HS Illustrative Math curriculum. This is a problem-based curriculum. This includes an pre and post assessment to see where our students are. There is also a lot of support for MLL students.

K. Hewell-Walker discussed Framework and schedule for students. D. Zieff asked how quickly teachers get used to a rigid curriculum? K. Hewell-Walker stated it is not an issue because of the support that coaches provide to teachers each week including in class support, agendas and powerpoint presentations.

B. Director of Operations Report

L. Hubbard stated NUpower and Cherry Street Partners have agreed to give us a 10% off discount. The condition is that the school originates an energy conservation plan.

- C. Sneed asked what kind of investment they would be willing to make in the implementation of the plan. L. Hubbard stated she will make a note to ask them for next time they meet. D. Zieff asked if they are interested in a cost sharing.

L. Hubbard gave a tech update.

- All staff, students, fellows, and board members now have a new email address.
- Our New School Website is scheduled to launch by the last week in October! www.gobpt.org
- Parent App for phones will be available to families by November 1st.

L. Hubbard stated our final enrollment number is 664. We were able to offer seats to our partners from the CIRI program which helped us get the number we needed.

L. Hubbard also stated the school has hired a new HR Generalist, RYANNE DAVIS. The school has also hired a new Middle School Office Coordinator, Mariela Cipriano.

Last Friday the school was able to take students to the National debate by the NAACP. Students were engaged and excited about the trip.

III. Finance Committee

A.

Finance Committee Updates

B. Chan discussed financial reviews.

- As of end of September the school has 2.7M in the bank.
- Per pupil increase will make up for the loss of the ESSER funding.
- We have nearly completed the audit; everything has been submitted.
- By middle to end of October, Trinet will be submitting the employee retention credit to the IRS in the amount of 288,000
- B. Chan also discussed creating an Interest Bearing Account so we can earn some interest.

B. Carlson welcomed B. Chan officially to the school.

B. Vendor Approvals

C. Sneed shared he was authorized to make a decision for new PEO last board meeting. C. Sneed stated it is in our best interest to move forward with ADP Total Source. We did ask that they make a commitment based on their service level, they will send an email to L. Hubbard.

Tenssie Ramsay made a motion to Have ADP TotalSource be the PEO, payroll and benefits provider to the school.

David Zieff seconded the motion.

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

Tenssie Ramsay made a motion to Approve Corey Sneed, Board Treasurer to sign engagement with ADP Total Source.

David Zieff seconded the motion.

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

IV. Other Business

A. New Business

No new business.

B. Development/fundraiser Search Update

B. Carlson stated he wants all board members to keep this in their radar so we can begin discussing fundraising.

V. Executive Session

A. Vote to enter Executive Session

No executive session held this month.

VI. Closing Items

A.

Adjourn Meeting

Corey Sneed made a motion to End Board session.

Tenssie Ramsay 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 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bob Carlson

To be amended per Governance Committee