

APPROVED



Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport

Minutes

GOBPT January Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday January 15, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Location

375 Howard Ave.
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Directors Present

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

Directors Absent

Corey Sneed, Eva Vega, Robert Traber

Guests Present

Farah Martin

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 Wednesday Jan 15, 2025 at 5:33 PM.

C.

Approve Last Month's Meeting Minutes

Daniel Luciano made a motion to approve the minutes from GOBPT December Board Meeting on 12-11-24.

Tenssie Ramsay seconded the motion.

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

II. Finance Committee

A. Finance Committee Updates

CFO discussed new Education Cost Sharing:

There is an 11% per pupil rate increase from last year. This is for MLL students, FRPL students and we are treated as a school for 877.61 weighted enrollment. B. Carlson discussed for future budgeting, we have to be careful not to budget more than we really have.

B. Chan, CFO, went over dashboard.

Finance position for the school is healthy.

At the end of December that the cash balance is 3.362 million dollars and the chase bank account was 18,000 and the reserve account was at 288,322. Total was 2,668,911.

Payroll is very well managed. While the new per pupil rate has strengthened revenues, expenses continue to be carefully managed. A new forecast is being prepared.

B. Vendor Approvals

No new vendor approvals.

III. Governance Committee

A. Chief Operating Officer's Report

COO, L. Hubbard, went over Report.

Enrollment Updates:

- We have opened up our application system on December 1st compared to February 1st like last year. As of today, we have 57 applications that we have received. Our 9th grade we have 22 applications. Our lottery date will take place on April 10th, 2025.
- Marketing: is the same as years in the past. For example, automated robo calls, postcard mailing, community outreach and social media reach.

Facilities Updates:

- L. Hubbard and J. Scalice went to a meeting with other Charter School leaders and Bridgeport PD. They informed us that Railroad Ave will now be getting high tech cameras, license plate readers and lighting around the school area. In addition, the building owners created handicap accessible parking. D. Zieff asked if the staff is affected, and HR is being involved. L. Hubbard did confirm that staff have been affected by the car break ins around the school.
- L. Hubbard is pleased to share that our utilities usage has gone down 15%. Our new facilities manager, Robert Litwin, has been extremely helpful to the school and has been working with our vendors.
- School cafeteria had debris coming down from the ceiling. It is about \$17,000 and Gary has spoken to COO. According to our lease agreement, building owner is responsible for the cost.

School Update:

- Winter Essentials Drive for our students. We have been collecting new and gently used coats, scarfs and new hats. We have gotten a huge donation since Monday and we will open up to our families on February 6th.

High School Presentation:

HS Principal, Mr. Christopher Pellegrino, went over High School updates.

- Through our partnership with Post University we have been able to add new classes. These classes are Intro to Law, Intro to Communications, Principles of Sociology.
- We have increased college experiences
- College Immersion Experience with the help of the Barr Foundation our students are able to

We have also had recent college acceptances for our seniors that we are so proud of! Some of the colleges are Penn State, Princeton University, Temple University, University of New Haven, University of Boston and more.

Some culture updates are that HS suspension rate is Suspension Rate is 3.40%, in December we had an Attendance Incentive which we saw 55% increase of students with 90% attendance or higher November to December. As for our staff retention, we saw 92% retention.

What's next for HS?

1. Pathway Launch
2. Increased Leadership Opportunities for Staff & Students
3. Launch Semester 2 & Revamp Advisory period.

Middle School Presentation:

MS Principal, Mrs. Denise Linares, went over Middle School updates.

1. Increased Educational Experiences Outside of School

Each grade provided budget through CN Funds to plan an educational trip

- Grade 6 - Peabody Museum
- Grade 7 - Hartford Science Center
- Grade 8 - Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island

2. Intentional Partnership

- Coaches and culture team members developing plans of support for teachers in need
- Operations and admin mapping out priorities and events for year. Monthly meetings to monitor progress.
- Counseling and culture team creating vision for student leadership opportunities and executing the plan

3. Student Attendance.

- Year to Date = 86.3% Average Daily Attendance

What's next for MS?

- Fully Staffed as of January 7th
- Restructuring schedule to split intervention period and have more target focus and grouping during timeblock
- Winter Diagnostic Data Analysis
- Focus on decreasing disruptive behavior in the classroom with explicit plan
- Culminating Events

B. Chief Executive Officer's Report

CEO, J. Scalice, went over CEO report for the month.

There is an After School update funded by 21st century grant, Title 1 grant, Mental Health grant, CN grant and our Barr grant.

HS:

- Credit Recovery in lieu of Summer School
- Leadership and Club opportunities like yoga and meditation

- Additional College Credit opportunities
- Tutoring services available

MS:

- ELA/Math Aligned Curriculum alternating Weeks
- Clubs (Basketball Team, Dance, Soccer, Leadership)
- Tutoring services available

Full Student Service:

Our After-School programs are fully staffed with:

- Certified Teachers
- AmeriCorps Fellows
- Social Workers and School Counselors
- Student Support Staff
- Diverse Learning Staff (Special Education and Multi-Language Learners)
- Guest Speakers and Career/College Meet and Greet
- Parent data reports and monthly updates

This also has Staff leadership opportunities:

Traditional Teaching Staff have filled the following leadership roles:

- Site Lead - Principal of Program
- Teacher Leads - Assistant Principal of Program
- Curriculum Development

Student Population and Funding Sources

Total Cost - 258,300

Total Students - 240

Hours of Program - 176 hours

Average Class Size - about 10 students

- Nita M. Lowey Grant - \$190,000
- Title I Funding - 59,720
- CN Grant - \$5,280
- Barr Grant - \$3,300
- Mental Health Grant- about \$6,600

B. Carlson reports this is a great addition to our school!

IV. Other Business

A.

New Business

B. Carlson discussed Cell Phone issues in Connecticut.

- Urge J. Scalice and the team to look into this topic again.

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 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Carlson

Attention: Times and Locations are subject to change.