



# Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport

## Minutes

### GOBPT February Governance Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Wednesday February 12, 2025 at 4:30 PM

#### Location

375 Howard Ave.  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

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#### Committee Members Present

Bob Carlson, David Zieff

#### Committee Members Absent

Bea Bagley, Corey Sneed, Tenssie Ramsay

#### Guests Present

Benjamin Chan, Farah Martin, John Scalice, Latoya Hubbard, Ryanne Davis

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### I. Opening Items

#### A. Record Attendance

#### B. Call the Meeting to Order

Bob Carlson called a meeting of the Governance Committee Committee of Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport to order on Wednesday Feb 12, 2025 at 4:34 PM.

#### C. Approve Minutes

David Zieff made a motion to approve the minutes from GOBPT January Governance Meeting on 01-15-25.

Bob Carlson seconded the motion.

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

## II. Governance Committee

### A. CEO Report

John went over the CEO Report.

#### Cell Phone Usage in Schools

- Discusses the upcoming board meeting's focus on cell phone usage in schools, including the potential ban and its impact on student growth.
- The meeting will include an overview of the current cell phone policy, differences between high school and middle school policies, and traditional media's input on cell phone studies.
- The conversation is crucial as it affects 661 students and families, aiding in creating timelines for communication and implementation.
- Over the past year, the school has had bi-weekly visits from the Commissioners Network, with a new auditor, Greg Dresco, who is performing a mid-year audit.

#### School Performance and Audit Results

- Reports that the school is likely to receive a strong score of three on a four-point scale in the mid-year audit, indicating significant growth under the Commissioners Network plan.
- The school's previous audit scores were a one or two in some areas and a three in financial and leadership areas.
- The upcoming mid-year audit will feed into the school's renewal and expansion plans.
- The school's mid-year assessments focus on student growth rather than proficiency, with 50% of students achieving half a year's worth of growth in math.

#### Math and Reading Scores

- Highlights that 50% of students have achieved half a year's worth of growth in math, a significant improvement from the previous year's 15% proficiency and 48% yearly average growth.
- 33% of students have already met a full year's worth of growth in math, with 11% achieving over a year's worth of growth.
- In reading, 60% of students have achieved at least half a year's worth of growth, with 50% meeting a full year's worth of growth.

- 25% of students have achieved over a year's worth of growth in reading, with the third year of the new ELA curriculum showing significant progress.

#### Turnaround Status and Curriculum Impact

- Explains that the school moved from turnaround status to tier three, indicating improved performance and reduced state oversight.
- Factors contributing to the improvement include changes in structure, teacher support, professional development, climate and culture, access to materials, and increased coaching.
- The new curriculum and teachers' understanding of it have played a significant role in the school's progress.
- Being under state oversight drew time and resources away from student support, but the school's positive reputation and community engagement have helped mitigate this impact.

### **B. COO Report**

Latoya went over the COO Report.

#### Enrollment and Community Engagement

- Reports an increase in enrollment applications to 108, with a significant number coming from the west side and north end of Bridgeport.
- The school's positive reputation and community engagement are attributed to the increase in applications, particularly in the ninth grade.
- Highlights a recent community engagement event, a coat drive coordinated by the Director of Community Partnerships and the attendance coordinator, which collected over 400 items.
- The event saw a high turnout, with the community receiving brand new coats and other winter essentials, despite limited coverage from local media.

#### Facilities and Security Updates

- Bob inquires about the new facilities guy starting to read meters and track energy usage, emphasizing the importance of daily tracking for accurate data.
- The school has seen a 15% reduction in energy usage, but the cause is unclear, with potential contributions from building changes and new vendor tweaks.
- Bob mentions discussions with the UI about installing crime lights instead of street lights to combat car issues, with Gary and Jeff working on funding allocation.
- John provides an update on the delayed installation of cameras and lighting, with the police department covering some costs and waiting for the school's funding allocation.

### **III. 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 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bob Carlson

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Attention: Times and Locations are subject to change.