



Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport

Minutes

GOBPT February Governance Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday February 12, 2025 at 4:30 PM

Location

375 Howard Ave.
Bridgeport, CT 06605

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

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

Attention: Times and Locations are subject to change.