APPROVED

Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport

Minutes

GOBPT May Board Meeting

Date and Time
Monday May 12, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Location
375 Howard Ave.
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Directors Present
Bob Carlson, Corey Sneed (remote), Daniel Luciano (remote), David Zieff

Directors Absent
Bea Bagley, Eva Vega, Matthew Nwosu, Robert Traber, Tenssie Ramsay

Guests Present
Benjamin Chan, Farah Martin, John Scalice, Latoya Hubbard

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 Monday May 12, 2025 at 5:22 PM.

C. Approve Last Month's Meeting Minutes

Daniel Luciano made a motion to approve the minutes from GOBPT Board Meeting on 04-09-25.
Corey Sneed seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Finance Committee

A. Finance Committee Updates

B. Chan went over dashboard.

The account ended in 1.5 million and our cash balance to burn rate is 1.47.

We have 1.9m at the end of April as well as today.

Revenue and Expenses-
Revenue is on track with the expending budget. The school's goal is to track all the expenses cleanly. When we do the draw down, all expenses will be tagged to grants.

Salaries were lower than budgeted. Actual dollars are starting to be less than budgeted based on the efforts of the OPS team and the facilities manager.

We should end the year on a positive note. Round figures we have a surplus of about 250 plus.

CEO, J. Scalice went over discussion of setting a goal for set aside cost savings. This is directly connected to our per pupil which is 8.9 million. The finance committee wanted to set a shorter long term goal of hitting the 890 mark. C. Sneed discussed new revenue of the per pupil (the increase) could help jump start this. B. Chan states that with the ECF. we are maxed out. C. Sneed asked what is the proposed timing on the state per pupil increase? B. Chan that is not known as of yet.
B. Carlson, Board Chair, reports Webster Banks reached out to him. B. Carlson discussed the idea of getting a line of credit. C. Sneed proposed to have J. Scalice and B. Chan begin discussions with banks about a line of credit and report back to the board.

- C. Sneed discussed can be available to assist with these talks. One option could be small business side or commercial.

B. Carlson asked if we got a security deposit statement from Corvus. We are not entitled to the interest that is there. The interest does belong to Corvus.

B. Carlson let C. Sneed and the board know that the school is pushing the 25 audit to the top of the list to get it done.

B.

Vendor Approvals

There are no new vendor approvals.

III. Governance Committee

A. Chief Operating Officer's Report

C. Sneed made a motion to approve the annual Healthy Food Certification (HFC) statement as required by CSDE for the 2025 - 2026 school year.

The board voted unanimously to approve the motion made by board member C. Sneed and Seconded by B. Carlson- Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, Great Oaks Charter School certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

The board voted unanimously to approve the motion made by C. Sneed and seconded by B. Carlson- Great Oaks Charter School will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

L. Hubbard went over Austin & Co., current insurance broker we work with. They have informed the school that across the nation there is a 10-11% increase due to the amount of liability we see in schools across the country.

B. Chief Executive Officer's Report

CEO went over State Board Meeting happening on May 15, 2025 and the Accountability Committee.

Corrective Action Performance:
Positive Takeaways

- Strong connection between classroom observation and instructional elements of Corrective Action Plan
- Positive note regarding school culture and climate in relation to our Corrective Action Plan
- Noted improvement from visit occurring in 2023-2024 during our renewal related to curriculum, teaching and instruction, and positive student climate.

Continue to develop:

- More evidence of student dialogue within the classrooms
- More evidence of vocabulary work
- Chronic absenteeism continues to remains high and is a concern against our Corrective Action Plan

Commissioner's Network Action Performance:
Positive Takeaways

- Strong professional development plan is being executed with specific actions observed within the classrooms
- Student time on task and student task design
- Noted improvement from visit occurring in 2023-2024 during our renewal related to curriculum, teaching and instruction, and positive student climate.

Continue to develop:

- More evidence of student dialogue within the classrooms
- Development of more intensive Chronic Absentee supports
- Planning regarding a restructuring of culture systems to better support teachers within the classroom as we continue to increase expectations for students

Teacher Certification Update:

- Our current status is 97%.
- We are currently awaiting 2 certifications from CSDE
- In alignment with our CSDE Corrective Action Plan we have developed multiple pathways to ensure we are 100% compliant with certification by the end of the school year

Expectation for 2025-2026-

- Teachers currently serving under Long-Term Sub licenses attended a meeting with nearly all indicating enrollment in a program (currently under review by Latoya) or enrollment in their PRAXIS exam making them eligible for CSEP Certification for

the 2025-2026 school year. We plan on entering the upcoming school year between 94% and 98.5% avoiding potential CSDE Certification Delays.

Personnel Budget:
Rollover- The roll-over approach, with the loss of the SIG Grant, the reduction of CN funding and the increase to School Contribution to salaries results in approximately a 179K loss through salaries.

Accounting for SIG and CN Changes- Through the reduction of non-instructional impacting positions, reducing several support positions that can be accounted for through changes to structures (not reducing performance), there is a savings of $200,000

Still in Consideration- Considering a flat amount of Title I funding, and being fully certified, there are potential opportunities to replace some support personnel at no cost to Per Pupil; OR, increase savings to per pupil.

IV. Executive Session

A. Vote into Executive Session

David Zieff made a motion to Enter into Executive Session.
Daniel Luciano seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Executive Session took place.
Daniel Luciano made a motion to Exit Executive Session and resume Board Meeting.
Corey Sneed seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

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.