APPROVED

Great Oaks Charter School - Bridgeport

Minutes

GOBPT October Board Meeting

Date and Time
Wednesday October 14, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Location
375 Howard Ave. Bridgeport, CT

Directors Present
Bea Bagley, Bob Carlson (remote), David Zieff, Ka'Ran Housey (remote), Marie Casper, Matthew Nwosu (remote), Tenssie Ramsay (remote)

Directors Absent
Daniel Luciano, Robert Traber

Guests Present
Anita Burke (remote), Corey Sneed (remote), Farah Martin, Frederick Laist, 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 Wednesday Oct 14, 2026 at 5:30 PM.

C.

Approve Last Month's Meeting Minutes

Marie Casper made a motion to approve the minutes from GOBPT September Board Meeting on 09-09-26.
Bea Bagley seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Public Comment

There was no public comment made in today's board meeting.

II. Finance Committee

A. Vendor Approvals

D. Zieff states that any time we spend money, we need to make sure this is an approved vendor. We go ahead and contract with the vendor and we approve it afterwards. The finance committee has granted D. Zieff permission to do the pre approval of vendors.

B. Finance Committee Updates

D. Zieff, Board Treasurer, welcomed Fred Laist to Great Oaks and assured the board the decision to hire him as CFO was a good one.

D. Zieff states that reporting to the board will change. Dashboard will be discussed in the board meeting.

Contributions, B. Bagley will be co-chair. Interview a development individual that works at another place that works as a development consultant. They will meet with the board and the leadership team on November 5th, 2026.

J&K Fire Alarms and CT Teacher Retirement
F. Laist, new CFO, reports he is happy to work with the team.

Enrollment this year we expect 625 students instead of 661. It is a moving target for now but we are keeping track with it. The number negatively impacts are projected revenues. We have a mitigation plan of a hiring freeze, we have additional savings to be had. No lay offs or position changes. J. Scalice has worked on this.

- CFO has confidence in this plan. These adjustments will bring our bottom line in line with expectations and our budget for the year.

CFO reports being in a really good cash position at the end of September.

F. Last, CFO, reports we are not complete yet but should be done within the next 2-3 weeks. We thank B. Chan because it would not have been done without him! Auditor will draft a report to D. Zieff and the CFO.

- The projection was a 10,000 gain and it looks like the results are trending to a 40,000 lost.

For FY27, financial performance remains stable and generally consistent with the Board-approved budget of
$12.4 million in revenue
$8.4 million in Human Capital expenses, and
$3.9 million in operating expenses, with a planned net surplus of **$52,000**.
Year-end projections currently indicate:

- A **$410,000 revenue shortfall** due to lower-than-anticipated enrollment.
- **$390,000 in Human Capital savings** through prudent workforce management.
- **$20,000 in operating expense savings** resulting from ongoing cost containment efforts.

Despite enrollment pressures affecting revenue, management's expense controls continue to offset these impacts, and the organization remains positioned to achieve budgeted financial targets.

III. Governance Committee

A. Chief Operating Officer Report-

L. Hubbard went over COO Report.

We will project to land around 625 students. This number may change a bit by end of the month.

The number of students that withdrew from the school was high.
Applications declined 21% from 25-26.
6th grade enrollment is always low- impacts incoming student numbers and over all growth.
Qualitative Feedback- Emerging themes, athletic programs and opportunities, political climate, and overall student experience.

Demographic Factors Impacting Enrollment-
School Age population- The number of children ages 10-17 may be declining even as Bridgeport's total population grows.
Family Migration- Families relocating outside Bridgeport or elsewhere in Connecticut may contribute to student withdrawals.

Housing Affordability- Rising housing costs and limited family-sized housing may affect families' ability to remain in Bridgeport. Increased housing insecurity has also been observed this school year.

L. Hubbard states we need to focus on retention.
2023- we enrolled 215 students.
2024- enrolled 217 students
2025-enrolled 232 students
2026- enrolled 213 students

Recruitment efforts-
Prioritize 6th Grade Recruitment
Target feeder schools, elementary families and grade-specific outreach.

Expand Community Partnerships-
Engage youth organizations, athletics, churches and community centers.

Increase Marketing & Visibility-
Use social media, digital campaigns, canvassing and recruitment events.

Activate Family Referrals-
Equip current families, students and alumni to serve as ambassadors.

Improve Applicant Conversion-
Strengthen call banking, personalized follow-up and registration assistance.

Strengthen Retention & Accountability-
Address student experience; track grade-level targets and withdrawal trends.

B. Chief Executive Officer's Report

J. Scalice went over CEO Report.

Enrollment and Impact on Program 2026-27

1. Reduced Population- Reduced revenue calculated at approx $403,000 - $430,000
2. Natural Attrition- A significant portion of this amount was reclaimed through the lapsing of grant-funded and vacated positions
3. Outlook- Based on initial projections related to budget impact, Great Oaks has been able to assume the projected loss with no instructional impact

Enrollment and Impact - Future Projections

1. Reclaim enrollment of 661 student
2. Through personnel scheduling, an increase of up to 690 students can be accommodated at the current budget.
3. Outlook- Program implementation, even with an increased pupil admission, will be sustainable through January of 2027 with no interruption or reduction.

Fall Baseline Data:
Fall Middle School- Math-
1 year behind- Engagement strategies, in-class tutoring support
2 to 3 years- Targeted small group instruction during class; Coach assisted planning for tutorial in grades 6 and 8; Coach led tutorial grade 7
Specific Strategy- Planning support provided by Math Instructional Coaches; Shift from Collective Math Support to “Just In Time” support aligned directly to Units being instructed

Strategies and Findings - ELA Middle School
1 year behind- Engagement strategies, in-class tutoring support
2 to 3 years- Targeted small group instruction during class; increased support with task design and implementation

Trends- the growth is there just not at the rate we want it to happen but it is still happening!

Middle School One Year Behind-
Students in the One-Year Behind category provide a healthy outlook for growth in the area of proficiency with one-grade level below totals (typical for new school year) showing significant increases over the prior year’s proficiency scores.

High School One Year Behind-
Students in the One-Year Behind category provide a healthy outlook for growth in the area of proficiency with one-grade level below totals (typical for new school year) showing significant increases over the prior year’s proficiency scores.

Two or More Behind-
A significant portion of students still remain in the two or more years behind, however, numbers show decreases from iReady in year over year two or more years behind categories showing incremental growth of students.

IV. New Business

A.

New Business

State visit on October 29th- will be on site and via zoom. Public Hearing on November 10th, 2026- Farah will email to follow up.

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 6:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Carlson

Attention: Times and Locations are subject to change.