

Great Oaks – Wilmington
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes: 10/5/2020

In Attendance:

Board Members Present: Jim Mazarakis, Erica Hitchens, Cathy Holloway, Michael Maxwell, Rob Snowberger, Keria Broadnax, Stephanie Toronto, Rysheema Dixon, Kelly Firment

School Staff Present: Leland Kent, Courney Lykins, David Hogan, Jr., Erica Hitchen, Erin Sweet, Jamal Tate, Jasmynn Brown, Karlin Larkin, Kaylie Urie, Kendria Waltower, Lauren Bravo, Madeline Ronga, Michael Williams, Samantha Dalli, Morgan Fabber, Deanna Holmes, Ashley Moore, Zoralis Ortiz, Priyanka Nachane, Samanta Lopez, Tamara Price , Amanda Taylor, Damien Burke, Nikki Darden

The meeting was called to order at 5:38 PM.

Public Comments: None presented

September's Board Meetings Minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Operations Report

Nikki Darden presented out on current enrollment and attendance numbers as it related to Unit Count. Damien Burke presented the recruitment updates, including current efforts and incentives. Damien presented the Suicide Prevention and Title IX Policies for board approval. Both policies were approved unanimously.

II. Executive Director Report

Leland Kent and Damien Burke gave an overview of options, research, and data for school reopening. Mr. Kent shared staff data that shows approximately 50% of staff were uncomfortable returning to school this Fall, 30% were uncomfortable returning this school year, 13% felt comfortable following guidelines but had outstanding questions. Mr. Kent proposed that Great Oaks would remain in virtual learning indefinitely, with small pods of students and teachers able to come into the building. Mr. Burke shared different supports available to no-show and low-show students.

II. Remote Learning Report

Amanda Taylor, Principal, spoke about the resiliency of students and staff pushing through distance learning challenges. Ms. Taylor shared that our connection with the Family Resource Center has been positive in helping students and families with technology needs. Ms. Taylor shared that the online curriculums are going well, and highlighted the Dual Enrollment and the Foreign Language curriculums. Ms. Taylor shared the challenges of the Science curriculum, StemScopes, and how the team is

troubleshooting; Great Oaks scholars are having trouble with the rigorous new curriculum. One teacher is beginning to pilot the mounted camera program in the classroom.

Samanta Lopez, Principal, shared that middle school staff have committed themselves to engaging students who are disengaged. Ms. Lopez shared that 82% of students completed MAP testing in the virtual environment. The middle school is focusing on literacy and numeracy, led by Karlin Larkin and Annette Roskam. Ms. Lopez spoke about Junior Achievement classes, tutorial, and office hours offerings to both students and families. Lastly, Ms. Lopez was able to confirm a partnership with ASPIRA to provide an after school club for ELL students with language barriers.

IV. Finance Report

Damien Burke provided the finance report and updates to the budget to reflect new enrollment numbers.

Lastly, Jim Mazarakis made a Motion to Approve Web report: unanimously approved.

The Public Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM and the Board moved into Executive Session.