

Great Oaks – Wilmington
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes: 9/14/2020

In Attendance:

Jim Mazarakis—Board Member
Erica Hitchens—Board Member
Michael Maxwell—Board Member
Rob Snowberger—Board Member
Keria Broadnax—Board Member
Stephanie Toronto—Board Member
Rysheema Dixon—Board Member
Cathy Hollaway--Board Member
Kelly Firment—Board Member
Nikki Darden—School Staff
Damien Burke—School Staff
Samanta Lopez—School Staff
Patrick Ryan—School Staff
Kaitleen Gillis—School Staff
David Hogan—School Staff
Amanda Taylor—School Staff

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM.

Public Comments: None presented

August's Board Meetings Minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Executive Director Report

Leland Kent opened by showing two Great Oaks videos demonstrating new leadership, testimonials, and the future vision and direction of the school. Mr. Kent shared the current goals of the staff.

III. Remote Learning Report

Samanta Lopez gave an update on the first week of school for Middle School staff and families. She shared learning strategies and attendance practices. 100% of MS staff was able to connect with families last week. Ms. Lopez announced a new hire, Math Coach Ms. Roskam.

Kaitleen Gillis provided an update on the ways Great Oaks is utilizing a school social worker and updates regarding Special Education.

Amanda Taylor shared an update on the first week of learning for the Middle School staff and families. She spoke about the use of Schoology and shared that Wilm-U courses have begun. Ms. Taylor also spoke about new partnerships, including connecting with Junior Achievement, Wilm-U, The University Delaware Department of Community and Public Health, and the WAVE partnership which allows students to come to the building as needed in a safe and responsible manner. High School has hired a driver's education instructor. Ms. Taylor announced the start of MAP testing this upcoming Wednesday, September 16th.

II. Operations Report

Damien Burke shared that teachers have assisted greatly in achieving high attendance numbers for the first week of school. Mr. Burke spoke about technology including ceiling-mounted cameras in classrooms, chromebooks for students, Zoom and Schoology use for classrooms, and obtaining hotspots and wifi for families. Mr. Burke also spoke about grant opportunities and partnerships with the WAVE program, the University of Delaware's Nursing Department, AmeriCorps programming, and the CEB Food Services.

Nikki Darden presented an update on student enrollment.

Patrick Ryan provided updates on recruitment, community outreach and canvassing, marketing and recruitment efforts, as well as student attrition and retention.

IV. Finance

Damien Burke provided the finance report.

Jim Mazarakis announced that we have received the final approval of separation from the Great Oaks Foundation.

Lastly, Robert Snowberger made a Motion to Approve Web report: unanimously approved

V. Other Business

Kendra Giardinieri gave an update on the 2020-21 Fellows Professional Development.

The Public Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM and the Board moved into Executive Session.