

**Great Oaks – Wilmington**  
**Board of Directors**  
**Meeting Minutes: 10/04/2021**

In Attendance:

**Board Members Present:** Jim Mazarakis, Rysheema Dixon, Keria Broadnax, Angela Harvey- Bowen, Robert Snowberger, Kelly Firment, Cathy Holloway, Erica Hitchens

**School Staff Present:** Nathalia Joshua, Leland Kent, Damien Burke, Samanta Lopez, Tomanise Chalmers, Anthony Davis

**Public:** Antoinette Capri

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 PM.

Public Comments: None

August's Board Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Head of School Report: Samanta Lopez

This is the seventh year in which Great Oaks Wilmington has been operating.

Primary focus for this school year currently is to create a safe and healthy culture for all students and staff.

Our final count for students according to the September 30th Unit Count includes 89 middle schoolers and 196 high schoolers.

GO Wilm currently has 21 staffed teachers in which staffing has been fully reconfigured to ensure that every class during every period is covered.

There has also been an addition of a school counselor to support the seniors as they go about transitioning out of GO Wilm.

Ms. Lopez gave a shout out to Mrs. Hitchens and Ms. Jarmon for taking the seniors to the HBCU Week College Fair and assisting 4 scholars get on the spot scholarships.

Ms. Lopez will also share at the next Board meeting an update on student progress as far as taking the SATs, college apps, early admissions, etc.

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, there has been a door decorating contest underway in which select individuals, including students, will be the judges. Ms. Lopez extended the invitation for Board members to be judges for this event.

So far there have been two professional development days per month and will continue to have at least two sessions minimum every month moving forward.

The Culture department still year has been making strides to be more proactive rather than reactive and also have already started to establish a strong rapport with the student body.

Board member, Robert Snowberger, highlighted Great Oaks as far as shifting the stigma and the narrative of the school to being more positive within the community!

## II. Director of Operations' Report: Damien Burke

The SY 21/22 was budgeted for 334 students, yet we ended at 285. Grades 8, 9 and 10 fell short of predictions made last year.

Mr. Kent, made the remark of how this is still the year to demonstrate who we are and what we will be moving forward. We have also been getting referrals from other schools such as KUUMBA Academy, East Side Charter, etc., who would now want to function more so as partners.

Ms. Lopez has also commented that Great Oaks is also participating in high school fairs this year, with the first one being October 19th at the New Castle County High School Fair.

To avoid deficit spending, GO Wilm has to trim about \$1million dollars out of the current year budget.

Proposed joint Finance and CBOC meeting to discuss next steps.

Web report approved unanimously.

Quidel's rapid testing is said to be 98% accurate. The only instances GO Wilm has experienced with false positives was the week of September 28th in which PCR testing confirmed that those individuals were actually negative.

ESSER III plans have been shared with the Board and also posted on the [GO Wilm website](#).

## III. Executive Director Report: Leland Kent

Great Oaks has a fresh new look, despite being in the same building, with an emphasis on Community.

Opened the door to create more partnerships with prominent community members.

Teachers now have a lot more support, we have coaches and a Dean of Curriculum to help facilitate a more in depth mentorship.

We have approximately 20 students that are virtual, most of our students are in person.

Damien Burke, Destiny Pennigton and Leland Kent are participating in the Equity Practitioner Program (EPP) facilitated through 4th Dimension.

Strategic goal #1 is to enhance the GO Wilm experience by ensuring students are ready for the next steps post High School by providing students with college and/or career readiness.

Strategic goal #2 to design policies to align with the previous goal stated and to ensure that we are best serving our scholars effectively.

Strategic goal #3 is to increase communication through gaining family feedback, sending out newsletters more often, emails, text messages, phone calls, social media and committing to full transparency.

The Public Meeting adjourned and the Board moved into Executive Session.