

Great Oaks – Wilmington
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes: 11/01/2021

In Attendance:

Board Members Present: Jim Mazarakis, Rysheema Dixon, Keria Broadnax, Robert Snowberger, Kelly Firment, Cathy Holloway, Erica Hitchens

School Staff Present: Nathalia Joshua, Damien Burke, Samanta Lopez, Tamara Price, Tomanise Chalmers, Markisha Harris, Ashley Henry, Madeline Ronga, Morgan Fabber, Aljhane White

Public: Antoinette Capri

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM.

Public Comments: None

October's Board Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Head of School Report: Samanta Lopez

Focused on DPAS and goal setting to ensure Great Oaks is aligning with the State timeline. 90% of teachers have completed goal setting and staff is preparing for announced observations.

We have 2.5 School Counselors creating success plans and working on college recommendations.

Ms. Lopez shared photos of Great Oaks participating at a HS Fair in which we have been requested to return and lead an info session, as well as pictures were shared for the Hispanic Heritage Month door decorating contest winners.

II. Finance Report: Damien Burke

Enrollment at Unit Count is 285, despite a budget made for 334.

Projected to be within budget, working on creating a sustainable budget for future years.

Budget questions were addressed regarding rent, residuals and how we plan to be sustainable beyond this year.

Jim Mazarakis gave Mr. Kent the assignment of presenting a student recruitment plan next Board Meeting.

Staff to increase use of high quality instructional materials (HQIM) and utilize tools Great Oaks has invested in such as nearpod, data service center, etc.

Web Report approved unanimously.

III. Executive Director Report

Samanta Lopez presented on behalf of Leland Kent during his absences.

A narrative was read which highlighted projected enrollment for upcoming years, since unit count we have enrolled five more students and also Great Oaks has joined a “Sister School” partnership with MOT Charter with a strategic plan shared below:

Phase One: Timeline: Now Until the end of the 2021-2022 School Year

Administrators meet and form relationships and begin planning professional development for Phase Two. Admin needs to trust each other and share what they are hoping to gain and give in this relationship. Having admin co-observe and meet with some regularity is required for this idea to work.

Phase Two: Timeline: 2022-2023 School Year

Foster and develop collaborative relationships among teachers through common professional development days throughout the school year. Potentially have teachers do a teacher-swap. And facilitate key teacher partnerships for teachers to share curriculum and ideas.

Phase Three: Timeline: 2023-2024 School Year

Have students between GO Wilm and MOT engage in collaborative activities inside and outside the classroom. This will be joint extracurricular activities, such as athletics or theater, or in-class competitions between classrooms. More ideas should bubble up as teachers work together and form relationships.

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