

Great Oaks – Wilmington
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes: 09/12/2022

In Attendance:

Board Members Present: Rysheema Dixon, Jim Mazarakis, Antoinette Capri, Cathy Holloway, Angela Perry, Erica Hitchens

School Staff Present: Nathalia Joshua, Leland Kent, Michelle Lambert, Tamara Price, Tomanise Chalmers, Samanta Lopez, Angela Parana, Elaine Elston

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

Public Comments: None

July's Board Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously.

I. Finance Report: Michelle Lambert

July 31st budget to be discussed, it is the first monthly report for the 2022-23 school year.

8% of the budget period has elapsed of the 6.4 million budget for the school year.

Potential negotiations with the foundation in the future in attempts to have the Great Oaks' Foundation to be more involved.

\$47,000 is the current expected surplus; however, more adjustments may happen after the September 30th Unit Count.

Board unanimously approved the web report.

Board unanimously approved the FY23 preliminary budget.

II. Principal Report: Samanta Lopez

Goal is to increase student voice.

On August 29th Great Oaks staff welcomed 8th, 9th and 12th graders, with the rest of the students starting on August 30th.

For the FY 23 school years, students will have the option to either attend in person classes, online or credit recovery.

Trimesters were introduced this school year opposed to the traditional quarters. It would take students two of the trimesters to complete 1 full credit, and the third trimester would allow students to earn .5 credit for an elective. Trimesters would allow students to finish the 24 credit requirement to graduate in less than four years.

The Instructional Leadership Team took into consideration family feedback about increasing electives. This year's course catalog includes Social Media, Discipline Kickboxing, Dance, Art, Introduction to Fashion, Real Estate 101 and Branding.

In addition to introducing more electives, some of the academic classes we are piloting this year are Forensic Science, College and Career Readiness and early college courses through Wilm University.

Partnering with Elaine Elston to ensure the validity and thoroughness of all of the student schedules.

Afterschool programming is set to begin mid September with a diversity of clubs such as Culinary 101, DJing, Ivy League Cosmetology, etc.

III. Executive Director Report: Leland Kent

Focused on going from Good to Great!

Great Britain introduced vocational shops to all schools, Samanta and Leland were able to visit a few, but were hosted by Global Academy.

Great Oaks Students were presented with a summer opportunity where students were able to go camping and hike the Appalachian Mountains.

Mr. Kent shared a video in which a parent gave a recap on the benefits this summer camp had for her daughter and also her overall experience as a Great Oaks' parent.

ParentCamp kickoff happened on August 23rd which is a DOE sponsored event in which the National ParentCamp team trained schools on how to improve and redefine family and community engagement.

Currently Great Oaks has 237 enrolled students, the goal is to be at 260 students. Recruitment efforts include canvassing in nearby neighborhoods, tabling and reaching out to previous students to find out if they are interested in returning if they are not happy with their current school choice (which has been the number one reason why students have returned).

Grooves will have a site at Great Oaks starting in July which will provide students to take night classes. It is proposed they would hold classes 2 nights a week.

Students who graduated from Great Oaks shared their experiences which were shared through videos of students either in college, enrolled in programs such as NerdItNow, etc.