

**Connecticut State Board of Education
Hartford**

Accountability and Support Committee

Monday, June 5, 2023

450 Columbus Blvd.

Plaza North, Meeting Rooms C & D

Hartford, Connecticut

Minutes

(Approved on September 20,2023)

I. Call to Order

Pursuant to notice filed with the Secretary of the State, Committee Chairperson Erin D. Benham called the meeting to order at 3:37 p.m.

Committee

Members Present: Erin D. Benham
Malia K. Sieve
Donald F. Harris, Jr.
Elwood Exley, Jr.
Dr. Karen Dubois-Walton

Committee

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Irene Parisi
Robert Kelly
Leslie Navarrete

Guests Present:

John Scalise, Executive Director, Great Oaks Charter School, Bridgeport
Bob Carlson, Board Chairperson, Great Oaks Charter School, Bridgeport
Latoya Hubbard, Director of Operations, Great Oaks Charter School, Bridgeport
Jill Johnson, Executive Director, Explorations Charter School, Winsted
Joseph White, Principal, Explorations Charter School, Winsted

II. Approval of Minutes

Dr. Karen Dubois-Walton moved, Donald F. Harris, Jr., seconded, that the committee approve the minutes of the April 19, 2023, and May 17, 2023, Accountability and Support Committee meetings.

Vote: In Favor: Exley, Benham, Sieve, and Harris
Abstained: 0
Opposed: 0
Absent:

III. Great Oaks Charter School, Bridgeport

Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer for the CSDE Academic Office, provided an overview of the work to date with Great Oaks Charter School, Bridgeport. Great Oaks Charter school was renewed on April 6, 2022. Ms. Parisi welcomed Great Oaks Charter School Executive Director John Scalise, and Great Oaks Charter School Director of Operations Latoya Hubbard, to provide a progress update.

Great Oaks Charter School shared highlights of their progress in their corrective action focus points of Student Achievement ELA, Student Achievement mathematics, and reduction of suspensions. Highlights included: the implementation of the Match Fish Tank curriculum across all middle school grades to create more consistent and easily observable teaching practices that align to common core objectives; the implementation of common assessments (EdMentum and IAB) to allow for cohort comparison and strategic planning; the implementation of structured and scheduled coaching and planning sessions for consistency of implementation of data team outcomes and curriculum; the success of the charter school's in-house educator pipeline with AmeriCorps fellows in certification shortage areas; and the school's steady increase in their graduation rate, currently at 91 percent, 5 percentage point increase.

Some of the continued areas of growth that Great Oaks Charter school shared that the charter school will continue to address included: the continued development and training with local college and university partners, like Fairfield University, regarding Trauma Informed Teaching, proactive intervention in classrooms, development of a high school to middle school peer mentor program, and the implementation of a Trained Student Mediator program; leveraging partnerships with local colleges and universities on more advanced teaching practices with returning staff (88 percent returning) to increase targeted instruction and time on task; and scheduling coaching sessions to happen with higher frequency (weekly) as well as weekly data teams and SRBI team meetings.

The charter school also mentioned that the chronic absenteeism rate for high school has increased due to transportation issues, and the charter schools plans to continue to place efforts on addressing this issue. Currently, the charter school is providing bus passes to high school students experiencing transportation issues

The Chair opened the floor for comments and questions from the Committee.

IV. Explorations Charter School, Winsted

Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer for the CSDE Academic Office, provided an overview of the work to date with Explorations Charter School, Winsted. Explorations Charter School was renewed on April 6, 2022. Mrs. Parisi welcomed Explorations Charter School Executive Director Jill Johnson, and Explorations Charter School Principal Joseph White, to provide a progress update.

Explorations Charter School shared highlights of their progress in their corrective action focus points of Student Achievement ELA, Student Achievement mathematics, and reduction of suspensions. Highlights included: the completion of curriculum revisions using their new curriculum template for all subject areas; the addition of new STEM classes and African American, Black and Puerto Rican, Latino Studies class; and the increased collaboration between General education and special education teachers, including targeted team meetings to identify and plan for student success and the implementation of Education Modified Program, per general and special education staff feedback

In efforts to address the charter school's chronic absenteeism rate, the charter school continues to participate in the CSDE Talk Tuesdays, is participating in the APLN sessions with SERC and the CSDE and utilizing the Connecticut Special Education Data System. The charter school also mentioned that the chronic absenteeism rate has increased for students residing in Torrington due to transportation issues getting back and forth to school. Currently, the charter school is providing bus passes to high school students experiencing transportation issues.

The charter school plans to continue to place efforts on addressing this transportation matter.

The Chair opened the floor for comments and questions from the Committee.

V. Planning Meeting

A discussion occurred regarding the 2023-24 Accountability and Support Committee Schedule. Committee agreed to have monthly meetings at 3: 30 p.m. and cancel if there aren't agenda items. The Committee agreed for members to forward to the education staff assistant the proposed 2023-24 meeting dates that work with their availability to finalize the Committee's meeting schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Prepared by: Leslie Navarrete