

Great Hearts Texas Stakeholders,

Thank you to all who attended the September 6th meeting of our Board of Directors. We appreciate your feedback and insights, all of which are vital in fostering a community of lifelong learners amongst our scholars.

Superintendent Report:

Following comments from the public, Superintendent Minter began his report by highlighting Great Hearts Texas' achievements at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year.

- To date, Great Hearts Texas is operating with 22 schools including Lower and Upper with three new schools.
 - We welcomed a permanent home to Prairie View.
- This year, Great Hearts Texas saw an increased enrollment of 2,000 students and hired 382 new teachers.
- Across all Great Hearts Texas schools, security constructions are nearing completion.

Superintendent Minter reviewed the impact increased enrollment has had across the district. Enrollment is currently at 99.8% on target for brick-and-mortar schools. This is a huge success across the district and highlights the value of our enrollment push which has been instrumental in increasing communications to perspective families. Nearly every one of our Great Hearts Texas schools has a waitlist and our engagement teams are focused on communicating with each of these families that are eager to join our community. The current waitlist across the district exceeds 4,900.

STAAR 2.0 has been implemented across the state of Texas, which is raising the bar for schools across the state of Texas. While more data is expected be released in the coming weeks, Great Hearts Texas has evaluated the following:

- Overall, Great Hearts Texas has improved. 84 ranking this year compared to an 82 if STAAR 2.0 was in place last year.
- Results will likely give Great Hearts Texas a B under the STAAR 2.0 system.

Overall district wins and challenges to date include:

Wins

- Excited to announce that we have hired a new Athletic Director for Great Hearts Texas.
- To help remedy continued parking concerns, we have successfully increased student parking at Northern Oaks to 25 spots.
- Great Hearts Texas has joined the SHARS program, which provides Medicaid dollars for reimbursable expenses.

Challenges

- Changes in STAAR evaluation and results highlight areas of improvement. Example, online testing results for first time online test takers.
- Schools will continue to troubleshoot car line pain point.
- Hiring and onboarding of new faculty has posed a challenge.

Dream Fulfillment Team Support:

There was a spotlight on Camryn Buss, an enrollment special for our Dream Fulfillment Team. Ms. Buss has been pivotal in communicating with families on the waitlist and feels it is a true joy to call incoming students and share the exciting news that they have been admitted to our school.

Executive Director Highlights:

Executive Director Dr. William Rutherford further examined STAAR 2.0 and projections for Great Hearts Texas scoring. Executive Director Monet Lessner shared library creative spaces and extracurricular activities across the district showing the impact of learning and growing both in and out of the classroom.

Finance Report:

We are excited to report that Great Hearts Texas received an A rating from TEA's Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST). This superior achievement recognition is based on financial data for fiscal year 2022 and highlights our commitment to quality financial management practices across the district. Vice President of Finance Kevin Byrne provided updates on increased enrollment, attendance, and year to date financial reporting.

- 24% increase in enrollment across schools.
- 95.43% year-to-date average daily attendance.
- 147.4% gain on investment and interest incomes.

Mr. Byrne requested the board's approval for design, traffic and environmental studies and preliminary costs for potential locations for our Monte Vista schools not to exceed \$150,000.

Board Approvals:

During the September 6th meeting, three items were approved by the board:

- The board approved a resolution of a waiver so we can receive online funding next year.
- The board approved spending of up to \$150,000 for traffic and environment studies to consider two ground leases for possible new locations for our Monte Vista schools.
- The board approved changes to the enrollment policy to make it easier to expedite offers to prospective students.

For more information on the on the September 6th board meeting and future meetings please visit: <https://texas.greatheartsamerica.org/finance-compliance/public-board-meeting/>

In partnership,
Great Hearts Texas