



Great Hearts Texas Stakeholders,

On April 17th Great Hearts Texas held its Board of Directors meeting. We appreciate our community for taking the time out to share valuable feedback and insight.

Jim Rahn, President of the Great Hearts Texas Board of Directors, opened the meeting to discuss the importance of classical curriculum and the added value of a Great Hearts education both in Texas and beyond. The floor was then opened for public comment by those in attendance, and public remarks were shared.

Superintendent Report:

Interim Superintendent Kurtis Indorf thanked participants for sharing their feedback and ensured that both leadership and the Board continue to listen, learn, and grow alongside them. He welcomed new Board members and thanked other Board members for their continued service. Some accomplishments to date include:

- Completed annual family survey.
- Continued transparency work amongst key stakeholders.
- Made vital academic decisions for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year.
- Advanced real estate and facilities projects for academies and communities.
- Evaluated areas of strengths and weakness and furthered actions for improvement.

The Board continues to work around parents' busy schedules to accommodate meetings where in-person attendance is possible. In the future, there will be both North Texas and San Antonio meetings during the day and evening.

Irving Middle School's Headmaster, Kreigh Knerr, shared a few words about the amazing work happening at his academy to enrich students' minds, bodies, and souls.

Mr. Indorf continued his report which included the following findings, strategies, and next steps:

Communication

- Continue to work on more effective communication and responsive feedback channels. Recently wrapped up Championing Great Hearts Texas leader for the year to share more about the school's mission.
- Family survey recaps were distributed from schools and across the district. Continue to discuss, evaluate, and implement findings from the survey.

Teacher Incentive Allotment Program

- Great Hearts Texas will not proceed with the Teacher Incentive Allotment program for the 2024 – 2025 school year. Leadership will continue to evaluate options that best support our mission.
- There is an ongoing evaluation of the 2025 – 2025 budget, but one priority remains clear: increasing teacher-based salaries. Will continue to prioritize teacher development to align with our classical mission and culture. Headmasters will continue to be engaged in decisions.

Special Education

- Focus on strengthening our support and culture around special education programs. We continue discussions, training, and open dialogue with key partners as the foundation for this improvement.

Safety

- School safety and security remain imperative. Great Hearts Texas continues a 100% pass rate of audits. We were just awarded an additional \$375,000 for a safety grant last week in addition to the \$1.9 million awarded in the Fall.

Financial Savings

- Based on recent board approval, Great Hearts Texas has been able to draw down and access \$620,000 to allocate expenditures within this academic year to the Instructional Materials Allotment Fund.

Enrollment

- 95.3% of our families have indicated that they will return to us in the fall, which is higher than last year and reassuring that our families are well invested in classical

education and campus communities. The waitlist continues to stand strong at over 5,000 students.

Monte Vista South

- Will start using the Kohler House lawn as a playground space for students effective Monday, April 20.

Mr. Indorf discussed the human resources documentation error across Great Hearts Texas and shared that teachers impacted are expected to return to their schools today. The issue was resolved quickly, and leadership is grateful to the Human Resource team for their support. To avoid this error in the future, two decisions have been made:

1. Human Resource onboarding will be brought in-house effective immediately.
2. Human Resource information systems will be in-house with Great Hearts Texas effective July 1.

Mr. Indorf welcomed Executive Directors Heidi Vasiloff, Monet Lessner, Dr. William Rutherford, and Mandi Cannon to share updates, achievements, and success stories across campuses and online.

Finance Report:

Vice President of Finance Kevin Byrne provided updates on the following:

- The state has not increased pupil funding since 2019. Having to stretch more dollars.
- Philanthropy has decreased with a gap of \$1 million projected to be \$2 million in FY25.
- Debt Services continue to increase. FY25 will be \$2.1 million higher.
- Great Hearts America billed fees continue to increase. Fess and cost allocations are expected to be over \$7 million in FY24.
- Federal ESSER funding will no longer be available.
- The average daily attendance to date is 95%, which is slightly below last year's average.
- Enrollment is up 20% from the prior year.
- Year to date, Great Hearts Texas is \$3 million in deficit but has adjusted \$2 million in expenses. Expecting to be break-even.
- Ask the Board during the executive session for a bond resolution.

Board Approvals:

During the April 17th meeting, the following votes occurred:

- Approved bond financing resolution and the reimbursement resolution.

- Approved to uphold student expulsion appeal with additional details discussed in executive session.
- Approved to appoint Kevin Hall as chair of the Finance Committee and Brandon Byrne to serve on the Finance Committee.
- Approve authorization of the Board President to invite the TEA to appoint a conservator over HR compliance processes to ensure Great Hearts Texas is above reproach.

For more information on the board meeting and future meetings please visit:

<https://texas.greatheartamerica.org/finance-compliance/public-board-meeting/>

Thank you for your continued support of the Great Hearts Texas community.

In partnership,
Great Hearts Texas

