



Great Hearts Texas Stakeholders,

On May 22nd Great Hearts Texas held its Board of Directors meeting. We appreciate our parents, faculty, and 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 by welcoming parents, faculty, staff, students, and members of the community who could attend both in-person and virtually.

Mr. Rahn had the opportunity to visit Forest Heights and Live Oak academies with Interim Superintendent Indorf and various GH Texas leaders prior to the meeting. At Forest Heights, the teachers and scholars were still joyful and fully engaged in learning even as the school year winds down. He praised the leadership and examples being set for scholars by these great-hearted individuals. At Mr. Rahn's Live Oak visit, he toured the construction site of the Live Oak Upper School facility, which will be ready for students in August 2024. It was very evident to him that Live Oak campus leaders were very much in charge of what was happening through the construction process, bringing what they had envisioned to fruition in partnership with a dedicated construction management firm with the greater mission of Great Hearts in mind.

The floor was then opened for public comment by those in attendance, and public remarks were shared.

Superintendent Report:

Interim Superintendent Kurtis Indorf thanked attendees for sharing their engagement and reminded participants that the Board will continue to hold meetings both in North Texas and San Antonio, in both evening and during the day, to provide greater access for in-person public attendance.

Mr. Indorf expressed gratitude to Great Hearts Forest Heights for hosting the Board Meeting and invited the Lower School Headmaster, Anne-Kathleen Borushko to share a little bit about

the Forest Heights campus. Headmaster Borushko shared how it has evolved, and how this academy embraces all that is True, Good, and Beautiful.

Mr. Indorf continued by inviting Executive Directors to share campus success stories.

Celebration of Good Work at Great Hearts Academies by Executive Directors

Executive Director Dr. William Rutherford's year-end remarks:

- Northern Oaks (K-12) demonstrated significant growth in early childhood literacy, growing from nearly 50 percent of kinder students below benchmark at the beginning of the year, to 83 percent of kinder students now reading at or above benchmark.
- Northern Oaks recently celebrated its largest graduating class ever, 77 graduating scholars were celebrated at the Senior Walk Event where graduates walked the hallways of the Lower and Upper Schools. Two students received and accepted full scholarship military appointments upon graduation. Twenty percent of graduates will take advantage of the Alamo Promise Program with tuition paid for two years.
- Western Hills demonstrated an increase in early childhood literacy seeing a 37 percent rise in kindergarten scholars reading at or above benchmark by year end. Teachers and Interventionists are commended for their commitment to helping all students learn to read well.
- Western Hills Upper School successfully piloted many Lyceum Programs of a great variety of student interests including metal working, strength and conditioning, stained glass making, photography, pickle ball, and yearbook.
- Preliminary results show that 90 percent of students at Western Hills that took EOCs passed.
- Forest Heights Upper School celebrated the end of the school year with an inaugural field day, poetry wars, art show, and a spring concert. This year the athletic programs at Forest Heights have grown to 36 Middle and High School teams, and the JV Teams won 4 regional championships.
- Invictus has been highlighting the place of beauty with a two-hour middle school concert that included a strings repertoire and a chamber choir. They have also hosted morning concerts with hand and chime performances.

Executive Director Monet Lessner's year-end remarks:

- Monte Vista South celebrated Senora Robles, who is in her fourth year at Great Hearts Monte Vista, completed the naturalization process and became a U.S. Citizen. She was surprised and celebrated by the entire student body.

- Monte Vista North celebrated Eduardo Salcedo, who was recently accepted into the Voelcker summer program at UT Health Science Center. Students all over the district are doing exciting things and becoming part of wonderful opportunities because of the education they are receiving and their own hard work.
- Live Oak Middle School baseball and softball teams achieved 2nd place at their state tournaments this year. The Lower School just wrapped up a month dedicated to fine arts including their art show, spring concert, ballet recital, and drum performance.

Executive Director Mandy Cannon's year-end remarks:

- Congratulations to Sophomore Alexis Fuentes and Junior Zoya Hussein at Great Hearts Irving Upper School who were named All-State Artists at the High School Visual Arts Scholastic Event (VASE). Their work was among 1,583 finalists and 33,127 regional student entries.
- Congratulations to students Jovie Calhoun, John Germany, and Alexis York, whose artworks earned medals at the Junior Visual Arts Scholastic Event. Special congratulations go to Karishma Paulopoulou and Luke Wesenstein, who both earned the platinum medal for their entries.
- Promotion ceremonies were held at Great Hearts Lakeside Lower School for fifth grade and the very first eighth grade promotion ceremonies took place at Great Hearts Arlington Upper School and Great Hearts Lakeside Upper School. Great Hearts Lakeside taught their scholars how to swing dance prior to the ceremony, so they were able to hold a celebration dance afterwards.
- Great Hearts Irving held their fifth-grade promotion ceremony and sorted their students into houses.
Great Hearts Prairie View recently celebrated their fifth-grade promotion and kindergarten graduation ceremonies.

Executive Director Heidi Vasiloff's year-end remarks:

- Great Hearts Online has held virtual promotion ceremonies for kindergarten and eighth grade.
- Scholars and faculty recently held an online fine arts night.
- Online scholars have celebrated the end of the school year with parties.
- We are celebrating 97 percent staff retention for online teachers at Great Hearts Online. 96 percent of online staff believe that they are mission-aligned with Great Hearts as an online school honoring the work that they believe in, pursuing truth, goodness, and beauty. and are excited about their expected growth in 2024-25.

Great Hearts Texas Human Resources

- Implementation of new HR tool Workday, and extensive training of HR business partners on compliance onboarding.
- Tracking systems and reporting for the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) through Workday will replace manual calculations and improve accuracy.
- All HR processing will be done in-house to improve processing times and ensure a high level of compliance.
- All onboarding documentation to be processed through Workday.
- Payroll will begin processing through Workday on June 13, with first payroll on July 5.
- Systems are being tested in depth to ensure a smooth launch.

Real Estate Project Update Great Hearts Lakeside

- Engineering studies are ongoing to examine whether that property will help us, and whether the queuing and parking conditions will work.
- All decisions are on hold pending city traffic studies and a parking plan.
- Additional information will be shared at a future date.

Real Estate Project Update Great Hearts Northern Oaks

- Plans are underway for the Fisher Tract Project, a parcel of land across the street from Great Hearts Northern Oaks.
- Those plans include adding a new building on that land to accommodate more students, likely at an upper school level.
- Project to potentially include additional parking facilities, and consideration for athletic offerings.
- Financial models are being developed to ensure a positive impact on the school community, financial viability, and fiscal responsibility.
- The goal is to bring the project to the bond market in Spring 2025.

Finance Report:

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

- The hiring of an internal IT department saved GHTX \$1 million this past year.
- Transitioning healthcare has allowed us to insure 300 more employees and save an additional 20% of costs.
- Areas to be evaluated for potential reduction of costs include diagnostics expenses as part of the Special Education program, and possibly bringing custodial services in-house for each facility.

- Fiscal challenges persist as state funding has not increased and philanthropy has dropped.
- \$48 million in bonds were sold and closed at 5.25 percent. The bond proceeds will go to Arlington and Irving schools.
- Moody's has maintained our credit rating, but we must work to meet a minimum of 45 days of cash on hand. We are currently at 53 days cash on hand. They will continue to reevaluate based on our progress.
- Budget is set to be approved at the next Board meeting, following an earlier finance committee meeting on June 6.
- Form 990s which are filed annually are now available on our website. This report is filed on a calendar year basis.
- Looking into a program called Student Health and Related Services (SHRS) program. This program allows Texas local educational agencies and shared service arrangements to request reimbursement for Medicaid health-related services. GHTX is looking into this program as a potential reimbursement for certain PTOT, Speech, Nursing, etc.
- Corporate overhead will be examined closely to keep them as low as we can.
- Expect to be at a break-even point on budget at year end.

Mr. Indorf thanked everyone for their reports, and they moved to executive session.

Board Approvals:

During the May 20th meeting, the following votes occurred after public comment and prior to executive session:

- Motion was made to approve the following items on the consent agenda. Motion carries.
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 17, 2024
 - b. Approval of Nutrition Policy
 - c. Grandparent Residency Approval
 - d. Internet Safety Policy
 - e. Cybersecurity Policy
 - f. Incident Response Policy
 - g. Computer Security Threat Response Policy

No business was conducted in executive session.

During the May 20th meeting, the following votes occurred after return from executive session:

- Motion was made to appoint Dr. Wade Dyke as interim superintendent from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, granting Board President Rahn the authority to negotiate contract terms. Motion carries.
- Great Hearts Texas Board of Directors announced the appointment of Dr. Wade Dyke as Interim Superintendent for term of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. A new grant from the Charter School Growth Fund will cover the additional costs for Dr. Dyke’s travel during his Interim Superintendent tenure.
- A formal search will be launched for a permanent superintendent in the fall of 2024.
- Motion to uphold student expulsion appeal with additional details discussed in executive session. Motion carries.

Motion to deny the parent appeal. Motion carries to approve the denial of the parent appeal.

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

