

APPROVED



Great Hearts Texas

Minutes

A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF GREAT HEARTS TEXAS

Date and Time

Thursday January 23, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

Great Hearts Western Hills

8702 Ingram Rd.

San Antonio, TX 78245

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88642894539?pwd=jz5FgtxbniVGbVq69gBXAkGsfxaWMj.1>

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF GREAT HEARTS TEXAS

Pursuant to Section 551.041 of the Open Meeting Act, notice is hereby given to members of the Board of Directors ("Board") and to the general public that the Board will hold a regularly scheduled meeting in open session on Thursday, January 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.. The Board meeting will be held at Great Hearts Western Hills, 8702 Ingram Rd. San Antonio, TX 78245. It is the intent of the Board to have a quorum physically present at the above address. Board members not physically present may participate by live two-way video and audio feed in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act. If a quorum of the Board cannot be physically present at the above address, it is the intent to have the presiding officer physically present at the above address. If you require accommodations or have questions about how to access the meeting, please contact Jennifer Osborn at 210-888-9475 select 0, or email info@greatheartstxschools.org.

Items will not necessarily be discussed or considered in the order they are printed on the agenda below. If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held

Brandon Byrne

Signed by Brandon Byrne on 5/16/2025

in an executive or closed session, the Board will convene in such executive or closed session as permitted by and in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 551.

Pursuant to Sec. 551.007(b), the Board will allow members of the public who desire to address the Board regarding a specific item on the agenda, before or during the Board's consideration of the item at the meeting.

Persons desiring to address the Board verbal in-person, verbally via Zoom, or in writing may register for public comment or submit their written public comment by completing the [Public Comment Sign-Up Form](https://forms.gle/ujGt41pWg9ZYb1W3A) (<https://forms.gle/ujGt41pWg9ZYb1W3A>).

The deadline to register to address the Board is 5:00 p.m. CST on January 23, 2025. The Great Hearts Texas Public Comment agenda item will be limited to 45 minutes in total. Members of the public may have up to two (2) minutes to speak; however, depending on the number of speakers, the board meeting chair may limit the time allotted to fewer than two minutes in order to allow as many registered members of the public to be heard during the agenda item.

The speaking order will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis and according to the timestamp of when the individual registers. No individual presentation shall exceed two (2) minutes. In the event an individual uses a non-simultaneous translator when addressing the Board, the individual shall be permitted twice the allotted time to make his or her presentation.

This notice was posted on the 17th day of January 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Great Hearts Texas Office, 12500 San Pedro Avenue, Suite 500 in San Antonio, Texas 78216, and on the Great Hearts Texas website:

By: _____
Megan Freeman, Chief of Staff

Directors Present

Brandon Byrne (remote), Jackie Moczygemba, Jim Rahn, Jonathan Sanford (remote), Kevin Hall, Olecia Christie

Directors Absent

None

Guests Present

Chief of Staff Megan Freeman, Conservator Paul Pastorek (remote), Director of Safety Bryan Cornish, Executive Director Monet Lessner, Sr. Vice President of Operations Lisa Zerbonia, Superintendent Wade Dyke, Vice President of Finance Kevin Byrne

I. Opening Items

A.

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Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Jim Rahn called a meeting of the board of directors of Great Hearts Texas to order on Thursday Jan 23, 2025 at 6:04 PM.

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Approval of

- Meeting Minutes from November 7, 2024
- Special Education Policies

Jonathan Sanford made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda.

Kevin Hall seconded the motion.

Motion Carried at 6:21 p.m.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Approval of 2025-2026 School Calendars

Item was removed from the consent agenda for further discussion.

Discussion:

Questions from Jackie Moczygemba prompted Jim Rahn to remove Calendars from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Jackie M: Where are the changes within the school year? Ending before Memorial Day is new for San Antonio.

Monet Lessner: The North Texas calendar has ended before Memorial Day in the past.

We moved toward having the same start and end dates for all calendars to help with state reporting accuracy.

Jackie Moczygemba made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 School Calendars.

Olecia Christie seconded the motion.

Motion Carried 6:24 p.m.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Conservator Progress Report

A. Conservator Progress Update

GHTX has developed a plan to ensure all background checks are completed properly.

Mr. Pastorek will be working with Dr. Dyke on finalizing any remaining items and will work

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to adopt a policy to ensure these matters continue to be a focus of the Board in the future.

IV. Interim Superintendent Report

A. Headmaster Welcome

Dr. Dyke is grateful to the entire team at Great Hearts Texas and how hard they are working and making a difference.

B. Academic Update

The District Improvement Plan is being updated on strategies and goals, focusing on what needs to be completed before the end of the year. Interim STAAR has been completed, this data will be shared at the next Meeting of the Board.

C. Operations Update

Real Estate- Arlington construction is on time to open fall of 2025. Irving Lower is on track to open fall of 2025. Plan in place to move the San Antonio home office to the Koehler House and adding additional parking options for Western Hills.

Enrollment- Current enrollment is at 99.8% to plan. Over 7,000 families have applied to next school year. Lottery will be conducted on January 29, 2025.

School Safety- Required State Audit will be happening in the spring. TEA will be visiting all campuses in NTX and San Antonio.

Nutrition Program- GHTX has been approved for a \$270,000 grant to continue providing fresh fruits and vegetables to our scholars. This is a \$30,000 increase from the prior year's grant.

Jackie Moczygemba- What are the open seats for the lottery after re-enrollment?

Lisa Zerbonia- The Open Enrollment Lottery includes offers using the estimated open seats that would be open for next year. This includes kindergarten students, schools that are growing and adding on grade levels, seats where families have indicated during re-enrollment that they are not returning, etc.

D. Legislative Updates

Julie Linn shared a legislative overview as the Texas 89th Legislative Session opened January 14, 2025 and ends on June 2, 2025. Julie is very optimistic that the Legislature will support funding increases in numerous categories including Education Savings Accounts and Public Education.

Jim Rahn: If ESAs were to pass and be funded, how do you think charter schools will be impacted

Julie Linn: This will depend on how the state designs the eligibility to determine who is eligible for the ESA.

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Jackie Moczygemba : What would the timeline be for the new budget to be passed and implementation?

Julie Linn: Funding would impact school years 25-26 and 26-27. There would be no delay in funding.

Kevin Hall: Do you foresee and action on charter schools facilities funding?

Julie Linn: I expect to see some legislation that would increase charter school facilities funding.

Jackie Moczygemba : What is the likelihood that this session drags on like the last session did?

Julie Linn: Due to the changes in the House, it is unlikely that we will need to go into Special Session.

Olecia Christie: Is there a timeline to make Great Hearts Online more official rather than operating under a waiver?

Julie Linn: This legislation has strong support to pass quickly in the Senate. With bipartisan support, we expect the bill to move very quickly this session.

Wade Dyke: We will make a budget based on current numbers and will make changes as additional money becomes available.

V. Finance Update

A. Review YTD Financial Report

B. Budget Update

Kevin Byrne shares that enrollment and attendance remain strong overall; 99.8%. Online enrollment is still pending payment from the state. We are currently tracking the following risks for the FY25 Budget: State Funding (per pupil), Tax Rate Adjustments, Security, IMA, Philanthropy/CI, Salaries and Wages. The Average Daily Attendance is tracking 1% higher on our ADA. YTD through November we are at a \$1.7 million loss. However, we have received \$1 million that was in our budget and an additional \$2.7 million dollars from the Great Hearts Foundation. Due to this philanthropy, we ended December with 61 days of cash on hand.

Jackie Moczygemba shares the importance of hitting the metrics so that bond debit comes in at a lower rate.

Kevin Byrne and Wade Dyke share the disconnect between hiring and budgeting and the process moving forward to navigate hiring and budgeting.

Kevin Hall shares the importance of hiring now.

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Jim Rahn- What are we doing to ensure as much money as possible is going to the school level?

Wade Dyke- We have made reductions in general service. The Finance Committee wants general service office costs at 10% or under while building a 2-4% surplus. 86-87% of every dollar will stay at the schools.

VI. Closed Meeting/Executive Session

A. Pursuant under:

551.071, Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal matters

551.074, discussing conservator matters and consultation with conservator on HR matters

551.072, To deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, sell or value of real property.

551.076, Deliberations Regarding Security Devices or Security Audits

551.074, Personnel, position of Superintendent

B. Enter Closed Meeting/Executive Session

Jackie Moczygemba made a motion to move to Executive Session.

Olecia Christie seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Executive Session Entered 7:22 p.m. CT

Executive Session Closed 9:42 p.m. CT

VII. Other Action Items

A. Approval of Governance Committee Charter

Jonathan Sanford made a motion to approve the Governance Committee Charter.

Kevin Hall seconded the motion.

Motion Carried at 9:41 p.m.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. Consider and take possible action on school chaplains (SB763)

Deferred

C. Consider and take possible action on the ratification of a non-expansion amendment to relocate the Great Hearts Texas Administrative Office to the Koehler House, 310 W Ashby Place, San Antonio, TX 78212

Jackie Moczygemba made a motion to approve the non-expansion amendment to relocate the Great Hearts Texas Administrative Office to the Koehler House, 310 W Ashby Place, San Antonio, TX 78212.

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Olecia Christie seconded the motion.

Motion Carried 9:44 p.m.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Consider and take possible action on HB 1707 Resolution

Olecia Christie made a motion to adopt the HB1707 Resolution.

Kevin Hall seconded the motion.

Motion Carried 9:44 p.m.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

E. Consider and take possible action on an Nova-State Affiliate GH TX Direct Services Contract

F. Consider and take possible action on the position of Superintendent

Jonathan Sanford made a motion to hire Dr. Wade Dyke as the permanent Superintendent and authorize the Board Chair, Mr. Jim Rahn to negotiate the final agreement.

Jackie Moczygemba seconded the motion.

Motion Carried at 9:45 p.m.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

G. Consider and take possible action on matters discussed in closed session

Jonathan Sanford made a motion to add Brandon Byrne to the Governance Committee.

Jackie Moczygemba seconded the motion.

Motion Carried 9:43 p.m.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Olecia Christie made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Kevin Hall seconded the motion.

Motion Carried 9:46 p.m.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brandon Byrne

Great Hearts Texas Board of Directors

Jim Rahn, Chairman

Brandon Byrne

Signed by Brandon Byrne on 5/16/2025

Jackie Moczygemba, Vice Chairman

Brandon Byrne, Board Secretary

Olecia Christy, Board Director

Jonathan Sanford, Board Director

Kevin Hall, Board Director

The undersigned, being the Secretary of the Corporation, hereby certifies that the foregoing represents a true copy of the January 23, 2025 Meeting Minutes of the Great Hearts Texas Board of Directors. Meeting Minutes were approved by the Great Hearts Texas Board of Directors March 6, 2025.

Brandon Byrne

Signed by Brandon Byrne on 5/16/2025