

Great Hearts Texas

Minutes

Great Hearts Texas Annual Board Meeting (6/12/2025 @ 10:00 am CT)

Great Hearts Live Oak

Date and Time

Thursday June 12, 2025 at 10:00 AM

Location

Great Hearts Live Oak, 7653 North Loop 1604 East, San Antonio, TX, 78233;
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82409256201?pwd=0vXjbut7vurwaNkSycVuzNI8YmHF7W.1>

Directors Present

Brandon Byrne (remote), Jim Rahn, Jonathan Sanford (remote), Kevin Hall

Directors Absent

Jackie Moczygemba, Olecia Christie

I. Opening Items

A. Welcome

B. Record Attendance

C. Call the Meeting to Order

Jim Rahn called a meeting of the board of directors of Great Hearts Texas to order on Thursday Jun 12, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

D. Introduction and Welcome from Great Hearts Live Oak Headmaster Audelo

II. Public Comment

A. Great Hearts Texas Board of Directors hears comments from the public

Mrs. Freeman shared written comments with the Board of Directors. No members of the public signed up for in person or public comment on Zoom.

III. Conservator Progress Report

A. Update

Mr. Pastorek explains that a TEA-appointed Conservator reviews specific matters to ensure they are in order. Such appointments typically last over a year to address concerns thoroughly. The HR issues he was asked to oversee have been resolved and remain in compliance, and he will continue in his Conservator role to provide ongoing support.

IV. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Consent Agenda

- Approval of Meeting Minutes from March 6, 2025
- Approval of Official District Attendance Reporting Time
- Approval of Great Hearts America - Texas Conflict of Interest Policy
- Approval and Resolution of Great Hearts America - Texas School Chaplain (SB 763) Policy
- Approval of Good Cause Exception Waiver to TEA for Monte Vista-South - Unable to Number the Main Sanctuary Doors to Temple Beth-El
- Approval and Resolution to Sell .3602 Acres of Prairie View land to TXDOT
- Approval and Resolution to Purchase 2AC Parcel North for Prairie View
- Approval of HB 1707 Resolution with Regard to Purchase of Prairie View Campus Property
- Approval of Non-Expansion Amendment Resolution to postpone the opening of the previously approved campus to be called Great Hearts Tarrant County #4, to be located in the Northeast Tarrant County area
- Approval of a waiver and pending submission for an Expansion Amendment to add classrooms and a library for the Great Hearts Monte Vista campus (015835001) to be located directly across the street from the existing Monte Vista campus at the Great Hearts America - Texas District Office located at the Koehler House, 310 W Ashby Place, San Antonio, TX 78212
- Approval of Submission of Low Attendance Waiver to TEA for Low Attendance Days

Jim Rahn removed the Approval of Great Hearts America - Texas Expense Reimbursement and Credit Card Policy from the Consent Agenda.

Jonathan Sanford made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Great Hearts Texas Board Meeting (3/6/2025 @ 6:00 pm CT) on 03-06-25.

Kevin Hall seconded the motion.

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

V. Superintendent Report

A. Academic Update

- Mrs. Lessner reported strong End of Course results, with U.S. History meeting the 90/60/30 goal (90% passing, 60% Meets, 30% Masters).
- Reading STAAR nearly reached these goals across most grades.
- 8th grade Science showed solid passing rates but still has growth opportunities.
- Math remains the main area for improvement.
- Mr. Linville presented preliminary STAAR data and explained the accountability formula, which includes CCMR. By offering the TSIA2 assessment, Great Hearts TX increased the number of seniors meeting CCMR requirements this year.
- Dual Enrollment has been piloted at Great Hearts Irving Upper School by 43% of the Junior and Senior class. 100% of scholars that signed up for dual credit courses passed the course.
- AP scores will be released July 9.
- Courses offered Spring '26 will include ENGL 1301, Latin 1301, Hist 1301, Phil 2306, Speech 1315, and Economics 1301 (Tentative). AP Exams that will be offered in Spring 2026 will include Latin, Calculus AB, and Physics I.

B. Operations Update

Updates:

- TEA conducts safety audits every 4 years, and GHTX was selected by lottery to be audited this year. The agency gave positive feedback on campus SOPs, with all employees passing safety interviews. The audit reviewed policies, procedures, visits, and staff readiness.
- GHTX also piloted the state's new Sentinel Program, positioning them ahead of statewide rollout in 2025–26. Additionally, GHTX is preparing its Emergency Operations Plan, due to the state in September 2025.
- GHTX has achieved 95% of its 11th-day fall enrollment goal with a record-high 96% re-enrollment rate for 2025–26, resulting in a 10% overall enrollment increase. A waiting list of 4,700 students reflects successful outreach efforts. Using

a predictive attrition model, GHTX has been within 0.5% of its enrollment targets over the past two years.

- GHTX's Average Daily Attendance rose to 95.4%—0.3% higher than last year and above the 93% state average—earning \$380,000 in state funding. Chronic absenteeism is 9%, well below the Texas average of 15%, due to focused efforts on attendance and reducing absences.
- The real estate team is on track with multiple projects: Arlington Phase II (with a second MPR and full chemistry lab) will finish in June; Irving Lower School (with new amenities) will complete in July; Koehler House is set for Spring 2026; and Phase II designs for Invictus and Prairie View are ready for Board approval.

VI. Closed Meeting/Executive Session

A. Pursuant under:

- Pursuant to 551.071, Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal matters
- Pursuant to 551.074, Discussing conservator matters and consultation with Conservator on HR matters
- Pursuant to 551.072, To deliberate the purchase, exchange, lease, sell or value of real property
- Pursuant to 551.076, Deliberations regarding security devices or security audits
 - District Vulnerability Assessment Full Report
 - Review and discuss action items as a result of the audit/assessment
 - 3 Year Safety and Security Audit
- Pursuant to 551.074, Personnel, position of Superintendent - Annual Evaluation
- Pursuant to 551.074, Personnel, contract and compensation of the Superintendent
- Pursuant to 551.082, Review discipline of a public school child

Kevin Hall made a motion to move to Executive Session.

Brandon Byrne seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously at 11:07 a.m.

Executive Session Entered at 11:07 a.m.

Executive Session Closed at 12:58 a.m.

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

VII. Other Action Items

A. Approval of Service Agreement with Great Hearts America

Kevin Hall made a motion to approve a one-year extension of the Great Hearts Online Service Agreement.

Jonathan Sanford seconded the motion.

Motion carried at 1:00 p.m.

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

B. Approval of Annual Superintendent Evaluation

Jonathan Sanford made a motion to approve the Superintendent Evaluation.

Kevin Hall seconded the motion.

Motion carried 1:00 p.m.

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

C. Ratification and Approval of Superintendent Contract

Jonathan Sanford made a motion to approve the Superintendent Employment Agreement.

Kevin Hall seconded the motion.

Motion carried 1:01 p.m.

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

D. Consider and take possible action on the discipline of a public school child

Kevin Hall made a motion to uphold the decision to vacate the expulsion of Student 1 and Student 2.

Jonathan Sanford seconded the motion.

Motion carried 1:02 p.m.

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

E. Consider and take possible action on the discipline of a public school child

Kevin Hall made a motion to uphold the decision to expel Student 3 and Student 4.

Jonathan Sanford seconded the motion.

Motion carried 1:02 p.m.

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

F. Approval of Board Member Reappointment

Jonathan Sanford made a motion to approve the resolution to reappoint the officers, directors, and committees of the Board.

Brandon Byrne seconded the motion.

Motion carried 1:04 p.m.

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

Dr. Sanford reported that the Governance Committee invited Board Member nominations through email and newsletters, resulting in strong engagement and some nominations submitted.

G. Action to Approve HR Compliance Functions are Monitored by the Board Quarterly

Kevin Hall made a motion to approve the resolution for the Superintendent provide the Board with an update on the HR compliance function.

Jonathan Sanford seconded the motion.

Motion carried 1:04 p.m.

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

H. Approval and Resolution of Safety and Security-Armed Officer Present During School Hours and Baseline Duties of the Officer

Brandon Byrne made a motion to require that each instructional campus have at least one armed security officer present during regular school hours, doing what their baseline duties direct in the proposed resolution.

Kevin Hall seconded the motion.

Motion carried 1:04 p.m.

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

VIII. Finance Update

A. Review YTD Financial Report

- Enrollment by month - Actuals for FY 2025 with state funding based on 12,221 students
- The FY26 Budget is based on 13,941 enrollments. GHTX enroll at 102% enrollment on the 11th day of enrollment.
- FY26 Estimated HB2 State Funding- Basic allotment increased \$55 per student, plus fixed cost component and teacher pay raise tied to experience.
- Budget Outlook – Conservative estimate of \$5.8M for HB2 includes 3% staff raises and teacher allotment eligibility.
- Grant Opportunity – Potential \$6M CSP federal grant over 5 years.
- Statement of Activities - Expected to land at \$1.7 - \$2 million loss. Debt service coverage ratio has to land at 1.1 which we should meet.
- Statement of Financial Position- Optimistic that TEA will resolve SY 23–24 data corrections this summer to release pending online funding.

B. ESSA Funds Application Announcement

Great Hearts Texas supports educational services through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This is an annual application that is submitted to the Texas Education Agency for approval of funds. As part of the process for applying for funds, GHTX is required to gather feedback through public comment. Public comment will be welcomed through a survey link that will be shared out on Sunday, June 15, 2025, and will remain open until Saturday, June 28, 2025.

Federal Grants that Great Hearts Texas will be applying for:

- Title I, Part A – Improving Basic Programs

- Title II, Part A – Supporting Effective Instruction
- Title III, Part A – Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students
- Title IV, Part A – Student Support & Academic Enrichment

C. Discussion and Consideration to Approve the SY 2025–2026 Budget

Kevin Hall made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Great Hearts Texas Budget.

Brandon Byrne seconded the motion.

Motion carried 1:20 p.m.

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

D. Resolution to Authorize the Superintendent to Sign Contracts for the Phase II Build of the Great Hearts Texas Prairie View and Invictus Campuses

Kevin Hall made a motion to approve the authority for the Superintendent to negotiate and sign contracts for the Phase II build for the Invictus and Prairie View campuses.

Brandon Byrne seconded the motion.

Motion carried 1:21 p.m.

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

IX. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 1:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandon Byrne

Jonathan Sanford made a motion to adjourn.

Kevin Hall seconded the motion.

Motion carried 1:22 p.m.

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