

Great Hearts Texas

Minutes

Great Hearts Texas Board Meeting (1/15/2026 @ 6pm CT)

Date and Time

Thursday January 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location

Great Hearts Irving Lower School

3580 Story Road West

Irving, Texas 75038

Directors Present

B. Byrne, J. Moczygemba (remote), J. Pritchett, J. Rahn (remote), J. Sanford, K. Hall, O. Christie (remote)

Directors Absent

None

Directors who arrived after the meeting opened

B. Byrne

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

J. Sanford called a meeting of the board of directors of Great Hearts Texas to order on Thursday Jan 15, 2026 at 6:02 PM.

B. Opening Remarks

B. Byrne arrived at 6:06 PM.

Dr. Dyke introduced both Mr. Brogan, Headmaster of Irving Lower School, and Dr. Amber Dyer, Headmaster of Irving Upper School, to make remarks about their campuses.

II. Public Comment

A. Written Public Comment

J. Sanford opened the meeting for Public Comments. B. Aniol provided the public written comments to the board for review

The Board received the written comments and took six minutes to review them silently.

B. Oral Public Comment

There were no individuals signed up to speak in person. Four individuals addressed the Board via Zoom.

J. Sanford noted that the Board values and appreciates feedback from parents and families.

III. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Great Hearts America - Texas, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2025

B. Approval of Resolution Adopting School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) Committee Member and Bylaws

C. Approval of Resolution Amending the Enrollment Policy and Residency Documentation Requirements

D. Approval of Resolution Authorizing a Charter Expansion Amendment for Great Hearts Monte Vista South

E. Approval of Resolution Authorizing Update of Banking/Financial Institution Signers and Authorized Users

F. Approval of Great Hearts America - Texas, Grievance Policy

G. Approval of Great Hearts America - Texas, 2025-2026 District Improvement Plan

H. Approval of Great Hearts America - Texas, 2026-2027 Academic Calendars

J. Sanford asked the Board if there were any items they wished to remove from the consent agenda.

K. Hall made a motion to approve the minutes from Great Hearts Texas Board Meeting (11/13/2025 @ 6pm CT) on 11-13-25.

B. Byrne seconded the motion.

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

K. Hall made a motion to Approve the Consent Agenda.

B. Byrne seconded the motion.

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

IV. Conservator Progress Report

A. Conservator Progress Report

Mr. Pastorek reported ongoing collaboration with leadership and the Board to support student outcomes, operational effectiveness, and oversight of the service agreement with Great Hearts America. No HR issues were reported, and the Conservator expressed confidence in the continued delivery of high-quality classical education.

V. Superintendent Report

A. Superintendent Update

Dr. Dyke noted that the new Handbook is still with legal for review and will bring it for approval in the March Board meeting.

B. Academic Update

Mr. Duinick introduced Mr. Linville, Director of Data Literacy to speak about Winter MAP benchmark results and projections. •

- **ELA:** Strong performance across grades, especially 5th–8th; students meet or exceed expected growth and outperform national peers. Reading projections are near/exceeding STAAR 30/60/90 goals, with 7th–8th exceeding targets. •
- **Math:** Overall performance is above national average (schools average 50th percentile+), but grades 3–7 need more support. Math STAAR projections are weaker at Masters/ Meets, though spring gains are expected. Mr. Duinick stated that collecting and reviewing data is part of a classical approach because it helps educators respond wisely to students' real needs and support human flourishing.

The board asked several questions about next steps. Mr. Duinick shared that the national academic team is providing targeted support to middle school math teachers and their instructional coaches, with particular focus on 6th grade, and that a home office staff member has created math bellwork resources to cycle back through previously taught concepts so students can receive ongoing remediation during regular Tier 1 instruction.

C. Operations Update

- **Enrollment:** Current enrollment is 100.25% of budget at midyear.
- **Attendance (ADA):** ADA is at the best benchmark in three years, trending up by 0.3 points.

- **Absenteeism:** Year-over-year chronic absenteeism improved by 2.6 percentage points (about 9.7% down to 7.2%). Monthly reports help campuses identify and support students, contributing to improved ADA.
- **Next year enrollment:** Open enrollment is tracking similarly to last year at about 6,000 applications, now evenly split between North Texas and San Antonio. Lottery scheduled for January 28.
- **Real estate updates:** Projects reported on track, Irving Lower successfully opened, Koehler House progressing with visible playground development, and Prairie View Phase 2 on track for opening this fall.
- **Safety:** Two additional unannounced state intruder audits since the last meeting were completed successfully. We are about halfway through audits with six campuses remaining this year. Audits include both attempted entry and verification of ongoing weekly safety documentation.

D. Finance Update

- **Revenues:** State revenues are trending favorably, driven by better-than-budgeted ADA/enrollment and attendance.
- **Expenses:** Several lines are unfavorable versus budget; medical benefits are the primary driver, accounting for roughly 60% of the total expense variance. Child Nutrition costs are also higher, largely because more meals are being served, with offsetting federal revenue.
- **Balance sheet:** Cash is down as expected early in the year due to growth, new buildings coming online, and scheduled payments to vendors and bondholders.
- **Year-over-year comparison (through Nov):** Revenues up about 14% (primarily enrollment growth plus a stronger-than-expected state funding rate); expenses up about 9% (roughly in line with student growth, despite elevated benefit costs). The organization moved from a loss last year to an approximate 2.3% YTD surplus this so far this year.
- **Forecast indicators:** ADA forecast is within ~0.2% of budget. Expense management is ~2.5% off budget (flagged as “red”), again largely due to medical costs. Key bond metrics remain a focus: debt service coverage ratio projected ~1.3 (1.1 minimum), but days cash remains below the desired 70+ threshold.
- **Multi-year outlook:** Projections emphasize the importance of meeting enrollment targets and improving benefits costs. Leadership outlined a pathway to 70+ days cash on hand to regain the Moody’s investment-grade rating.
- **Financing / facilities:** Two projects (Prairie View Phase 2 and Invictus Phase 2) are planned for permanent financing; a lender has approved moving to underwriting, with an underwriting decision expected over the next several months.

VI. Public Hearing

A. 2024-2025 Charter FIRST Rating

The Board held the required annual public hearing to review the **Charter FIRST** rating received in the fall, based on **FY2024** results.

- The organization earned an A rating (Superior Achievement) with a score of 98/100, improving over the prior year.
- Staff reviewed the 21 indicators, noting the five critical “must-pass” indicators were met, including timely submission of a clean audit, compliance with debt agreements, and maintaining adequate net assets.
- Required disclosures were presented, including superintendent’s compensation information, travel reimbursements, and confirmation of no outside compensation and no reported business between the Board and the school.

Mr. Sanford invited questions from the public which included ADA, enrollment projections, ratings process and superintendent travel.

VII. Executive Session (Closed to the Public)

A. Executive Session (Closed to the Public)

- A. Pursuant to 551.071, Consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending legal matters
- B. Pursuant to 551.074, Discussing conservator matters and consultation with Conservator on HR compliance matters
- C. Pursuant to 551.082, Deliberation involving discipline of a public school child

K. Hall made a motion to Move to Executive Session.

B. Byrne seconded the motion.

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

VIII. Reconvene in Open Session

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

J. Moczygemba made a motion to To uphold the expulsion as we discussed an executive session.

J. Pritchett seconded the motion.

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

B. Consider and take possible action on service agreement with Great Hearts Nova

B. Byrne made a motion to Approve an extension of the Nova Agreement through the end of the 25-26 academic year and to further direct the Superintendent to renegotiate the Nova Agreement in an expedited manner.

O. Christie seconded the motion.

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

IX. Closing Items

A.

Adjourn Meeting

J. Sanford made a statement before adjourning, particularly that the 89th Texas legislator passed Senate Bill 11, requiring boards to decide whether schools will provide students the opportunity to participate in a period of prayer or reading of the Bible or other religious texts during the school day. Given the importance of this issue, the Governance committee plans to take it up in February with action expected at the board meeting in March.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. Byrne

K. Hall made a motion to adjourn.

B. Byrne seconded the motion.

Motion carried at 9:25pm

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