

Great Hearts Louisiana Board of Directors Meeting Approved Minutes

Date: February 5, 2025
Time: 6:00 p.m. CDT

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Great Hearts Louisiana Board of Directors was held at 11801 Bluebonnet Boulevard in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

I. Call to Order

Mr. Gose called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. CDT and confirmed a quorum.

Louisiana Board Members		Present	Absent	
Ty Gose	Chairman	X		
Adonica Pelichet Duggan	Vice Chairman	X		
David Whidden III	Secretary	X		
Kathy Victorian	Treasurer		X	
Elisha McCardell	Director		X	
Erin Franco	Director	X		
Jim Stoner	Director	X		
Katie Fetzer	Director	X		Joined at 6:06pm
Other Staff/Guests				
Sam Heisman	Founding Head of School, GH Harveston	X		
Dan Scoggin	Chief Academies Officer, GH America			
Jay Heiler	Chief Executive Officer, GH America	X		via Zoom
Bianca Ulibarri	Director of Governance, GH America	X		via Zoom
Holly Manuel	Senior Finance Manager, GH Harveston	X		
Laurel Fisher	Assistant Head of School, Lower School	X		
Matt Bushard	Chief Financial Officer, GH America	X		via Zoom
Jeremy Thibodeaux	Auditor	X		
Tani Buddle	Auditor	X		

II. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Whidden move to adopt the agenda with the amendment to take item 6(b) before the consent agenda.

Ms. Pelichet Duggan seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 6:04 p.m. CDT.

Item taken out of order.

VI. (b) Review FY2024 Annual Financial Audit

Ms. Manual introduced Mr. Thibodeaux and Mr. Buddle from Ericksen Krentel to present the FY2024 Audit Report for Great Hearts Louisiana, Inc. Mr. Thibodeaux presented the audit scope, conclusion, BESE and LLA statewide procedures and the 990.

III. Approval of Consent Agenda:

- a. **Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2024**
- b. **Add Clint Ebey to the Disciplinary Hearing Committee**
- c. **Approval of GH Certificated and Support Staff Stipends Distribution Plan**
- d. **Approval of GH Differentiated Compensation Distribution Plan**

Mr. Whidden moved to approve the consent agenda, as presented; Ms. Pelichet Duggan seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 6:26 p.m. CDT.

IV. Head of School Update

- a. **Enrollment Update**
- b. **School Culture Update**

Mr. Heisman presented his Head of School update. He presented the school's current enrollment and projections for the 2025-2026 school year. The school is at an 82.59% student retention rate so far. Mr. Heisman gave an update on the Academic Improvement Plan in math, reading, and student behavior and culture.

V. Growth Discussion

Dr. Scoggin took this opportunity to welcome the two new board members, Dr. Stoner and Dr. Fetzer. Dr. Scoggin gave an update on the current growth plan for GH Harveston in the upcoming school year. With the role out of GH Harveston Phase 2, there will be additional leadership needs, and this hiring process is currently underway. Dr. Scoggin spoke about additional growth around the State of Louisiana. The team is looking to expand in Lake Charles and the possibility of opening a school perhaps in fall of 2027.

VI. Finance Update

- a. **Review of YTD Financial Report**

Ms. Manual provided an update on the current balance sheet and statement of activities. Ms. Manuel informed the Board that GH Harveston has been awarded the CSP grant for the 2nd time. This grant will help the school complete additional expansion and growth in the upcoming years.

VII. Announcements/Adjournment

Mr. Whidden moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Pelichet Duggan seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. CDT.