

Great Hearts Louisiana Board of Directors Meeting Unapproved Minutes

Date: August 20, 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 6:04 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	
Erin Franco	Director	X		Joined at 6:08pm
Jim Stoner	Director	X		
Katie Fetzer	Director	X		Left at 6:50pm
Other Staff/Guests				
Drew Thomas	Head of School, GH Harveston	X		
Dan Scoggin	Chief Academies Officer, GH America	X		
Bianca Ulibarri	Director of Governance, GH America	X		via Zoom
Holly Manuel	Senior Finance Manager, GH Harveston	X		
Jason Doughty	Executive Director, GH Harveston	X		
Matt Bushard	Chief Finance Officer, GH America	X		via Zoom
Jasmine Theyard	Director of Campus Operations, GH Harveston	X		
Genevieve Peterson	Chief Development Officer, GH America	X		via Zoom
LeaAnn Reikes	VP of Human Resources, GH America	X		Via Zoom
Jake Tawney	Chief Academic Officer, GH America	X		via Zoom
Cody Bourque	Dir of New School Strategy & Support, LDOE	X		via Zoom

II. Renewal of Board Member Terms

Mr. Whidden made a motion to approve and renew the Board Terms for Adonica Pelichet Duggan, David Whidden, Erin Franco, James Stoner, Katie Fetzer, and Ty Gose; Ms. Fetzer seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 6:07 p.m. CDT.

Mr. Gose noted that Ms. Victorian's term is not being renewed in compliance with our bylaws. Both the Board and staff would like to thank Ms. Victorian for her board service and support as a founding board member.

III. Election of Board Officers

Mr. Whidden made a motion to approve the slate of officers as follows, Ty Gose as Chairman, Adonica Pelichet Duggan as Vice-Chairman, David Whidden as Secretary and Erin Franco as Interim Treasurer; Ms. Fetzer seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 6:14 p.m. CDT.

IV. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Whidden moved to adopt the agenda with the amendment to remove item 8(a)(i) and item 9(b); Ms. Fetzer seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 6:15 p.m. CDT.

V. Approval of Consent Agenda:

- a. **Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2025**
- b. **Approval of Minutes from August 4, 2025**

Mr. Stoner moved to approve the consent agenda as presented; Ms. Fetzer seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 6:16 p.m. CDT.

VI. Discussion and Approval of 2025-2026 Employee Handbook

Ms. Reikes informed the Board that the proposed addition was removed from the final 2025-2026 GH Louisiana Employee Handbook and the Handbook was published to employees on July 1, 2025. The team will add any additional changes into the 2026-2027 GH Louisiana Employee Handbook. Mr. Stoner moved to approve the 26-27 Employee Handbook with the change to allow employees to have the right to be present, in-person, during an inspection of a personal device in the Employee Use of Equipment Section; Ms. Franco seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 6:21 p.m. CDT.

VII. Head of School Update

- a. **Enrollment Update**

Mr. Thomas gave the Head of School Update. The current enrollment is at 667 which is below the operational budgeted target of 696. Staff is estimating enrollment will land around 675. Ms. Manual stated that GH Harveston received more funding than planned, which is helping with this offset.

- b. **School Culture**

- c. **Academic Result Updates from Previous School Year**

Mr. Thomas presented the 2024 & 2025 Harveston/State/EBR percent mastery results. Of the 27 BR charter schools, Great Hearts posted the second-highest growth percentiles for Mastery+ and Basic+ (behind Kenilworth). We saw a notable improvement from 3rd to 4th grade cohort level. However, our 6th and 7th grade cohort is not growing as fast.

- d. **Head of School Goals for 2025-2026**

Mr. Thomas gave an update on his annual goals. His current priorities include meeting the metrics listed in annual Academic Improvement Plan and work on school, student, parent, and faculty culture.

VIII. Growth Discussion

- a. **Harveston Campus Phase 2 Development Plan Update**

- i. **Discussion and Consideration to Approve Project Reimbursement Resolution**

Dr. Scoggin updated the Board on the Phase 2 growth plan. After further review, the team is targeting a fall 2028 for phase 2. The team is working on a growth plan for Lake Charles and has started the Charter Application process.

- b. **Discussion on Type 1 vs. Type 2 Charter Authorization**

Dr. Scoggin stated that after discussions with each board member over the past week, both he and the GH America CEO, Jay Heiler will be meeting with LDOE next week. The basis of this meeting will

be to understand the process for submitting a Type 1 charter petition and ensuring they have the support of the LDOE board members. He thanked our board members for their support of the petition.

IX. Finance Update

a. FY2025 Financial Review

Ms. Manual presented the FY24-25 unaudited financials. She presented the revenue, expenses and the December 2024 balance sheet.

b. Discussion and Consideration to Approve GHLA Financial Policies and Procedures

This item was removed

X. Announcements/Adjournment

Mr. Bourque thanked GH Harveston for hosting Secretary Linda McMahon and Dr. Cade Brumley during their visit to Louisiana. Mr. Stoner moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Franco seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m. CDT.