

Great Hearts Louisiana Board of Directors Meeting Approved Minutes

Date: October 27, 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. CT and confirmed a quorum.

Louisiana Board Members		Present	Absent	
Ty Gose	Chairman	X		
Adonica Pelichet Duggan	Vice Chairman		X	
David Whidden III	Secretary	X		
Erin Franco	Treasurer	X		
Jim Stoner	Director	X		
Katie Fetzer	Director		X	
Other Staff/Guests				
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		
Drew Thomas	Head of Upper School, GH Harveston	X		
Julie Harris	Head of Lower School, 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
Cody Bourque	Dir of New School Strategy & Support, LDOE	X		

II. Adoption of Agenda

Mr. Whidden moved to adopt the agenda as presented; Ms. Franco seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 6:03 p.m. CT.

III. Approval of Consent Agenda:

- a. **Approval of GHLA Certificated and Support Staff Stipends Distribution Plan**
- b. **Approval of GHLA Differentiated Compensation Distribution Plan**

- c. **Approval to Designate the Senior Finance Manager of GHLA and the Chief Finance Officer of the Member to Borrow and Accept funds from an Affiliate GH corporation on behalf of the organization for FY2026**

Ms. Manuel gave a brief overview of each consent agenda item. Mr. Whidden moved to approve the consent agenda as presented; Mr. Stoner seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 6:09 p.m. CT.

IV. Executive Director and Heads of School Updates

- a. **Leadership Changes**

Mr. Doughty gave an update on the leadership changes. He introduced Ms. Harris as the new Lower Head of School. With this addition, Mr. Thomas will become the Upper Head of School. Mr. Doughty will provide a new leadership flow chart at a later date.

- b. **Enrollment Update**

The budgeted enrollment is set at 696. Day one enrollment was at 675. Currently the school is at 665. At this time, with the leadership changes, the team has decided to pause enrollment to allow time for the team to get settled.

- c. **Upper School Report**

Mr. Thomas gave the Upper Head of School Update. He is excited to partner with Ms. Harris and focus on the Upper school. He thanked Mr. Doughty and the GH team for all of their support. The school had 65% new students this year. With this increase in new students, the school is seeing some student disciplinary problems and are addressing them to improve the student culture.

- d. **Lower School Report**

Ms. Harris gave the Lower Head of School Update. She stated that her goals for this year is excellence in instruction and curriculum fidelity. The lower school team is refining their approach to celebrating curriculum and field trips.

- e. **Academic Performance Update and AIP**

The intervention team is seeing progress. They had 216 students in math intervention and 86 of them have already exited.

V. GHLA Growth Discussion

- a. **Harveston Phase 2**

The team will bring a finance plan before the Board next June. This will align with the fall 2028 target for phase 2.

- b. **Lake Charles Charter Application**

The application for Lake Charles has been submitted to the local district. The next step will be to have a capacity meeting with the District and GH Leadership team. This will occur sometime in November. As this application is underway, this Board will oversee this school also. The Board discussed bringing board candidates for consideration at the next board meeting.

- c. **Future Type 2 Petition**

Dr. Scoggin stated that after some discussions with LDOE, they have requested for the GHLA to pause on moving forward with the Type 2 petition. This will allow GHLA to see how the St. George School District moves forward. The team will be meeting with EBR later this week to discuss and address some of our ESS challenges. The team will continue to monitor this situation.

VI. Finance Update

- a. **FY25-26 Q1 Financial Review and FY24-25 LPCSP Grant Summary**

Ms. Manuel gave a quick overview on revenue, expenses and the December 2024 balance sheet. She presented overview on the CSP use of funds.

- b. **Audit Update**

- c. **Discussion and Consideration to Approve GHLA Financial Policies and Procedures**

Ms. Manual presented the GHLA Financial Policies and Procedures. The Board requested to have all Board members review this document and it be placed on the consent agenda at the next meeting.

d. **Discussion and Consideration to Approve the Audit Compliance Questionnaire**

The Board reviewed the Audit Compliance Questionnaire. Mr. Whidden moved to approve the Audit Compliance Questionnaire, as presented; Ms. Franco seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 7:35 p.m. CT.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m. CT.