Great Hearts Louisiana
Board of Directors Meeting
Approved Minutes

Date: August 18, 2026
Time: 6:00 p.m. CT

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 6:06 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	
Brian Haymon	Director	X		
Adam Reed	Director	X		
Other Staff/Guests				
Dan Scoggin	Chief Academies Officer, GH America	X		
Brandon Crowe	Chief of Schools, GH America	X		via Zoom
Bianca Ulibarri	Director of Governance, GH America	X		via Zoom
Holly Manuel	Senior Finance Manager, GH Louisiana	X		
Drew Thomas	Head of Upper School, GH Harveston	X		
Julie Harris	Head of Lower School, GH Harveston	X		
Jason Doughty	Executive Director, GH Louisiana	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 6:07 p.m. CT.

III. Approval of Consent Agenda:

a. **Approval of Minutes from June 2, 2026**
b. **Approval of the FY2026 Audit Engagement Letters**
c. **Approval of the Audit Compliance Questionnaire**
d. **Approval of the 2026-2027 Employee Handbook**
e. **Approval of updated 2026-2027 Family Handbook**
f. **Approval of updated 2026-2027 School Calendar**

g. **Approval of updated to the Student Fees Policy and Procedures**
h. **Approval of the Audio/Video Cameras in Special Education Classrooms Policy and Procedures**

The Board asked clarifying questions regarding the handbooks. Mr. Whidden moved to approve the consent agenda as presented; Ms. Franco seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 6:28 p.m. CT.

IV. Finance Update

a. **Discussion and Consideration to Approve and Adopt the 2026-2027 Annual Budget and Board Resolution**

Ms. Manual gave an overview of the budget for FY2027. Currently, student enrollment is on target for this conservated budget. The FY27 budgeted revenue decreased 14% from last SY due to decrease in MFP funding, state raises and stipends, and other items. Mr. Whidden moved to approve and adopt the 2026-2027 Annual Budget as presented; Mr. Haymon seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 6:49 p.m. CT.

b. **Discussion on Executive Order pertaining to Reduction of State Funds to Support Teacher Pay Raises**

Ms. Manual gave a brief update on this executive order.

c. **Discussion on GH Foundation Loan of Funds for FY2027**

Ms. Manual updated the board on the repayment of a portion of the GH Foundation loan.

d. **Discussion and Consideration to Approve GHLA Signer's List for Contracts**

Ms. Manual presented the list of proposed authorized signers who can enter into contracts on behalf of GHLA. Mr. Haymon moved to approve the GHLA Signer's List for Contracts as presented; Ms. Franco seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 7:02 p.m. CT.

V. Executive Director and Heads of School Updates

a. **Executive Summary of 25-26 LEAP Performance**
b. **Strong School start - what the HoS's have done and are doing**
c. **Learnings from Upper School Focus Groups**

Mr. Doughty presented the ED's report. He gave an overview of the school's academic performance and how the team is working to address the gaps. The team is taking a strong academic intervention approach this year to ensure that parents are always aware of their students' academic growth. As the school is currently working on rebuilding their status in the community, they have heard positive feedback from staff and families so far this year.

VI. Growth Update

a. **Lake Charles Charter Application Update**
b. **Discussion and Consideration of St. Luke Lease Agreement**

Dr. Scoggin informed the Board that at BESE's meeting early today, they approved our Lake Charles Charter Application. As the application is now approved, Dr. Scoggin presented a lease agreement for this school site. Mr. Haymon moved to approve the St. Luke Lease Agreement as presented with direction for Dr. Scoggin to try and renegotiate a return if contract is terminated based upon the needed tenant improvement, to understand the landlord finances, and to review their current insurance; Mr. Whidden seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 7:48 p.m. CT.

c. **Grant updates: CSP, NSLA, NSBR**

Dr. Scoggin gave the Board an update on the recent grant successes.

d. **Discussion and Consideration of Amending the MOU**

Dr. Scoggin presented the suggested amendments to the current MOU between GHLA and GH America. After review of the services and costs, staff is proposing to change the MSF from 4.5% plus

other allocations to a 10% flat fee. Dr. Scoggin will ask for formal Board approval at the next schedule board meeting.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Franco moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Whidden seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed at 8:00 p.m. CT. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. CT.