

**Great Oaks Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting**

SEPT 21 2026

Date: August 2026

Call to Order: 5:50 p.m.

Adjournment: 6:17 p.m.

Location: Great Oaks / Virtual Meeting

Call to Order

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m.

Public Comment

The Board provided an opportunity for members of the public to address the Board of Directors. No guests were present, and no public comments were received.

Approval of Agenda

The Board was asked to identify any proposed changes to the agenda. No changes were raised.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the previous Board meeting. The motion carried.

Financial Report and Audit Update

The Board received the financial report for August. The financial update included the following:

- The organization was two months into the new fiscal year, with revenue and expenses tracking as expected.
- The fiscal year was approximately 17% complete, and any current budget variances were attributed primarily to timing differences.
- The FY2026 year-end audit was in its final stages. The auditors had submitted draft financial statements, which had been reviewed and found satisfactory.
- No audit findings or significant issues were reported.
- The management representation letter remained to be signed before the audit could be finalized.
- The audit was expected to meet the October 1 deadline.
- The Board was offered the opportunity to request an auditor presentation at a future Board meeting.

No additional questions were raised regarding the financial report or audit status.

Motion: A motion was made and seconded to approve the August financial report as presented. The motion carried.

School Updates

Ms. Price provided updates on school operations, staffing, enrollment, and school improvement priorities.

Staff Recognition

The following staff members were recognized for their contributions:

- Mrs. Sermons (Operations): Recognized for leading social media efforts, strengthening the school's visibility and recruitment efforts, and supporting student registration and attendance tracking.
- Mr. Lambert (Paraprofessional): Recognized for his flexibility, willingness to support school needs, and continued professional development in education.
- Mr. Davis (Director of Climate and Culture): Recognized for establishing a positive school culture and setting a strong tone for the school year.

Enrollment and Student Support

- The school reported an enrollment unit count of 15:1 and was approaching its enrollment target, with 145 students anticipated out of a target of 149.
- One additional student was awaiting assessment, which could affect the final count.
- Approximately 12 complex-needs students were anticipated among the student population, creating a need for additional resources and individualized support.
- Additional one-to-one support staff had been hired to assist students in classrooms.

Facilities and Operations

- School leadership continued meeting with facilities representatives regarding building use.
- The CEB had introduced a program involving approximately 40 students from Freire who were placed in the building. School leadership was working to clarify space usage, schedules, and program activities to ensure appropriate coordination and student safety.

Transportation

- Transportation services through Odyssey Transportation were improving.
- Concerns remained regarding hub-stop routes, including long walking distances and stops in areas parents considered unsafe.
- School leadership continued working with the transportation provider to improve routes and address family concerns.

Staffing

- Staff retention was reported at 90%.
- The secondary mathematics and Spanish teaching positions remained unfilled.
- A long-term substitute was covering Spanish, and an existing teacher had assumed additional mathematics courses.
- Recruitment efforts for the remaining vacancies continued.

School Improvement Priorities

School leadership identified three primary areas of focus:

1. Instruction: Maintain fidelity to the approved curriculum, strengthen writing instruction across all content areas, and ensure teachers use the full 50-minute

instructional period. Curriculum fidelity was approximately 98% in the previous school year.

2. Attendance: Current attendance was averaging approximately 84%, exceeding the school's goal of 74%. Staff continued outreach to families through phone calls and home visits for students with attendance concerns.
3. Achievement and Assessment: The school aimed for 95% student participation in required testing, including mathematics assessments and the SAT, and a 10% increase in ELA and mathematics assessment performance.

Professional development had been provided to teachers to strengthen writing instruction and student writing stamina, particularly in response to a decline in SAT writing performance during the previous school year.

School Climate

School leadership reported a positive start to the school year. Students were described as engaged and enthusiastic, with returning students helping recruit new students and contributing to a stronger sense of community. Leadership noted that continued support would be needed to channel students' energy productively.

Board members congratulated school leadership and staff on the positive start to the school year.

Executive Session

A motion was made and seconded to enter executive session. The motion carried.

The Board entered executive session. The recording was paused during the executive session.

The Board subsequently returned to regular session. No additional business was reported for consideration.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Fisher
Board Chair