Great Oaks Charter School
Board of Directors Meeting

OCT 19 2026

Date: October 19 2026
Call to Order: 5:47 p.m.
Adjournment: 6:33 p.m.
Location: Great Oaks / Virtual Meeting

Call to Order

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 5:47 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. Quorum was not met, so the vote to approve the agenda was tabled.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Quorum was not met, so the vote to approve the previous meeting minutes was tabled.

Financial Report

The Chief Business Officer (CBO) presented a high-level overview of the financial report through September 30, 2026, marking the end of the first quarter.

Key financial updates included:

- **Revenue:** The school has received approximately 41% of its preliminary annual budget. Local school transfers are beginning to come in, contributing to revenue growth.
- **Budget Amendment:** The CBO anticipates bringing an amended budget to the Board for review in December. Additional time is needed to evaluate final staff allocations, the September 30 unit count, and the implications of House Bill 97.
- **Expenditures:** Total expenditures were approximately $739,000 against a preliminary budget of $4.1 million.
- **Operating Position:** The school reported an operating surplus of slightly more than $1.1 million.
- **Fund Balance:** The fund balance as of September 30 was approximately $3.4 million.

The CBO explained that certain expenditure categories were trending above or below budget due primarily to timing differences, including insurance payments, instructional supplies, computer supplies, and transportation expenses. Transportation expenditures are expected to increase as activity picks up in October.

Audit Update: The annual audit has been finalized and submitted to the state. The

CBO reported that the audit had no findings or identified issues. The CBO offered to coordinate a presentation by the auditors for the Board, if requested.

The Board was advised that the financial report could not be formally approved at this meeting. The report will be finalized and posted following the appropriate approval process.

5. School Updates

The school leadership team provided updates on student enrollment, academic priorities, school operations, staffing, and student support services.

A. Staff Recognition

School leadership recognized the Special Education (SPED) teachers for their presentation during the most recent professional development day. The presentation focused on understanding Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and implementing appropriate student accommodations.

The training was intended to ensure staff members are knowledgeable and prepared to meet the needs of students receiving special education services.

B. Enrollment and Student Population

The school reported an enrollment of 148 students, compared with a target of 149 students.

The school has generated 16.38 units.

The student population breakdown is as follows:

Student Classification	Number of Students
Complex	14
Intense	22
Basic	25
General Education	87
Total	**148**

Leadership noted an increase in complex special education student needs compared with the previous year, when there were nine complex students. Current students present a range of academic, behavioral, and other support needs.

The Board discussed the definition of complex student classifications, including whether medically complex needs may be included. Leadership clarified that classifications are based on special education needs and require an IEP.

C. School Improvement Priorities

Leadership reviewed the school's ongoing improvement goals:

1. **Fidelity to Instruction:** Continue strengthening consistency and implementation of instructional practices.
2. **Writing Across Content Areas:** Expand writing instruction across all subject areas in response to declining SAT writing scores. Professional development will increasingly focus on strengthening student writing skills, confidence, and proficiency.
3. **Attendance and Truancy:** Current attendance is approximately 84%. Leadership is working to improve attendance through increased communication with families, particularly during inclement weather and virtual or modified school schedules.
4. **Student Achievement:** Continue efforts to improve overall academic achievement, particularly in mathematics.

Leadership reported improved student participation and completion rates on testing this year. Additional data will be reviewed to evaluate student growth between spring and fall assessments.

D. School Operations and Facilities

Leadership provided updates regarding building operations and shared spaces.

- Meetings have taken place with the CEB regarding new tenants and shared building spaces.
- Discussions with Freire regarding shared-space arrangements remain ongoing.
- Breakfast schedules were adjusted to prevent overlap between student populations following a reported incident involving a Great Oaks student and a student from another school.
- Leadership will continue coordinating with building partners, including an upcoming meeting regarding early childhood programming and potential building occupancy.

E. Transportation

Leadership reported that transportation services have improved. Bus stops have been streamlined, and buses are arriving regularly and on time for student pickup and dismissal.

F. Staffing

The school currently has an open Spanish teacher position. Leadership reported difficulty recruiting qualified Spanish teachers and continues to pursue candidates.

In the interim, the Spanish curriculum is being delivered online to ensure continued instruction.

G. Instructional Support and Student Services

Leadership reported the following instructional support initiatives:

- Credit recovery programming has started.
- Virtual English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics tutoring has begun.
- The first parent night of the school year was held during the previous week.

Special education staffing and support currently include:

- Two special education teachers.
- Three one-on-one aides supporting students with complex needs.
- Two instructional paraprofessionals supporting ELA and mathematics classrooms.

H. Student Demographics and Additional Support Needs

Leadership shared information regarding student populations requiring additional support.

- **Adjudicated Youth:** Approximately 15% of the student population is involved in the juvenile justice system. The school is working with the CEB to provide 15 hours per week of advocacy support. An advocate will work with a cohort of approximately 8–10 students, providing transition support, guidance, and assistance, including attendance at court dates.
- **McKinney-Vento:** Leadership shared the number of students formally identified as experiencing homelessness. It was noted that the reported figure may not fully reflect the broader needs of the student population, as identification depends on students and families disclosing their housing circumstances.
- **Student Parenting and Pregnancy-Related Needs:** Approximately 8% of students are currently parents, are expecting children, or have experienced a recent pregnancy loss.

Leadership emphasized the importance of continued support and resources for these student populations.

Following the school updates, leadership indicated that additional matters required discussion in executive session.

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 6:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vanessa Fisher
Board Chair