

June 24, 2025

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. **Chair Katie Gerski-Keller called the meeting to order at 5:08 p.m.**
2. **Roll Call –**
Board Members Present: Katie Gerski-Keller, Meredith Willsen, Ekaterina Khmelniker, Jennifer Huetter
Board Members Absent: Stephen Quadro
Guests: Brittany Galles, Jennifer Hoover, Ryan Sutton (remote), Susan Hixson, Katie Alanis, James Stark, Tavia Pagan, Joanne Ahola, Emily Holen, Hunter Atherton
3. **Board Member Exigencies and Remote Attendance –**
Action: Shall the board approve any board members to participate in this board meeting from a remote location due to unexpected emergencies per AB 2449?
Information: Members must publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and if so, the general nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals; and ensure their meeting participation using both visual and audio technology.

TABLED. NO ACTION.
4. **Vice Chair Meredith Willsen read the Creativity Virtue Card.**
5. **Public Comment –**
Hunter Atherton made a comment regarding leadership changes and BOT communications.

Marcus Neal (Zoom) made a comment regarding a recent board packet from SJUSD and going directly to the BOT for clear communication, transparency and trust.

Samantha Bruton made a comment regarding recent communication and transparency from the GVCS BOT.

Chair Katie Gerski-Keller closed public comment at 5:15 p.m.
6. **Consent Agenda –**
6.1 It was moved by Ekaterina Khmelniker and seconded by Jennifer Huetter that the board approve the June 4, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

(Ayes: 3, Noes: 0, Abstain: 1 K. Gerski-Keller)

It was moved by Jennifer Huetter and seconded by Ekaterina Khmelniker that the board approve the following by consent:

6.2 The board approved the 2025/2026 Consolidated Application for Golden Valley Orchard School.

6.3 The board approved the 2025/2026 Consolidated Application for Golden Valley River School.

June 24, 2025

(Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

7. Nutrition Services MOU from SJUSD –

Jennifer Hoover discussed the Nutrition Services MOU from SJUSD.

Ekaterina Khmelniker made a comment regarding reimbursement.

Jennifer Huetter made a comment regarding driving. Jennifer Hoover explained that GVCS appointed staff drives to Casa High School to pick up the food for GVCS.

Meredith Willsen made a comment regarding additional language in the MOU pertaining to pricing and driving.

It was moved by Ekaterina Khmelniker and seconded by Meredith Willsen that the Board approve the Nutrition Services MOU from San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD).

(Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

8. 2025-2026 Budget for GVOS –

Susan Lefkowitz presented the 2025-2026 Budget for GVOS.

Ekaterina Khmelniker made a comment regarding clarification on nutrition in the budget in reflection with enrollment.

Meredith Willsen made a comment regarding GVEF not on the budget being presented.

Ekaterina Khmelniker made a comment on the difference in the budget from what was presented on June 4th versus what was presented now, for example no bonuses.

Meredith Willsen asked if GVCS increased benefits including medical, Susan Lefkowitz confirmed yes.

Jennifer Hoover explained GVCS is not overpaying for software and software licensing.

Tavia Pagan made a comment in regard to the budget on books and supplies and how the budget varies by grade.

Susan Lefkowitz explained the SELPA agreement and calculations to the BOT.

Eileen Worthing made a comment regarding the April budgets are accurate to what the budget is reflecting, and also commented on changes in 2025-2026 salaries.

Susan Lefkowitz explained the loan from Golden Valley River School to Golden Valley Orchard School is a sharing of cash, there is no separate checking account, meaning there is not an asset transfer. Susan explained that actual expenditures went up while revenue went down. She went

June 24, 2025

over recommendations on submitting the budget to SJUSD with Jennifer Huetter and Katie Gerski-Keller.

It was moved by Meredith Willsen and seconded by Ekaterina Khmelniker that the board approve the 2025-2026 Budget for GVOS.

(Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

9. 2025-2026 Budget for GVRs –

Susan Lefkowitz presented the 2025-2026 Budget for GVRs.

Meredith Willsen made a comment regarding teacher's salaries, Jennifer Hoover explained teachers being placed in correct categories match actual salaries.

Ekaterina Khmelniker made a comment on line #4430 for Chormebooks.

Meredith Willsen made a comment on line #5602 for rent for concerts and marketing costs being higher this year than in the previous year in regards to the Gala Fundraiser and the Croker Art Museum Fundraiser.

Katie Gerski-Keller made a comment in regard to local revenue funds in previous projections were not correct.

It was moved by Meredith Willsen and seconded by Ekaterina Khmelniker that the board approve the 2025-2026 Budget for GVRs.

(Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

10. GVOS Amended Local Control and Accountability Plan –

Jennifer Hoover presented the Amended Local Control and Accountability Plan for GVOS. The expenditure was updated due to changes in the budget that was just previously approved.

It was moved by Ekaterina Khmelniker and seconded by Meredith Willsen that the board approve the GVOS Amended Local Control and Accountability Plan.

(Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

11. GVRs Amended Local Control and Accountability Plan –

Jennifer Hoover presented the Amended Local Control and Accountability Plan for GVRs. The expenditure was updated due to changes in the budget that was just previously approved.

It was moved by Ekaterina Khmelniker and seconded by Meredith Willsen that the board approve the GVRs Amended Local Control and Accountability Plan.

(Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

June 24, 2025

12. Attendance Recovery Program and Eagles Nest for GVCS –

Jennifer Hoover answered questions from the BOT on attendance recovery and homework time with credential teachers. She explained students do not need to be enrolled in Eagles Nest to attend Attendance Recovery. Jennifer also went over how Aries tracks time, attendance days for different grade spans and the sign-up process.

Katie Gerski-Keller made a comment in regard to SPED students' needs for the attendance recovery program.

Meredith Willsen had a question on the ratio for the attendance recovery program, Jennifer Hoover explained there is 10 students to 1 credentialed teacher ratio.

Jennifer Hoover explained that Eagles Nest program leader Jessica Zwane can send out correct pricing for Eagles Nest.

13. Review of Comparable Compensation Data for Charter School Executive Directors/CEOs/Superintendents –

Human Resources Manager Eileen Worthing presented a review of comparable compensation data for Charter School Executive Directors/CEOs/Superintendents from CharterSafe. The full overview is posted in the board packet.

14. Closed Session –

The board went into closed session at 7:31 p.m. to discuss Public Employee: Discipline/Dismissal/Release and Public Employment of an Acting Executive Director.

a. Public Employee: Discipline/Dismissal/Release

b. Public Employment Title: Acting Executive Director

The board came out of closed session at 8:53 p.m. ***NO ACTION TAKEN***

15. Resume Open Session –

The Board resumed Open Session at 8:53 p.m. There was no action taken to report coming out of Closed Session.

16. Oral Report of Executive Compensation Paid to the Acting Executive Director –

Chair Katie Gerski-Keller presented an oral report of executive compensation paid to the acting executive director.

17. Approval of Employment Agreement Addendum for the Acting Executive Director –

It was moved by Ekaterina Khmelniker and seconded by Jennifer Huetter that the Board approve an Acting Executive Director for Golden Valley Charter School (GVCS).

(Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

June 24, 2025

18. Executive Report –

Board Chair Report: Board of Trustees Chair, Katie Gerski-Keller, presented items of interest to the board. The full Board Chair Report is posted in the Board Packet.

19. The Board recited the Motto of the Social Ethic.

20. Chair Katie Gerski-Keller adjourned the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Brittany Galles.

Katie Gerski-Keller, Chair

Date