

November 12, 2025

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. **Chair Katie Gerski-Keller called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.**

2. **Roll Call –**

Board Members Present: Katie Gerski-Keller, Meredith Willsen, Ekaterina Khmelniker, Stephen Quadro, James Stark, Jessica Crew

Guests: Brittany Galles, Jennifer Hoover, Becky Page (remote), Upekkha Evans, Tavia Pagan, Ryan Sutton, John Wathen, Lanette Wathen, Ed LaFrance

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.

Ekaterina Khmelniker arrived at 5:03 p.m.

Jessica Crew arrived at 5:05 p.m.

4. **James Stark read the Thankfulness Virtue Card.**

5. **Public Comment –**

Lanette Wathen made a comment regarding classroom safety.

Chair Katie Gerski-Keller closed public comment at 5:07 p.m.

6. **Consent Agenda –**

It was moved by Meredith Willsen and seconded by James Stark that the Board approve the following items by consent:

6.1 The Board approved an out of state field trip for the Orchard School 7th grade class to Ashland, Oregon the week of March 16th-20th 2026.

(Ayes: 5, Noes: 0, Abstain: 1, S. Quadro)

7. **Minutes Approval –**

It was moved by Meredith Willsen and seconded by James Stark that the Board approve the October 8, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes.

(Ayes: 5, Noes: 0, Abstain: 1, S. Quadro)

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8. IT Service Vendor Quotes for GVCS –

Brittany Galles presented three quotes for Managed Service Provider (MSP) contracts and services to the Board. The three quotes presented to the Board were from Datacade, Inspiroz and TransformITive. Ed LaFrace from Datacade was in attendance and helped answer questions on Datacade provided services.

James Stark and Stephen Quadro reviewed IT needs and observed concerns that are challenging to address with GVCS current IT staff and knowledge. Stephen is in favor of moving toward an MSP contractor highlighting that onsite help and having a unified infrastructure are huge needs. Stephen asked with this transition if GVCS will be eliminating the current IT position, Jennifer Hoover clarified that GVCS will be eliminating the current position. The Board explained this transition to a MSP contractor will free up internal resources and vastly improve overall IT needs by being a local provider.

It was moved by Stephen Quadro and seconded by James Stark that the board approve the Datacade quote and authorize Datacade to serve as the IT services provider for Golden Valley Charter Schools (GVCS).

(Ayes: 6, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)

9. Recharter Committee Meeting –

The Board discussed holding a recharter committee meeting and possible dates to hold the meeting. During the recharter committee meeting, there will be discussions surrounding rechartering steps and what needs will need to be met as a global community.

A recharter committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 17th, 2025, at Golden Valley River School (GVRS) at 5:00p.m. in Room 5.

10. Student Code of Conduct Policy (Second Read) –

Jennifer Hoover reviewed further revisions made to the Student Code of Conduct Policy from the first read at last month's board meeting, revising specific language to align with the Education Code. The Board discussed aspects of in-school suspension, noting GVCS's intent to engage in the referral process, ensure thorough documentation and a clear paper trail, and avoid a punitive approach.

Regarding referrals and parent-teacher conferences, Ekaterina Khmelniker would like verbiage added that explains a follow up phone call, email or ParentSquare message in the instance where a student is given a referral. Thus, noting verbal communication must be followed up with a written communication. Jennifer Hoover also explained that within ParentSquare, an administrator can see when a recipient has received and viewed a notification. Stephen Quadro explained his appreciation for the updates made to this policy and advocates for GVCS to communicate, educate and enforce when referring to GVCS policies.

The Board discussed mentoring for GVCS teachers happening on a regular basis.

TABLED. NO ACTION.

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11. Fiscal Oversight Updates for GVCS –

James Stark presented updates on fiscal oversight for Golden Valley Charter Schools (GVCS). Currently the Finance Committee is focusing on field trips as a separate item and tracking. The Board discussed donation of scholarships being a liability. The committee wants to focus on what was spent versus what funds came in and make sure they match. The Board discussed the possibility of a list that would go out to parents that describes how much money in terms of field trip funds should be expected by grade. This would reflect transparency but also would help the school budget and give clear liability to the school. This list could be brought to Leadership to revisit updating. It was stated that the field trip budget and the classroom budget are two separate budgets. The Board would like to check the field trip policy pertaining to finances and risk. James explained that the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) payments are now correctly accounted for allowing to shift \$200,000 from GVRS to GVOS to move GVOS to a 12% surplus. Jennifer Hoover explained that previously, it was split according to ADA, but now we can shift to help GVOS surplus.

12. Faculty Reports –

Faculty Chair Report, Orchard: Orchard Faculty Chair, Jennifer Evans, presented items of interest to the board.

Faculty Chair Report, River: River Faculty Chair, Tavia Pagan, presented items of interest to the board.

13. Executive Reports –

Board Chair Report: Board of Trustees Chair, Katie Gerski-Keller, presented items of interest to the board.

Executive Director Report: Interim Executive Director, Jennifer Hoover, presented items of interest to the board.

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

15. Chair Katie Gerski-Keller adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Brittany Galles.

Katie Gerski-Keller, Chair

Date