

May 13, 2026

Regular Meeting Minutes

1. **Chair Katie Gerski-Keller called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.**
2. **Roll Call –**  
**Board Members Present:** Katie Gerski-Keller, Meredith Willisen, James Stark, Jessica Crew, Ekaterina Khmelniker  
**Board Members Absent:** Stephen Quadro  
**Guests:** Brittany Galles, Jennifer Hoover, Becky Page, Tavia Pagan, Upekkha Evans, Ryan Sutton (remote), Alison Larson-Villanueva, Paige Timsak
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 just cause exceptions per SB 707?  
**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.  
  
**TABELED. NO ACTION.**
4. **Jessica Crew read the Honor Virtue Card.**
5. **Public Comment –**  
Alison Larson-Villanueva made a public comment regarding various Golden Valley Charter School teachers not returning for the 2026-2027 school year.  
  
Chair Katie Gerski-Keller closed public comment at 5:13 p.m.
6. **Consent Agenda –**  
It was moved by James Stark and seconded by Ekaterina Khmelniker that the Board approve the following items by consent:
  - 6.1 The Board approved the April 15, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes.
  - 6.2 The Board approved the Proposition 28 Annual Report for Golden Valley Orchard School.
  - 6.3 The Board approved the Proposition 28 Annual Report for Golden Valley River School.

**(Ayes: 5, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)**

The Board pulled the following consent agenda item for a brief discussion prior to approving:

**6.4 Shall the Board approve the Offer of Facilities for the 2026-2027 school year from San Juan Unified School District according to Proposition 39?**

Ekaterina Khmelniker suggested moving forward, the Board would like to discuss the Proposition 39 Offer of Facilities letter and rates during a closed session in the fall. Based on

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prior practice, the timeline reflected Golden Valley Charter School (GVCS) submitting projections by November 1st, with the district accepting the request by December. By early January, GVCS may modify the request if needed, after which the district provides a preliminary offer. GVCS responds to the preliminary offer by early March, and the district issues its final notification by early April. The only portion that is mandated to have board approval is the acceptance of the lease. Although at this point, if GVCS does not accept, then GVCS needs to find a new facility. Jennifer clarified that the projections in the budget are the attrition after all the movement settles. The Board agreed to discuss the timeline of the Offer of Facilities Letter regarding San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD) during the Board Retreat to better align with GVCS calendar.

It was moved by Ekaterina Khmelniker and seconded by James Stark that the Board approve the Offer of Facilities for the 2026-2027 school year from San Juan Unified School District according to Proposition 39.

***(Ayes: 5, Noes: 0, Abstain: 0)***

**7. GVOS Local Control Accountability Plan PUBLIC HEARING –**

Jennifer presented information on the Golden Valley Orchard School (GVOS) Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). The purpose of the hearing is for transparency and for more educational partner engagement.

Goal 1: Developmentally appropriate education. All students will be provided access to a comprehensive public Waldorf-inspired curriculum that is rigorous, relevant, and engaging. Actions related to goal: support teachers, targeted interventions, academic supports for EL students, Title I supports, enrichment opportunities, professional development, specialty classes, central office system supports, supports and services for students with exceptional needs, class teachers and classroom supplies. Jennifer reviewed all metrics that are mandated by the state. Jennifer reviewed each metric, baseline, year 2 outcome and target for year 3 outcome pertaining to Goal 1. Jennifer clarified that this data is from the previous year and that the baseline is from two dashboards ago. She reviewed all school demographics by student subgroup and reminded the board that any subgroup with more than 11 but fewer than 30 students does not appear with a color assignment on the dashboard.

Goal 2: Intentional culture of care. The school will promote complete education, both academically and socially, to ensure the success and safety of all students. Actions related to goal: facility, mindfulness room, school climate improvement and universal meals.

Jennifer reviewed each metric, baseline, year 2 outcome and target for year 3 outcome pertaining to Goal 2. It was noted that there is a typo on the GVOS Safe, clean & functional school facility (SARC) slide that year 1 outcome should be corrected to reflect year 2 outcome. Jennifer highlighted the school attendance rate: month 1-9 is 95.1%

Jessica Crew asked for future slides pertaining to the LCAP Public Hearing to list the school year in the table reflecting metric, baseline, and outcome numbers.

Jessica had questions on last year's school climate numbers, Jennifer reviewed in the LCAP draft.

Goal 3: Vibrant learning community. The school will build relationships to connect students and families with programs and resources to help foster healthy learning opportunities for all students. Actions related to goal: accessible and responsive schools for students with exceptional needs, accessible and responsive schools for unduplicated pupils and family and community engagement.

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Jennifer touched on chronic absenteeism being 21.2%. GVOS was on The William's List this year, however the William's visit worked in GVOS favor. They will be visiting again between week 3 and week 8 during the 2026-2027 school year. Jennifer explained the 2023-2024 year is baseline and 2024-2025 is year 1 – she also reviewed differences between baseline and year 2 outcomes. Feedback from educational partners: climate survey, advisory meetings for student subgroups, and coffee with Leadership. The public has the opportunity to submit written comments on specific actions and expenditures proposed in each school's LCAP (draft provided in board packet) by May 22<sup>nd</sup>, by emailing Jennifer Hoover at [jhoover@goldenvalleycharter.org](mailto:jhoover@goldenvalleycharter.org).

The board chair opened a public hearing to receive public comments on Golden Valley Orchard School's (GVOS) Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

Paige Timsak made a public comment regarding LCAP funding. She mentioned intervention was tied to Goal 1, and with \$70,000 allocated to interventions last year for academics, Fastbridge still showed 50% of students are reading below grade level, and she wanted to see more intervention language. It was noted that behaviors are a real concern.

Jennifer explained the use of funds for utilizing Parsec data and Universal Design for Learning (UDL), which has been implemented throughout the current year. Tier II interventions are planned for next year in collaboration with the UDL partners the school has worked with this year. She noted that Parsec is a major component of the reading readiness program and confirmed that it is being used for interventions. All student data will be shared with incoming first grade teachers and incorporated into the Multitudes platform. Jennifer further explained that the MTSS framework has not yet been incorporated into the LCAP because the school is still working through implementation details with faculty. The rollout will occur over multiple years rather than all at once, beginning with a book study tied to the program Golden Valley is considering in order to ensure successful implementation. Jennifer also clarified that while PBIS contains positive components, there are concerns regarding the token economy aspect. The program currently being explored focuses on bully prevention, socioeconomical learning, and regulation skills. Jennifer shared that the program emphasizes supporting adults first, with the expectation that the benefits will then trickle down to students.

Bri D'Agostini made a public comment regarding the check in/check out system; but does not particularly like the reward system. She explained that the students do not care about the reward system, they look forward to when the call comes for check out. At the end of the day good points for the day are acknowledged. Bri likes the reward but recommends taking out the prize component of it. The main takeaways are that the students are heard and acknowledged.

Chair Katie Gerski-Keller closed public comment at 6:03 p.m.

**8. GVRs Local Control Accountability Plan PUBLIC HEARING –**

Jennifer presented information on the Golden Valley River School (GVRs) Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). The purpose of the hearing is for transparency and for more educational partner engagement. She further explained that the goals are similar to those in the GVOS LCAP and that the data is where there are some differences.

Goal 1: Developmentally appropriate education. All students will be provided access to a comprehensive public Waldorf-inspired curriculum that is rigorous, relevant, and engaging.

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Actions related to goal: support teachers, targeted interventions, academic supports for EL students, Title I supports, enrichment opportunities, professional development, specialty classes, central office system supports, supports and services for students with exceptional needs, class teachers and classroom supplies. Jennifer reviewed all metrics that are mandated by the state. Jennifer reviewed each metric, baseline, year 2 outcome and target for year 3 outcome pertaining to Goal 1. Jennifer again pointed out to the board that any subgroup with more than 11 but fewer than 30 students does not appear with a color assignment on the dashboard and shows as gray.

It was noted to edit Slide 5 and remove the asterisk on SWD: -150.8 points\*.

James asked why there is not the same goal in target percentage between the two schools and noted a 6% difference. Jennifer explained subgroups are different and it would be a red flag to San Juan Unified School District (SJUSD) if targets were the same.

It was noted on Slide 7 that the AUTOREAD Target for Year 3 Outcome is incorrect and should reflect 57%. The aMath Target for Year 3 Outcome should reflect 51%.

Goal 2: Intentional culture of care. The school will promote complete education, both academically and socially, to ensure the success and safety of all students. Actions related to goal: facility, mindfulness/renewal room, school climate improvement and universal meals. Jennifer reviewed each metric, baseline, year 2 outcome and target for year 3 outcome pertaining to Goal 2. Jennifer reviewed pupil suspension rates by subgroups. It was noted that the local school climate survey includes grades 6 and 7; grades 5 through 8 did not partake.

Goal 3: Vibrant learning community. The school will build relationships to connect students and families with programs and resources to help foster healthy learning opportunities for all students. Actions related to goal: accessible and responsive schools for students with exceptional needs, accessible and responsive schools for unduplicated pupils and family and community engagement.

Feedback from educational partners: climate survey, advisory meetings for student subgroups, and LCAP feedback survey. The public has the opportunity to submit written comments on specific actions and expenditures proposed in each school's LCAP (draft provided in board packet) by May 22<sup>nd</sup>, by emailing Jennifer Hoover at [jhoover@goldenvalleycharter.org](mailto:jhoover@goldenvalleycharter.org).

It was stated that the 2026-2027 initial budgets and the 2026-2027 LCAPs must be approved at the same meeting. These items will be brought to the next regular board meeting on June 3, 2026.

The board chair opened a public hearing to receive public comments on Golden Valley River School's (GVRs) Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP).

There were no public comments for the GVRs LCAP public hearing.

Chair Katie Gerski-Keller closed public comment at 6:26 p.m.

9. **Special Finance Committee Meeting –**

James explained the Finance Committee's choice to hold a Special Finance Committee Meeting on May 18, 2026. Upon review of budget documents at the previous meeting, the committee felt there were additional revisions to be made to align with the June timeframe of submitting the initial 2026-2027 budgets to SJUSD. The committee noted they would like revisions made to

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year-to-date (YTD) and budget amounts. Ekaterina requested that CSMC's files be sent to the Finance Committee once they are available for inclusion in the board packet.

10. **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.

11. **Executive Reports –**

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

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

12. **The Board recited the Motto of the Social Ethic.**

13. **Chair Katie Gerski-Keller adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.**

*Respectfully submitted by Brittany Galles.*

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Katie Gerski-Keller, Chair

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Date