Golden Valley Charter Schools
Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees
9601 Lake Natoma Dr.
Orangevale, CA 95662

August 19, 2026

Annual Meeting Minutes

1. **Chair Katie Gerski-Keller called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.**

2. **Roll Call** –
   Board Members Present: Katie Gerski-Keller, Meredith Willsen, Stephen Quadro, Ekaterina Khmelniker, Jessica Crew, James Stark joined the meeting at 5:51 p.m.
   Guests: Brittany Galles, Jennifer Hoover, Becky Page (remote), Ryan Sutton, Mindy Kiel, Sarah Chase, Jordan Watkins

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.

   TABLED. NO ACTION.

4. **Stephen Quadro read the Optimism Virtue Card.**

   Stephen Quadro announced his resignation from the Golden Valley Charter Schools Board of Trustees.

5. **Public Comment** –
   There were no public comments.
   Chair Katie Gerski-Keller closed public comment at 5:09 p.m.

6. **Minutes Approval –**
   It was moved by Ekaterina Khmelniker and seconded by Jessica Crew that the board approve the June 24, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes.

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

7. **GVCS Stipend Schedule** –
   The Board reviewed the proposed stipend schedule, which remains substantially unchanged from the prior year. Jennifer explained several stipends that were no longer necessary were removed, and the attendance recovery stipend was increased from $2,000 to $2,500. Attendance recovery will be offered at the conclusion of the school year in June, rather than throughout the school year, to encourage credentialed faculty to participate. Jennifer clarified roles of the athletic director as well as the volleyball stipend explaining that half is paid from Parks and Rec. Most stipends are paid at the end of December and May, with the exception of coaching stipends, which are paid at the conclusion of the specific sport season. Stipend procedures are also listed.

It was moved by Ekaterina Khmelniker and seconded by Meredith Willsen that the Board approve the Stipend Schedule for Golden Valley Charter Schools (GVCS).

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

8. **Amended SARC for GVOS –**
The Board reviewed the revised School Accountability Report Card (SARC) for Golden Valley Orchard School (GVOS). The revisions were made at the request of San Juan Unified School District following additional review by the County. Additional details were added regarding facilities procedures, including work orders, cleaning standards, and deferred maintenance, as well as the selection of books and instructional materials. The revisions were made to provide greater clarity and detail and did not reflect any identified deficiencies. The revised SARC will be submitted to San Juan Unified School District by September 1 for forwarding to the County. Going forward, the additional detail will be incorporated into the SARC for both Orchard and River.

It was moved by Meredith Willsen and seconded by Ekaterina Khmelniker that the Board approve the amended 2024-2025 Golden Valley Orchard School (GVOS) School Accountability Report Card (SARC).

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

9. **GVEF MOU –**
The board would like to get a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between GVCS and Golden Valley Educational Foundation (GVEF). The Board was provided with the most recent draft on file to look over and discuss, it then will be discussed amongst GVEF to make edits and eventually come back to the Board for approval. Items that were discussed are as follows:
1. Adding language surrounding if there is a conflict between GVCS and GVEF on a decision, how to resolve.
2. Dates throughout the MOU need amending – specifically under Budget Requirements on page 3.
3. Make sure Roles and Responsibilities on pages 2-3 are being followed through by both GVCS and GVEF, specifics around attending meetings.
4. Clarify if all same rules apply to Parent Circle (PC) Account – specifically verbiage on page 2 E. mentioning to serve as the corporate entity and fiscal agent.
5. Page 2 E. – Parent Circle Accounts needs to be amended to singular account
6. Marlene’s title is inconsistent throughout the MOU – page 4 V. and page 5 VIII. A. and C.
7. Page 5 VIII. B. – edit “may” in “The updates may include summary of etc..” These items should be included.
8. Page 5 VIII A. – date of September 1st, the BOT agrees could be changed to “by the first Board Meeting of the school year.”
9. Page 5 VIII D. – clarify who is an outside benefactor.
10. Page 5 VIII E. – date of February 15th, omit having a date here.
11. Edit and update GVEF Board of Directors President name on signature page.

The Board explained that they would be happy to review red-line edits provided by GVEF. They also noted that GVEF may prepare an entirely revised version of the draft MOU if preferred. Katie mentioned that she is open to further discussion with GVEF regarding edits to the MOU, if needed.

TABLED. NO ACTION.

10. **Voting of Community Members to the Board of Trustees** –

    TABLED. NO ACTION.

11. **Election of Officers to the Board of Trustees** –
    10.1 It was moved by Meredith Willsen and seconded by Ekaterina Khmelniker that the Board approve to elect Katie Gerski-Keller as Board Chair for the 2026-2027 school year.

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

    10.2 It was moved by Katie Gerski-Keller and seconded by Jessica Crew that the Board approve to elect Meredith Willsen as Board Vice-Chair for the 2026-2027 school year.

    (Ayes: 3, Noes: 0, Abstain: 1, M. Willsen)

    10.3 Board Secretary

    TABLED. NO ACTION.

    James Stark joined the meeting at 5:51 p.m.

12. **Formation of Board Committees** –
    11.1 It was moved by Meredith Willsen and seconded by Ekaterina Khmelniker that the Board approve to appoint James Stark to the Finance Committee for the 2026-2027 school year.

    (Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 1, J. Stark)

    It was moved by Meredith Willsen and seconded by James Stark that the Board approve to appoint Ekaterina Khmelniker to the Finance Committee for the 2026-2027 school year.

    (Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 1, E. Khmelniker)

    11.2 It was moved by Meredith Willsen and seconded by James Stark that the Board approve to appoint Katie Gerski-Keller to the ED Review Committee for the 2026-2027 school year.

    (Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 1, K. Gerski-Keller)

    It was moved by Meredith Willsen and seconded by Ekaterina Khmelniker that the Board approve to appoint Jessica Crew to the ED Review Committee for the 2026-2027 school year.

    (Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 1, J. Crew)

11.3 It was moved by Ekaterina Khmelniker and seconded by Jessica Crew that the Board approve to appoint Meredith Willsen to the Conflict Resolution Committee for the 2026-2027 school year.

(Ayes: 4, Noes: 0, Abstain: 1, M. Willsen)

13. **BOT Oath of Office –**
    Board members Katie Gerski-Keller, Meredith Willsen, Ekaterina Khmelniker, James Stark and Jessica Crew recited, completed and signed the Board of Trustees (BOT) Oath of Office for the 2026-2027 school year.

14. **Board Retreat Date and Agenda Items –**
    The Board agreed on October 3rd, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for their annual Board Retreat date. The retreat will be held at the Golden Valley Charter Schools Central Office. The Board decided to further discuss Board Retreat Agenda Items at the following regular board meeting in September.

15. **Faculty Reports –**
    Faculty Chair Report, Orchard: Orchard Faculty Chair, Jordan Watkins, presented items of interest to the board.
    Faculty Chair Report, River: River Faculty Chair, Sarah Chase, presented items of interest to the board.

16. **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.

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

18. **Chair Katie Gerski-Keller adjourned the meeting at 6:16 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by Brittany Galles.

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Katie Gerski-Keller, Chair **Date**