

GRANADA HILLS CHARTER

Governing Board Meeting

Monday, August 22, 2022 4:00 PM

Via Teleconference pursuant to Government Code Section 54953

Minutes

In Attendance:

Brian Bauer, Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent
(non-voting)

Supriya Chakravarty, Parent Member

Lorene Dixon, At Large Member

Jody Dunlap, Vice Chair

Joan Lewis, At Large Member

Richard Nolan, At Large Member

Jim Salin, At Large Member (Chair)

Chris Hutton, Retired Teacher Member

The meeting was called to order at 4:19 p.m. by Jim Salin and roll call was taken by David Bensinger. Chris Hutton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Action Item #1 - The GHC Governing Board determines that the current State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the Directors to meet safety in person and/or that State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing. **The Board Chair informed the Governing Board that this action item is not needed, as this item was previously approved within thirty days of this meeting (July 27, 2022).**

The Governing Board heard public comment from six individuals who commented on the high academic expectations of the school, volunteer opportunities for students in the community, the school's indoor mask mandate, the school's safety plan, opportunities students have to participate in extracurricular activities, and in support of the school's COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

Action Item #2 - Approval of Consolidated Application 2022-23 for Federal Funding (*Tammy Stanton*)

Ms. Stanton presented the 2022-23 Consolidated Application for Federal Funding to the board for approval. This annual application will be submitted to the California Department of Education for the school's federal funding sources. This report summarizes the different funding that the school has received in the past and estimated entitlements for the 2022-23 academic year. The California Department of Education (CDE) uses the Consolidated Application to distribute categorical funds from various federal programs under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to local education agencies throughout the state.

Lorene Dixon made a motion to approve. Supriya Chakravarty seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with the following votes:

Supriya Chakravarty	Yes		Lorene Dixon	Yes		Chris Hutton	Yes		Rich Nolan	Yes
			Jody Dunlap	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jim Salin	Yes

Approval of Contracts/Purchases in Excess of \$150,000 (Norm Holloway and Tammy Stanton)

Mr. Holloway presented three contracts in excess of \$150,000 to the board for approval.

Action Item #3 – AEGIS - Security Services - anticipated monthly cost of approximately \$55,000.

AEGIS provides security services on both campuses, including after hours. For the past few years, AEGIS has also provided additional support for the school’s health and safety protocols, including checking students’ health screeners, supervising students during lunch and nutrition, and helping with other COVID-19 related duties. Mr. Holloway requested an extension of the contract (\$55,000 per month) through the end of December.

Rich Nolan made a motion to approve. Chris Hutton seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with the following votes:

Supriya Chakravarty	Yes		Lorene Dixon	Yes		Chris Hutton	Yes		Rich Nolan	Yes
			Jody Dunlap	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jim Salin	Yes

Action Item #4 – MESA Energy (EMCOR) – HVAC Maintenance (three years) - \$276,320

EMCOR provides both preventative maintenance and as needed repairs to over three hundred HVAC units on both campuses. Ms. Lewis asked if this contract is preferred to paying for service when repairs are needed. Mr. Holloway informed the Board that although the contract may seem expensive, having one company perform both preventative maintenance and repairs is more effective - the company is able to find more problems before they develop and is able to provide faster service. Reducing downtime of the HVAC units prevents losing instructional time by limiting relocations of students if units were to fail. EMCOR will also service the high efficiency filters in the HVAC system.

Rich Nolan made a motion to approve. Supriya Chakravarty seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with the following votes:

Supriya Chakravarty	Yes		Lorene Dixon	Yes		Chris Hutton	Yes		Rich Nolan	Yes
			Jody Dunlap	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jim Salin	Yes

Action Item #5 – North Valley YMCA – Extended Learning Opportunities Programming (ELOP) - \$323,550

Ms. Stanton presented the ELO contract for the TK8 campus to the Board for approval. California provides funding for schools to offer an extended school day for students in all grades from Transitional Kindergarten to Sixth grade. With the North Valley YMCA, the school has developed a program that provides both after school care and tutoring for students. The program will have space for up to two hundred students. The expected revenue from this program will offset the cost of the program and the program is intended to be funded for several years. Several board members commented on the importance of providing after school programs for students, and on the need to communicate clearly with families, as after school care is a necessity for many families.

Lorene Dixon made a motion to approve. Jody Dunlap seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with the following votes:

Supriya Chakravarty	Yes		Lorene Dixon	Yes		Chris Hutton	Yes		Rich Nolan	Yes
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		Jody Dunlap	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jim Salin	Yes
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Action Item #6 – Capital Contribution Agreement – Devonshire Construction Project (*Tammy Stanton*)

Ms. Stanton explained that the construction of the Devonshire campus has been completed and finished at less than three and a half percent (3.5%) over the original budget. Supply chain constraints, construction crew shortages, and other impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were key drivers of the increase in the project costs. Ms. Stanton recommended approval of the Memorandum Agreement of GHC disbursements totaling \$1,276,846 to the 17081 Devonshire LLC to fund these excess project costs. Mr. Salin and Ms. Dixon commented that given the conditions during the COVID-19 pandemic and the complexity of the project, holding the additional costs to less than 3.5% is impressive.

Lorene Dixon made a motion to approve. Jim Salin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with the following votes:

Supriya Chakravarty	Yes		Lorene Dixon	Yes		Chris Hutton	Yes		Rich Nolan	Yes
			Jody Dunlap	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jim Salin	Yes

Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent’s Report (*Brian Bauer*)

Mr. Bauer provided an update on key local and state issues surrounding education and charter school, including informing the board that Assembly Bill 2484 did not pass. This proposed legislation would have drastically altered the Charter School Facility Grant Program (SB740), significantly reducing funding available to GHC that is used not only on facilities, but also on students. An additional bill, Senate Bill 1344, which is still being considered, would require all new charter schools to participate in the California State Teachers’ Retirement System (STRS) or the Public Employees Retirements System (PERS). Although the direct impact to GHC is limited because GHC already participates in these programs, this bill is impactful as it reduces charter schools’ autonomy.

Mr. Bauer provided an update on the summer programs offered at the TK8 and the High School. Over 1,100 students enrolled in intervention and enrichment courses at the High School, with over 85% of students earning a grade of C or higher. Over 1,200 incoming High School students completed Summer Transition Academy, which focuses on helping students make the transition from middle school to high school. The TK8 program offered a three day summer program for incoming sixth grade students to help them make the transition to middle school. Both the TK8 and the High School programs also held parent orientations. The TK8 program also offered a four week program at the start of the summer that focused on credit recovery or intervention for approximately 300 students .

Granada Hills Charter also received a grant from Great Public Schools Now (GPSN) that provided funding for field trips. Students in grades TK-12 participated in a variety of field trips, including visits to Underwood Farms, SoFi Stadium, and several museums. For many students, this was the first field trip since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Bauer and several Board members expressed their gratitude for the support provided by GPSN.

Mr. Bauer also provided an update on enrollment and staffing for the start of the 2022-23 school year. For many schools, enrollment and attendance are pressing issues and struggles this school year. At the start of the school year, GHC opened with full enrollment and staffing. Mr. Bauer shared that the attendance rate on the first day of school

was 96.5% for the TK8 and 97.25% for the High School. Ms. Lewis asked how attendance is affected by COVID-19 cases this year and how the rates compare to other schools. Mr. Bauer commented that we are not able to see other schools' COVID and attendance information this year, and GHC has some cases of COVID-19 among students and staff. For the 2021-2022 school year, and especially during the winter COVID-19 surge, student attendance rates, the COVID-19 positivity rate, and chronic absenteeism at GHC significantly outperformed both LAUSD and surrounding school districts.

Action Item #7 – Approval of Updated Independent Study Policy

Mr. Bauer informed the Board of the update to the Independent Study Policy approved by the GHC Governing Board July 25, 2022.

Joan Lewis made a motion to approve. Supriya Chakravarty seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with the following votes:

Supriya Chakravarty	Yes		Lorene Dixon	Yes		Chris Hutton	Yes		Rich Nolan	Yes
			Jody Dunlap	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jim Salin	Yes

Action Item #8 – Approval of Updated Homeless Education Policy

Mr. Bauer informed the Board that the update to the Homeless Education Policy reflects the actual practice taking place at the School and is aligned with State requirements.

Jim Salin made a motion to approve. Jody Dunlap seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with the following votes:

Supriya Chakravarty	Yes		Lorene Dixon	Yes		Chris Hutton	Yes		Rich Nolan	Yes
			Jody Dunlap	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jim Salin	Yes

Action Item #9 – Approval of June 27, 2022 Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Supriya Chakravarty made a motion to approve. Lorene Dixon seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with the following votes:

Supriya Chakravarty	Yes		Lorene Dixon	Yes		Chris Hutton	Yes		Rich Nolan	Yes
			Jody Dunlap	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jim Salin	Yes

Action Item #10 – Approval of July 25, 2022 Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Lorene Dixon made a motion to approve. Jim Salin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with the following votes:

Supriya Chakravarty	Yes		Lorene Dixon	Yes		Chris Hutton	Yes		Rich Nolan	Yes
			Jody Dunlap	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jim Salin	Yes

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 5:25 p.m to discuss:

- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION
 - Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(b): one case
- CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1))
 - Name of case: Let Them Choose v. Granada Hills Charter School, Case No. 22CHCP00001
 - Name of case: Iris Arnold, et al v. Brian Bauer, et al, Case No. 22STCV01783

Meeting returned to open session at 5:57 p.m. No action was taken.

Mr. Bauer informed the Board of the meeting dates in September and October and mentioned that the September meeting may be moved to October 3 and this meeting would replace the meeting scheduled for October 17.

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Approved by the GHC Governing Board on October 3, 2022

David Bensinger

David Bensinger, Board Secretary