GRANADA HILLS CHARTER

Governing Board Meeting
Monday, October 20, 2025 - 4:00 PM
Granada Hills Charter High School Library
10535 Zelzah Ave, Granada Hills, CA 91344

Minutes

In Attendance:
Brian Bauer, CEO/Superintendent (non-voting)
Jody Dunlap, At Large Member (Chair)
Sandra Bingham, At Large Member
Thao Ly, At Large Member
Lorene Dixon, At Large Member
Joan Lewis, At Large Member
Maribel Ramirez, At Large Member
Luis Cervantes, At Large Member
Richard Nolan, At Large Member

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Jody Dunlap and roll call was taken by David Bensinger. Jody Dunlap led the Pledge of Allegiance. There was no public comment.

TK-12 Accountability Updates
Julia Howelman, Administrative Director, High School, presented the analysis of the GHC Math Placement Policy. The policy is designed to ensure all incoming ninth-grade students are placed into appropriate mathematics courses based on a fair, objective, and transparent protocol, in accordance with the California Mathematics Placement Act of 2015. For the 2025-2026 school year, 60 percent of incoming ninth graders are enrolled in Algebra 1 (742 students), 22 percent in Geometry (274 students), and 18 percent in Algebra 2 (223 students). Ms. Howelman also presented the 2025 Advanced Placement (AP) exam results. In spring 2025, 2,322 GHC students completed 5,104 AP exams, with 79 percent of students earning at least one qualifying score (three or higher), representing a four percent increase over the prior year. The Class of 2025 saw 75 percent of students taking at least one AP class before graduating, and the presentation proposed increasing AP enrollment by expanding access for 9th and 10th-grade students and providing more counselor and family training.

Jenny DaCosta, Chief Academic Officer, presented attendance data comparing attendance rates for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years, from the start of the academic year to October. GHC's overall attendance rate for all grades (TK-12) during this period in 2025-2026 was 97.29 percent. A comparison between the years shows that Grades TK-8 saw decreased absence averages across all monthly and weekly breakdowns, along with a net reduction in chronically absent students (missing ten percent or more of the school year). Conversely, Grades 9-12 experienced an increase in monthly average absence rates for August and September, and a slight net decrease in the number of chronically absent students.

Action Item #1 - Year to Date Financial Reports and Revised 2025-2026 Budget
Tammy Stanton, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Year-to-Date Financial report as of September 30, 2025 which summarizes the revenue, expenditures, and changes in fund balance, a balance sheet account summary, and an updated cash flow actuals through September 30, 2025. Ms. Stanton informed the board that the debt service coverage ratio is 1.26 and GHC has 76 Consolidated Days Cash on Hand. The report is updated with revenue and expense actuals through September 30, 2025. The 2025-2026 fiscal year forecasted ending cash balance is $23,189,387. The financial report also included the following:

- Period Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

- Balance Sheet (consolidated by all funds)
- Cash Flow Projection
- Consolidated income statement

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

Thao Ly	Yes		Luis Cervantes	Yes		Maribel Ramirez	Yes		Richard Nolan	Yes
Sandra Bingham	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jody Dunlap	Yes			

Action Item #2 - 2024-2025 Unaudited Actuals SACS Report/Financials through June 2025

Ms. Stanton presented the Financial Report as of June 30, 2025 and the 2024-2025 Unaudited Actuals SACS Report. The Financial Report shows the consolidated budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year earned over $103,597,263 in revenue and spent over $108,054,337 in expenditures. Key results included an EBITDA of $1,461,580 and an Operating Deficit of $4,457,045.

The Unaudited Actuals SACS Report, the final unaudited report for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, noted that the projected ending fund balance for the school's primary operating fund (Fund 62) as of June 30, 2025, decreased by over $5,671,940 from the Second Interim projection. The report fulfills the California Education Code requirement for charter schools to submit a final unaudited report for the prior year.

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

Thao Ly	Yes		Luis Cervantes	Yes		Maribel Ramirez	Yes		Richard Nolan	Yes
Sandra Bingham	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jody Dunlap	Yes			

Action Item #3 -Approval of Update to 2025 Governing Board Meeting Calendar and 2026 Governing Board Meeting Calendar

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

Thao Ly	Yes		Luis Cervantes	Yes		Maribel Ramirez	Yes		Richard Nolan	Yes
Sandra Bingham	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jody Dunlap	Yes			

Action Item #4 -2024-2025 Oversight Report Review and Acceptance

Mr. Bauer presented the 2024-2025 Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Oversight Report. The report, issued following the annual oversight visit in April 2025, awards the top score possible in all of the categories - Governance, Student Achievement, Fiscal Operations, and Organizational Management. Mr. Bauer thanked the GHC Board for its leadership and acknowledged the hard and smart work of all school staff who contribute to the high performance of the School. The accomplishments of the school and all of its programs should be celebrated.

Luis Cervantes made a motion to approve. Sandra Bingham seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with the following votes:

Thao Ly	Yes		Luis Cervantes	Yes		Maribel Ramirez	Yes		Richard Nolan	Yes
Sandra Bingham	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jody Dunlap	Yes			

Discussion Item - Certification of GHC Governing Board Compliance Review for the Los Angeles Unified School District

Mr. Bauer presented the updated Board compliance documents for review. Following individual review by the Board members, the Board will revisit these documents at the December meeting.

Action Item #5 - Approval of October 20, 2025 Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Sandra Bingham made a motion to approve. Luis Cervantes seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with the following votes:

Thao Ly	Yes		Luis Cervantes	Yes		Maribel Ramirez	Yes		Richard Nolan	Yes
Sandra Bingham	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jody Dunlap	Yes			

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 5:05 p.m. to discuss:

- CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
  - Agency negotiator: Brian Bauer
  - Employee organization: UTLA

- 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: Iris Arnold, et al v. Brian Bauer, et al, Case No. 22STCV01783
  - Name of case: S.Q., et al v. Granada Hills Charter, Case No. 23STCV12226

Meeting returned to open session at 5:36 p.m. No action was taken in closed session. Meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Approved by the GHC Governing Board December 15, 2025

David Bensinger

Board Secretary