



GOODWIN UNIVERSITY MAGNET SCHOOL SYSTEM, INC.

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 4:00PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Members Present: Jackie Jacoby, Todd Andrews, Lee Anne Housley, Megan Mehr, Eddie Meyer

Members Absent: Merilee DeJohn and Mark Scheinberg;

Staff Present: Sal Menzo, Sarah Burke, David Daye, Theresa Ekstrom, J.T. Foster, Jessica Gomez-Bedosky, Gina Juliano, Dan Moleti, Windy Peterson, Kevin Skrodzki and Jenna Toner;

Guests Presents: Students Maheen Saeed and Mila Garcia

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Jackie Jacoby.

2. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of GUMS Board Minutes of October 30, 2025

Minutes of October 30, 2025 were reviewed by the Board.

Todd Andrews motioned to approve the minutes. Megan Mehr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Superintendent and Staff Updates

a. Superintendent Advisory Council

i. Preparation for Legislative Session

Dr. Menzo provided a brief description of the Superintendent Advisory Council and the work and conversations that the administrators and students are participating in to prepare for the legislative session. He also took a moment to thank union president Gina Juliano for her support of the "Take Your Legislator to Work" program, her understanding of the voices of our teachers and her advocacy on behalf of GUMSS.

Students Maheen Saeed (CTRA - Grade 12) and Mila Garcia (RiverTech - Grade 9) were present and shared why they chose a magnet school, the work of their advisory groups and how they are preparing for the legislative session.

Discussion followed regarding what to expect from the legislative session, additional preparation suggestions and feedback from Mila and Maheen on their experiences at GUMS.

Students left the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

b. Announcements

Sal Menzo reported that following the advisory meetings, he meets with five (5) RiverTech students and the architects to discuss how the new building is coming along. At the last meeting students received their vests and hard hats and at next month's meeting (weather permitting) they will have the opportunity to enter the new building.

5. Business Requiring Action

a. GUMS Resolution 26-01 – Corporate Resolution to Approve Goodwin University Magnet Schools System Policy

i. Presentation and approval of the following Goodwin University Magnet Schools System Policies:

a. Revised Policy 1006 – School Security and Safety

David Daye presented Revised Policy 1006 - School Security and Safety. The material change to this policy is that Connecticut's Schools Security and Safety plans must now include protocols for interactions with Federal Immigration Authorities; identify designated administrators for such interactions; schools must verify the authorities identification and warrant, consult with legal counsel and maintain a calm environment. Mr. Daye shared that this practice was already included in this year's safety plan.

Lee Ann Housley motioned to approve Resolution 26-01 a. Revised Policy 1006 – Security and Safety Plan. Eddie Meyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Revised Policy 1011 – Visitors

Jessica Gomez-Bedosky presented Revised Policy 1011 – Visitors. This policy also includes information about ICE and immigration coming to the buildings. There is an internal document that is shared with administrators which provides specific processes should any of these officers come to the schools. The visitors policy is meant to ensure that we have regulations about who is engaging with our students, especially those that are coming repeatedly to the buildings.

Eddie Meyer motioned to approve Resolution 26-01 - b. Revised Policy 1011 – Visitors. Megan Mehr seconded the motion.

Questions and discussions followed regarding whether there was guidance from the State on the ICE and immigration changes to the policy and clarification of the designated administrator process.

The motion passed unanimously.

c. Revised Policy 6002 – Curricular Exemptions

Jessica Gomez-Bedosky presented Revised Policy 6002 - Curricular Exemptions. The only change to this policy is that we have added lgbtq+ books and curricular to the list of topics that families can request curriculum exemptions from. The policy states how they would request the exemption; which is through a written request to the principal, and an alternate assignment would be provided that directly relates to the discussion.

Eddie Meyer motioned to approve Resolution 26-01 - c. Revised Policy 6002 – Curricular Exemptions. Megan Mehr seconded the motion.

Questions and discussions followed regarding how parents know when to contact the administration about curricular exemptions, the number of the requests received and if this change is state or federally driven.

The motion passed unanimously.

d. Revised Policy 6007 – Parental Access to Instructional Material

Jessica Gomez-Bedosky presented Revised Policy 6007 - Parental Access to Instructional Material. As of the 26-27 school year parents will have access to the scope and sequences for every class taught. This information will be posted on the website so that families have access to the units of instruction. This will not include assessments or tests, but it will have some detail in terms of unit of instruction.

Lee Ann Housley motioned to approve Resolution 26-01 - d. Revised Policy 6007 – Parental Access to Instructional Material. Megan Mehr seconded the motion.

Questions and discussions followed regarding how the elementary curriculum would be posted and the benefits of having this information available to parents and teachers.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. Business Requiring Action

b. GUMS Resolution 26-02 – Corporate Resolution to Approve the 2026-2027 Goodwin University Magnet School System Academic Calendar

i. Presentation and approval of the 2026 - 2027 Goodwin University Magnet School System Academic Calendar

Dan Moleti presented the 2026-2027 Goodwin University Magnet School System Academic Calendar. Changes to the calendar include: there will be 182 school days as opposed to 180 days; we have stayed within the teachers contract of 188 work days, with six (6) full professional development days and 182 work days; there will be a shorter winter break allowing for flexibility in June; there are 11 early release days instead of 12, student conferences remain the same as this year and align with trimesters and quarters at RMS, CTRA and RiverTech and Wellness has been moved back to March.

Discussion followed the presentation regarding the addition of wording explaining how snow days affect the calendar and vacations.

Todd Andrews motioned to approve GUMS Resolution 26-02 – Corporate Resolution to approve the 2026-2027 Goodwin University Magnet School System Academic Calendar with modified language related to snow days. Eddie Meyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. GUMS Board of Directors 2025-2026 Meeting Dates

- a. April 23, 2026
- b. June 17, 2026

Dr. Menzo took a moment to thank the teaching staff, central office staff, and building-level administrators. A special thanks went to Wendy Peterson for her excellent work in the interim director role at RMS and to Theresa Ekstrom for stepping out of her coaching role to serve as assistant director at CTRA.

Jackie Jacoby shared that she and the board are happy to be a part of the work of the district. She also shared that she and Sal hope to introduce a new GUMS Board member at the next Board meeting.

7. Adjournment

With no other business to come before the board. Megan Mehr motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 p.m. Todd Andrews seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes Recorded by:

Susan Everett

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GUMSS Board Recording Secretary