Orenda Charter Schools
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 19, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Gateway College Prep School - Cafeteria
3360 Westinghouse Road, Georgetown, TX 78626

Board Members in Attendance:	**Andrew Cottrill, President** **Travis Graves, Vice President** **Mick Swope, Secretary** **Tory Gant, Member** **Richard N. Rickey, Ex Officio**
Administrative Attendees:	**Carla Silber, Superintendent** **Margina Escobar, Chief Financial Officer** **Teresa Moreno, Director of Human Resources** **Adam Price, Director of Community Relations & Development** **Shelley Williams, Director of Operations** **Albert Rodriguez, Director of Technology** **Tonya Lambert, Executive Assistant**
Board Member nominee:	**Jennifer Carter**
Guests:	**Natalie Kuhn, Calvetti Ferguson** **Travis Ludwig, Calvetti Ferguson** **Sam Ludwig, Calvetti Ferguson** **Grant Hewitt, OpenEd**

I. Welcome/Determination of Quorum/Call to Order/Introduction of Invited Guests

Andrew Cottrill, Board President, called the meeting to order on Monday January 19, 2026 at 5:30 PM with the determination of a quorum.

II. Board Appreciation Presentation

Carla Silber and Adam Price presented a video from campus and district staff for board appreciation month.

III. Hearing of Citizens Who Desire to Come Before the Board

No citizens spoke before the board.

IV. ***Action*** on October 20, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

Travis Graves motioned to approve the October 20, 2025 board meeting minutes. Mick Swope seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

V. Financial Reports

A. Presentation and ***Action*** on the Audited Financial Statements FYE August 31, 2025

Representative from Calvetti Ferguson presented the results of the FYE August 31, 2025 Audited Financial Statements. Travis Graves motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit, and Andrew Cottrill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. ***Action*** on OCS YTD Ending November 30, 2025 Financial Report
C. ***Action*** on OCS Cash & Investment Summary Report for YTD ending November 30, 2025
D. ***Action*** on OCS 2025-26 OCS Budget Amendments
E. Report on Financial Key Targets

Margina Escobar, Chief Financial Officer, presented the financial reports for YTD ending November 30, 2025, OCS Cash & Investment Summary Report for YTD ending November 30, 2025, OCS 2025-26 Budget Amendments, and Financial Key Targets. Mick Swope motioned to approve, Tory Gant seconded the motion, and board unanimously approved.

F. Donations & Fund Raising Report for YTD ending November 30, 2025

Adam Price, Director of Community Relations & Development, reported on Donations & Fund Raising for YTD ending November 30, 2025.

VI. Academic and Instruction Reports

A. Report on Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR)
B. Report on HB3 Board Goals
C. Report on Academic Key Targets
D. ***Action*** on Special Education Homebound Waiver
E. ***Action*** on School Health Advisory Council Members
F. ***Action*** on District Released Time Courses Policy

Carla Silber, Superintendent, reported on Texas Academic Performance Reports (TAPR), HB3 Board Goals, and Academic Key Targets. Carla Silber presented the Special Education Remote Homebound Waiver, School Health Advisory Council Member nomination, and Released Time Courses Policy. Travis Graves motioned to approve the action items, and Andrew Cottrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Possible ***Action*** on Proposed Board Resolution for the adoption of a policy related to Period of Prayer and Reading of Religious Text along with "Prayer and Reading of Religious Texas" Policy, in accordance with Section 25.0823 of the Texas Education Code

Tory Gant moved that the governing body of Orenda Charter Schools not adopt a resolution nor corresponding policy that would require a period of prayer and reading of the Bible or other religious text, as permitted under Senate Bill 11 from the 89th Texas Legislative Session, which took effect September 1, 2025. Further, it should be noted that this record vote of the governing body is being taken within six months of the bill's effective date, as required by the law. Andrew seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. New Business

A. ***Action*** on Board Nominating Committee Recommendation for Board Member

Richard Rickey, CEO, introduced Jennifer Carter as a potential new board member. Travis Graves motioned to approve Jennifer Carter as a new board member. Mick seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Presentation and Possible ***Action*** on Virtual Learning Partnership

Carla Silber, Superintendent, along with a representative from OpenEd, Grant Hewitt, presented on Virtual Learning Partnership for the 2026-27 school year as a virtual learning program under

the Gateway College Preparatory School campus. Mick Swope motioned to approve the virtual partnership and delegate the superintendent to finalize the contract. Tory Gant seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

VIII. Old Business

A. ***Action*** on Region 10 Purchasing Co-Op

Carla Silber presented on renewal of the Region 10 Purchasing Co-Op for our food service program. Travis Graves motioned to approve. Andrew Cottrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Possible ***Action*** on Gateway School of Arts and Sciences

Carla Silber, Superintendent, presented a proforum to the board to open the TEA-Approved Gateway School of Arts and Sciences in August 2026 with leased modular buildings. Travis Graves motioned to not move forward with opening the Gateway School of Arts and Sciences at this time and wait until the following conditions are met: 1. All campuses rated A or B. 2. Implement an afterschool program at Gateway College Prep to improve traffic. 3.Increase the waitlist and enrollment . Andrew Cottrill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Executive Session (closed to public per Texas Law)

A. Deployment for implementation of security personnel

X. Old Business

A. ***Action*** on Good Cause Exception

Carla Silber presented on renewal of the Good Cause Exception for Security Personnel. Mick Swope motioned to approve, Tory Gant seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Board Secretary