GRANADA HILLS CHARTER

Special Governing Board Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2026 - 4:00 PM
Granada Hills Charter High School Library
10535 Zelzah Ave, Granada Hills, CA 91344
Teleconference locations listed below

Minutes

In Attendance:

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

Jenny DaCosta, Chief Academic Officer, presented the current Attendance Data Report, reviewing attendance trends through Attendance Interval 6 for the 2025–2026 school year and comparing results to the same period in 2024 - 2025. Overall attendance rates remained strong, with attendance through February 6, 2026, at 96.97 percent for grades TK–5, 97.13 percent for grades 6-8, 94.64 percent for grades 9-12, and 96.25 percent overall. The report also included attendance data for the Monday following the Super Bowl and highlighted several calendar dates associated with elevated absence rates.

Dr. DaCosta noted that TK-8 attendance continued to show significant improvement compared to the prior year. Monthly absence averages declined in every month measured, and chronic absenteeism decreased from 99 students to 41 students, representing a reduction of 58 students. Most grade levels experienced lower absence rates and fewer chronically absent students than during the same reporting period in 2024–2025.

Absence rates were generally higher at the high school than the previous year, particularly during January. Testing schedules, school safety threats, walkouts, lockouts, and other events may have contributed to increased absences and chronic absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism increased from 517 students to 630 students, with the largest increase occurring among twelfth-grade students.

Action Item #1 - New Course Approval - Project Lead the Way - Artificial Intelligence

Wendy Woodburn, Curriculum and Instruction Committee Chair, presented the proposed project Lead the Way Principles of Artificial Intelligence course outline. Ms. Woodburn explained that the semester-long course introduces students to artificial intelligence concepts, prompt engineering, data analysis, machine learning, and the ethical implications of AI through hands-on and project-based learning experiences.

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

Thao Ly	Yes		Luis Cervantes	Yes		Maribel Ramirez	Yes		Richard Nolan	Yes
Lorene Dixon	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jody Dunlap	Yes			

Action Item #2 – Approval of Frequency of Report Card Mailing
Ms. Woodburn presented a proposal to modify report card mailing procedures for middle and high school students. The proposed change would discontinue mailing six-week and twelve-week progress reports, while continuing to provide those reports electronically through the Home Access Center (HAC) and mail final report cards to families. Ms. Woodburn explained that the change would improve efficiency, reduce paper usage, and generate an estimated annual savings of approximately $37,000 while maintaining parent access to student academic information.

Maribel Ramirez made the motion to approve. Thao Ly seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with the following votes:

Thao Ly	Yes		Luis Cervantes	Yes		Maribel Ramirez	Yes		Richard Nolan	Yes
Lorene Dixon	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jody Dunlap	Yes			

Action Item #3 - Review and Approve Year to Date Financial Reports
Ms. Stanton presented the Year-to-Date Financial Report as of February 28, 2026, which summarizes revenues, expenditures, changes in fund balance, a balance sheet account summary, and updated cash flow actuals through February 28, 2026. Ms. Stanton informed the Board that GHC's debt service coverage ratio is forecasted to be 1.10 and that the school has 90.6 consolidated days cash on hand, with a projected 2025-2026 fiscal year ending cash balance of approximately $28.4 million. The report reflects Second Interim budget adjustments tied to improved ADA projections, updated revenue estimates, employee benefit costs, and rising operating expenses. Ms. Stanton also reported that consolidated revenues totaled approximately $63.0 million and expenditures totaled approximately $62.6 million through February 28, 2026. Cash reserves remained strong, with approximately $36.6 million held in local bank accounts and the County Treasury, an additional $20.0 million in unspent bond funds, and a consolidated fund balance of approximately $49.9 million.

Lorene Dixon made the 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
Lorene Dixon	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jody Dunlap	Yes			

Action Item #4 - Review and Approve Second Interim Financial Report
Ms. Stanton presented the 2025-26 Second Interim Financial Report and Budget. Ms. Stanton reported that the revised budget reflects updated enrollment and ADA projections, increased federal, state, and local revenues, and adjustments to operating expenditures. The report projects total Fund 62 revenues of approximately $105.8 million and expenditures of approximately $107.0 million, with an ending Fund 62 net position of approximately $43.5 million.

Ms. Stanton further reported that the school is projected to end the fiscal year with approximately $27.0 million in cash, 86 days cash on hand, and a debt service coverage ratio of 1.10. She noted that rising operating costs, including utilities, insurance, transportation, maintenance, and special education services, contributed to the budget revisions.

Luis Cervantes made the motion to approve. Lorene Dixon seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with the following votes:

Thao Ly	Yes		Luis Cervantes	Yes		Maribel Ramirez	Yes		Richard Nolan	Yes
Lorene Dixon	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jody Dunlap	Yes			

Chief Executive Officer/Superintendent's Report

Mr. Bauer provided updates on local and state legislative issues. There are not any new anti-charter bills under consideration in the Legislature this year, following several strong anti-charter bills last year that did not advance. Some charter management organizations (CMO) have experienced issues regarding eligibility with the State Teachers Retirement System (STRS). The California Charter Schools Association (CCSA) is working with both STRS and the Legislature to address these issues and provide guidance to charter schools. Mr. Bauer also informed the Board that Granada Hills Charter, along with a large number of other charter schools, plans to submit its charter renewal petition in July, with LAUSD Board consideration anticipated in October. Given students' academic performance, GHC is eligible for a seven year renewal - a renewal cadence that LAUSD has not utilized yet. For some schools, there have been concerns raised about the Single Occupancy Agreement (SOA) with LAUSD. GHC is actively discussing this agreement with LAUSD, particularly around the responsibility for property insurance.

Norm Holloway, Chief Operating Officer reported that the Devonshire Campus Phase 3 construction project is progressing well and remains on schedule. He noted that buildings are nearing completion and that the project continues to track favorably toward its planned opening.

Action Item #5a - Authorization for Purchase of up to 6,300 Chromebooks, Total Price not to Exceed $3,500,000
The Board reviewed a recommendation to authorize the purchase of approximately 6,300 student Chromebooks to support the school's 1:1 technology program and replace devices purchased in 2022. The Board also reviewed the ongoing RFP process, available financing options, and strategies to maximize value through phased purchasing and extended device lifecycles.

Luis Cervantes made the motion to approve. Thao Ly seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with the following votes:

Thao Ly	Yes		Luis Cervantes	Yes		Maribel Ramirez	Yes		Richard Nolan	Yes
Lorene Dixon	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jody Dunlap	Yes			

Action Item #6 - Approval of Updated GHC Sponsored 403b and 457 Plans
The Board reviewed proposed updates to Granada Hills Charter's 403(b) and 457(b) deferred compensation plans. The revisions update the plans to reflect current federal requirements and administrative practices, including Roth contribution options, updated required minimum distribution rules, military leave protections, and other administrative and compliance updates. The updated 403(b) and 457(b) Plans are effective as of January 1, 2026.

Lorene Dixon made the 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
Lorene Dixon	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jody Dunlap	Yes			

Action Item #7 - Approval of Updated GHC Professional Boundaries Policy

The Board reviewed updates to the Professional Boundaries: Adult/Student Interaction Policy. Revisions clarified expectations regarding adult-student interactions, electronic communications, supervision, mandatory reporting requirements, and professional conduct standards, while providing additional examples of acceptable and prohibited behaviors.

Lorene Dixon made the motion to approve. Thao Ly seconded the motion. Unanimously approved with the following votes:

Thao Ly	Yes		Luis Cervantes	Yes		Maribel Ramirez	Yes		Richard Nolan	Yes
Lorene Dixon	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jody Dunlap	Yes			

Action Item #8 - Approval of January 26, 2026 Governing Board Meeting Minutes

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

Thao Ly	Yes		Luis Cervantes	Yes		Maribel Ramirez	Yes		Richard Nolan	Yes
Lorene Dixon	Yes		Joan Lewis	Yes		Jody Dunlap	Yes			

Meeting adjourned to closed session at 4:55 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

- CONFIDENTIAL STUDENT DISCIPLINE MATTER
  - Consideration of Expulsion Appeal Case No.: 2026-01-42283

Meeting returned to open session at 7:20 p.m. and reported the following:

As to confidential student discipline matter, Case #2026-01-42283, the Board unanimously voted to reject the Student's appeal and affirm/uphold the Student's expulsion

Meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Approved by the GHC Governing Board June 8, 2026

David Bensinger

Board Secretary