Olive Grove Charter Schools Governance Structure

Santa Barbara County Education Office
Susan C. Salcido, Superintendent

Bridget Baublits, Associate Superintendent

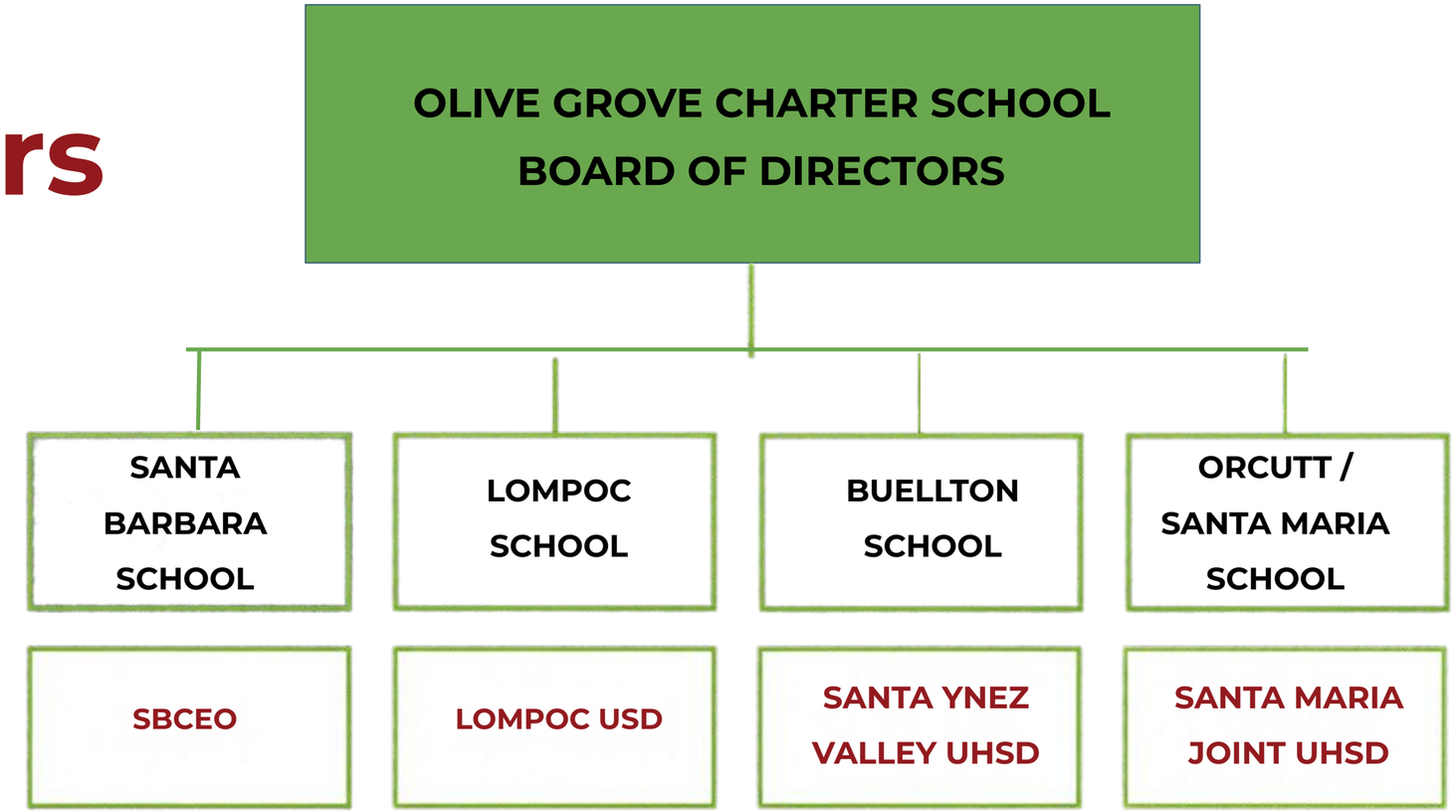
Understanding Olive Grove Charter Schools, Inc. Governance Structure

- Olive Grove Charter School-Santa Barbara has operated under County Board/SBCEO authorization since July 1, 2026.
- Operated by Olive Grove Charter Schools, Inc. (OGCS), a California nonprofit public benefit corporation.
- OGCS is governed by its own Board of Directors responsible for governance decisions.
- County Board/SBCEO hold separate legal oversight responsibilities as authorizer.



One Governing Board, Four Schools, Four Authorizers

- One corporate Board of Directors governs all four schools.
- Each school is authorized by a different agency.
- Authorizers monitor only the school they authorize.



A Unique Feature:

One Reserved Board Seat for Each Authorizer

Four distinct authorizers.
Four reserved seats.

Appointed directors carry full governance duties and legal fiduciary responsibilities.

Reserved seat role is separate from authorizer monitoring and oversight.

Bylaws include special appointment and removal provisions.

FOUR RESERVED SEATS IN OLIVE GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD	
01	Santa Barbara County Board of Education
02	Lompoc Unified School District
03	Santa Ynez Valley Union High School District
04	Santa Maria Joint Union High School District

Two Distinct Roles: Board Representation and Oversight

Authorizer-Appointed Director

- Serves as a director on the OGCS corporate board
- Appointment right under Education Code 47604(c)
- Has corporate director fiduciary responsibilities
- Participates in board decisions and has voting rights

Non-Voting Observer

- Attends OGCS board meetings in an oversight capacity
- Participation provided by MOU
- Does not hold corporate director voting authority
- May participate in board discussions as to the extent permitted by law

Key distinction: Appointment to the corporate board is not the same as authorizer oversight

OGCS Board: Structure and Selection

POSITION	**3–9 directors (4 directors currently)** **Four reserved authorizer seats; one per authorizer**
SELECTION	**Other directors appointed through board processes**
ELIGIBILITY	**One director may be a parent/guardian of a current student** **Current employees prohibited from serving as directors**
TERM & QUORUM	**Director terms: three years** **Quorum: simple majority of directors in office**
FIDUCIARY DUTY	**Directors have fiduciary duties to OGCS nonprofit corporation**

Board Roles, Terms, and Elections

DIRECTORS

Serve three-year terms

Appointed, not publicly elected

OFFICERS

Elected annually

Serve one-year terms (e.g., Board Chair)

ROLES

Board Chair presides over meetings

President/Superintendent is organizational executive

BOARD MEETINGS

At least six regular meetings annually, including an annual meeting.
Meet 2nd Thursday of the month at 2 p.m.

TERM NOTE

Directors serve three-year terms and may be eligible for reappointment

Current Board of Directors

Ivette Martinez
Board Chair

Current parent

1

Deb Williams
Vice President

2

Hank Gallina
Treasurer

3

Doris McPhee
Secretary

4

BIOGRAPHIES

How OGCS Differs from a County or District Board

	OLIVE GROVE CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS	COUNTY OR DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
GOVERNANCE	Nonprofit corporate board	Public governing body
SELECTION	Directors appointed under bylaws	Generally voter-elected
TERMS	Three-year terms	Generally four-year terms
SCHOOLS	Governs four separately authorized charter schools	Oversees jurisdictional schools and programs
ACCOUNTABILITY	Corporate duties, public laws, and subject to authorizer oversight	Public elections and statutory oversight

Both are subject to Brown Act and Public Records Act

What the OGCS Board Governs vs. What County Board/SBCEO Oversees

OGCS BOARD GOVERNS

- Hiring and evaluating the Superintendent
- Approving contracts and organizational decisions
- Establishing educational policies and overseeing school operations
- Ensuring fiscal accountability and the responsible use of public funds

VS.

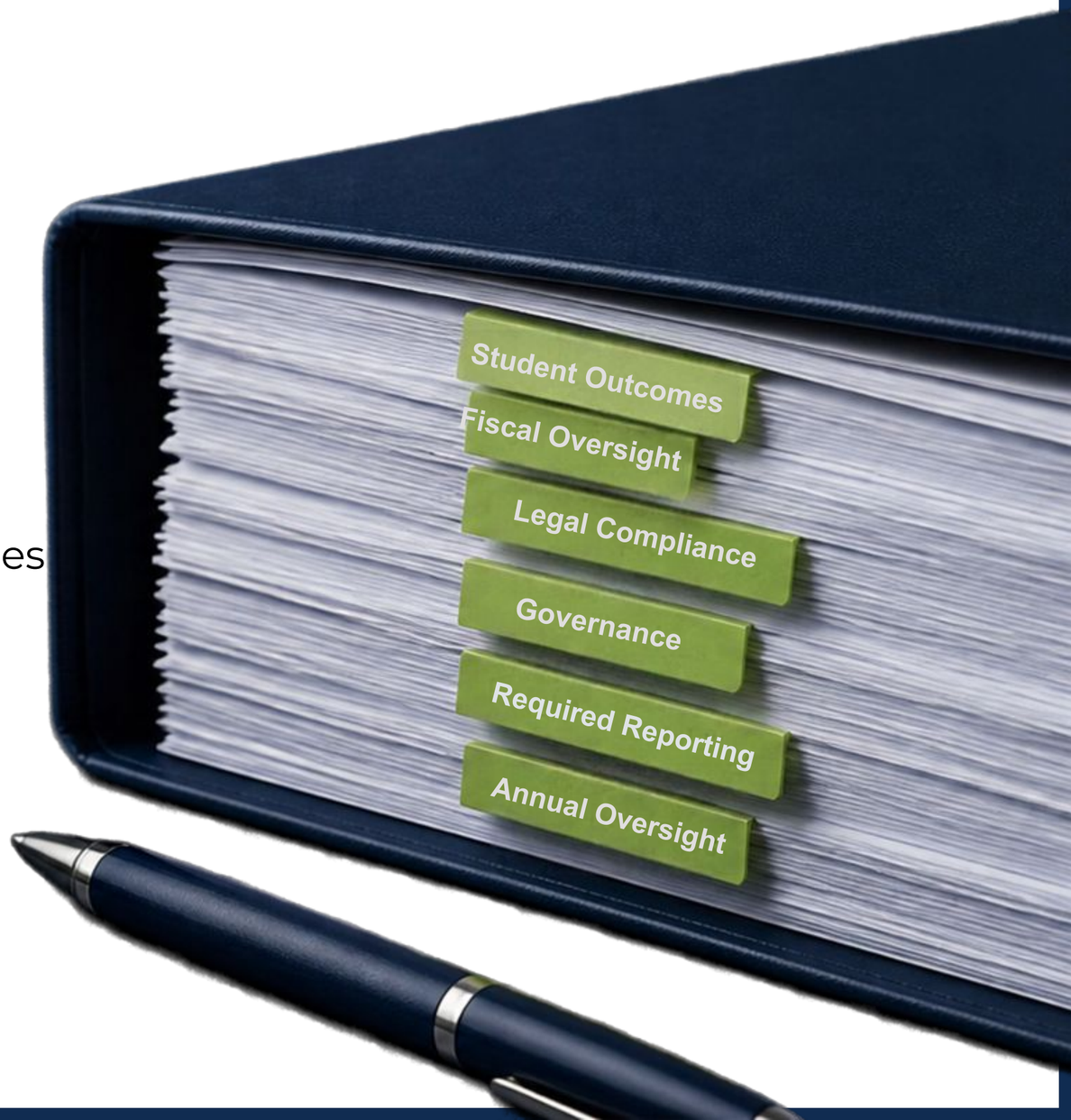
COUNTY BOARD/SBCEO OVERSEES

- Monitoring governance and leadership changes
- Reviewing financial reports and fiscal condition
- Monitoring contracts and financial decisions affecting OGCS-SB
- Monitoring educational performance and compliance
- Reviewing implementation of charter and MOU
- Exercising appropriate oversight and intervention authority without managing daily operations

County Board/SBCEO oversight focuses on Olive Grove–Santa Barbara while recognizing the broader OGCS structure.

County Board/SBCEO Charter Authorizer Oversight Responsibilities

- Student achievement and educational program performance
- Fiscal health, accountability, and financial reporting
- Compliance with the charter, MOU, and applicable laws
- Board governance, leadership, and organizational changes
- Required reporting, annual oversight, and corrective actions



SBCEO monitors charter performance and compliance through required reporting, annual reviews, and ongoing oversight.

County Board/SBCEO Authorization

SBCEO Team

- Ellen Barger - Associate Superintendent
- Bridget Baublits - Associate Superintendent
- Gina Branum - Associate Superintendent
- Nicole Evenson - Administrator, Internal Services
- Kirsten Escobedo - Associate Superintendent
- Steve Torres - Associate Superintendent

Authorization Tracking

General Information	
Charter School Name	
CDS Code	42-10421-0138396
Physical Address	1933 Cliff Dr. Ste. 12 Santa Barbara, CA 93109
Mailing Address	5075 S. Bradley Rd. Suite 119 Santa Maria, CA 93455
Authorizing Agency	Santa Barbara County Board of Education (Office)
Charter Term	July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2031
Petition Approval Date	March 12, 2026 (SBE)
Next Renewal Date	July 1, 2031
School Year	2026-27
Website	www.olivegrovecharter.org
Charter School Contacts	
Administrator Contact	
Name & Title	Meg Rydman, Superintendent
Email	mrydman@olivegrovecharter.org
Phone	805-623-1111 cell 805-260-9148
Fiscal Contact	
Name & Title	Dennis Nguyen, School Business Manager
Email	dnguyen@csmci.com
Phone	213-563-3926
Special Education Contact	
Name	Christie Clay - Special Education Complaince
Email	cclay@olivegrovecharter.org
Phone	cclay@olivegrovecharter.org
General Operating Documents	
Charter Petition	Link
Memorandum of Understanding	Link
Articles of Incorporation	Link
Staff Time Accounting	
Staff Time Accounting Sheet	Charter School Oversight Cost Tracking Template

Olive Grove Charter School



Informal Site Visit of OGCS Santa Barbara on December 16 at 2 p.m.

Santa Barbara County Education Office
Susan C. Salcido, Superintendent