



OLIVE GROVE CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC.  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, June 5, 2025, 4:00 pm (Pacific Time)

## MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER** Deb Willems called the meeting of the Olive Grove Charter Schools, Inc. Board of Directors to order at 4:02pm.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Deb Willems, Board Chair	present
Terry Dickinson	absent
Hank Gallina	present
Jackie Heidt	present
Ivette Martinez	present

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Deb Willems moved to approve the agenda as presented.

**SECONDED:** Jackie Heidt

**DISCUSSION:** None

**APPROVED** by a vote of 4-0

Deb Willems (Y) Hank Gallina (Y) Jackie Heidt (Y) Ivette Martinez (Y)

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

5. **PUBLIC HEARING**

Opened Public Hearing at 4:03pm.

Meg Rydman provided an overview of the requirements for Charter Schools to complete the LCAP on or before July 1 of each year using the LCAP template adapted by the State Board of Education. OGCS, Inc. is required to prepare a separate LCAP for each school. Meg reviewed and discussed the drafts of the 2025-2026 LCAP for each Olive Grove school, which is year 2 in the 3-year LCAP cycle. OGCS, Inc. worked to develop these LCAP goals based on educational partner engagement and input including data, and no changes were made to goals or actions for 2025-26. The complete LCAP package will be presented to the Board at their next meeting, on June 12, for approval. The drafts are up for Public Hearing in order to gain any public feedback for adoption of the plan before it is finalized, approved, and submitted to the Charter Authorizer.

No public comment was made.

Closed Public Hearing at 4:12pm.

6. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Deb Willems moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, which included the minutes from the Board meeting on May 8, 2025 and the check register for the month of April.

**SECONDED:** Jackie Heidt

**DISCUSSION:** None

**APPROVED** by a vote of 4-0

Deb Willems (Y) Hank Gallina (Y) Jackie Heidt (Y) Ivette Martinez (Y)

## **7. REPORTS/ TRAININGS/ PRESENTATIONS**

### **A. Reports**

#### **i. Superintendent's Report**

Meg Rydman reported that OGCS wrapped up another successful school year with celebrations including open houses and graduation.

Charter renewal update - She is moving forward working on the renewal petition documents. A date for a study session is still to be determined.

Three new hires have been made for the coming school year- one just verbally accepted today - so OGCS is fully staffed for teachers. There are still open positions for an ed specialist and a sped paraprofessional.

As of 6/5/25, pre enrolled student numbers for 2025-26 are as follows:

- Total: 412
- Buellton: 45
- Lompoc: 118
- Orcutt/SM: 168
- Santa Barbara: 81
- TK-5: 51
- 6-12: 361

There are 70 prospective students on waitlists across the schools, and now that staffing is settled, students will be pulled off of those waitlists.

#### **ii. Board Members' Reports**

None

#### **iii. Financial Report *through April***

Dennis Nguyen presented financial information through April comparing them with the budget at 2nd interim. Revenues are coming in under budget, and expenditures are also currently under budget, both of which are to be expected. The organization is still projected to end in a surplus position. Dennis informed the Board that Buellton had received 100% funding as a result of the funding determination process. He also mentioned that CSMC will support the schools in the charter renewal process.

### **B. Presentations**

None

### **C. Trainings**

None

## **8. ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Approval of adoption of Amira as the selected Reading Difficulties Risk Screener for all four Olive Grove Charter Schools**

**MOTION:** Deb Willems moved to approve the adoption of Amira as the selected Reading Difficulties Risk Screener for all four Olive Grove Charter Schools.

**SECONDED:** Jackie Heidt

**DISCUSSION:** Meg Rydman explained that per Education Code 53008(d), on or before June 30, 2025, the governing board or body of an LEA serving pupils in kindergarten or grades one or two must adopt, at a public meeting, one or more screening instruments from the list adopted by the Reading Difficulties Risk Screener Selection Panel. Amira is included on this list. The Olive Grove K-2 teachers participated in researching the options, and they selected Amira to recommend for adoption.

Hank Gallina suggested the schools look at Stanford's Rapid Online Assessment of Reading (ROAR). Meg confirmed that it is on the list of approved screeners but it is only for grades 1 and 2, and it is only in English.

**APPROVED** by a vote of 4-0

Deb Willems (Y) Hank Gallina (Y) Jackie Heidt (Y) Ivette Martinez (Y)

**B. Approval of the pursuit of the application for title funding for all four Olive Grove Charter Schools: Title I, Title II, and Title IV, and Title V funding for OGCS Buellton**

**MOTION:** Deb Willems moved to approve the pursuit of the application for title funding for all four Olive Grove Charter Schools: Title I, Title II, and Title IV, and Title V funding for OGCS Buellton.

**SECONDED:** Jackie Heidt

**DISCUSSION:** Meg Rydman explained that these are funding programs that OGCS currently participates in and this will allow the schools to apply to continue to receive the funding. She reiterated that all four schools apply for Title I, Title II, and Title IV, but only Buellton currently qualifies for Title V.

**APPROVED** by a vote of 4-0

Deb Willems (Y) Hank Gallina (Y) Jackie Heidt (Y) Ivette Martinez (Y)

**C. Approval of \$1,000 increase to the maximum annual employer contribution to employee health benefits, effective July 1, 2025**

**MOTION:** Deb Willems moved to approve a \$1,000 increase to the maximum annual employer contribution to employee health benefits, effective for the next benefit year.

**SECONDED:** Jackie Heidt

**DISCUSSION:** Meg Rydman explained that a 10-13% rise in costs for benefits is projected, which will result in additional employees needing to pay out of pocket for basic medical plans. This action will increase the employer's contribution to a maximum of \$13,500 per full time employee. The aim is to cover the cost of an individual employee's basic health benefits (basic medical, dental, and vision). Costs for richer plans, additional benefits, and/or for covering family members may require an employee's contribution. This increase is accounted for in OGCS's 2025-26 initial budget planning.

**APPROVED** by a vote of 4-0

Deb Willems (Y) Hank Gallina (Y) Jackie Heidt (Y) Ivette Martinez (Y)

**D. Approval of 2% increase to all salary schedules and to hourly rates (as of July 1, 2025) for current employees not on a schedule, effective July 1, 2025**

**MOTION:** Deb Willems moved to approve a 2% increase to all salary schedules and to hourly rates (as of July 1, 2025) for current employees not on a schedule, effective July 1, 2025.

**SECONDED:** Jackie Heidt

**DISCUSSION:** Meg Rydman indicated that this action will increase pay rates by 2% across the board, for all staff whether or not they are on a salary schedule. She acknowledged that this is a modest increase, and the Board expressed an interest in recognizing staff with more. Meg explained that this move is intentionally fiscally conservative in an effort to make some progress on increasing salaries while being considerate of the schools' charter renewal processes, State budget uncertainties, and the full expenditure of many one-time fund programs. OGCS is projected to end 2024-25 in a surplus position, and if that proves to be the case as we approach closing this fiscal year, the suggestion is to recognize staff contributions and retention with stipends, but this will be considered at a later time. This 2% increase is accounted for in OGCS's 2025-26 initial budget planning.

**APPROVED** by a vote of 4-0

Deb Willems (Y) Hank Gallina (Y) Jackie Heidt (Y) Ivette Martinez (Y)

**E. Approval of the 2025-2026 NPA (Nonpublic, Nonsectarian School/Agency Services) SELPA Master Contract**

**MOTION:** Deb Willems moved to approve the 2025-2026 NPA SELPA Master Contract.

**SECONDED:** Jackie Heidt

**DISCUSSION:** Meg Rydman explained that OGCS annually adopts the document developed by the El Dorado Charter SELPA to use as needed to meet the requirement that LEAs develop and utilize a master contract if/when procuring services through an NPA/S.

**APPROVED** by a vote of 4-0

Deb Willems (Y) Hank Gallina (Y) Jackie Heidt (Y) Ivette Martinez (Y)

**9. CLOSED SESSION**

The Board entered closed session at 4:45pm.

- Conference with Labor Negotiator  
Agency Designated Representative: Board Chair  
Unrepresented Employee: Superintendent

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to open session at 4:54pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Deb Willems, Board Chair - present

Hank Gallina - present

Jackie Heidt - present

Ivette Martinez - present

**10. REPORT ACTION FROM CLOSED SESSION**

No action taken.

**11. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**A. Board Business**

None

**B. New Business/Future Agenda Items**

- i. Local Indicators, LCAPs, and 2025-26 Budgets
- ii. 2025-26 Board Meeting Dates

**12. NEXT MEETING DATE**

- To be determined

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57pm.

Minutes submitted by Meg Rydman, Superintendent (Terry Dickinson, OGCS, Inc. Board Secretary was absent.)

*Meg Rydman*

---