



OLIVE GROVE CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 8, 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 4:05pm.
2. **ROLL CALL**

Deb Willems, Board Chair	present
Terry Dickinson	present
Hank Gallina	present
Jackie Heidt	present
Ivette Martinez	present
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve the agenda amended to remove action item 7F.

SECONDED: Hank Gallina

DISCUSSION: None

APPROVED by a vote of 5-0

Deb Willems (Y) Terry Dickinson (Y) Hank Gallina (Y) Jackie Heidt (Y) Ivette Martinez (Y)
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None
5. **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve the consent agenda as presented, which included the minutes from the Board meeting on March 6, 2025 and the check registers for the months of February and March.

SECONDED: Jackie Heidt

DISCUSSION: None

APPROVED by a vote of 5-0

Deb Willems (Y) Terry Dickinson (Y) Hank Gallina (Y) Jackie Heidt (Y) Ivette Martinez (Y)
6. **REPORTS/ TRAININGS/ PRESENTATIONS**
 - A. **Reports**
 - i. **Superintendent's Report**

Meg Rydman reported it is staff appreciation week, so she took a moment to express sincere gratitude for each and every team member at Olive Grove.

Olive Grove had a great time at the Kite Festival on April 27. Five staff members attended. There were lots of visitors to the booth. Meg offered a big thanks to Xenia and her husband Mike for all they did to make the day run smoothly.

CAASPP testing is almost complete.

Meg provided a brief action plan update. She pulled the plans from today's agenda because the team needs to dig into the data a little further and fine tune the plans a bit.

Meg provided a charter renewal update. She and the directors attended district board meetings where they introduced themselves and the schools in public comment. She reminded the Board that she has met with three of the four superintendents, and she is continuing to work on building relationships. She is also building the data story and starting the writing process.

There are just 2.5 weeks of school left, which will be filled with celebrations, including open houses, 10-year birthday parties, and graduation.

The team is making plans for next year, including some new exciting course offerings such as ethnic studies and career technical education courses.

Enrollment

As of yesterday, OGCS has 419 students.

- 35 are elementary (TK-5),
- 72 are middle school (6-8) and
- 312 are high school (9-12).
- There are 64 sped and 32 EL students, across the schools.

OGCS is enrolling students for 2025-26. The lottery was held March 26, and now OGCS is enrolling on a first come, first served basis as space allows.

ii. Board Members' Reports

Hank Gallina suggested to Meg that she consider attending the ASCD conference this summer.

iii. Financial Report - *through March*

Dennis Nguyen presented financial information through March comparing them with the budget at 2nd interim. Revenues are coming in slightly under budget, approximately 4.1% below, and expenditures are also currently under budget by approximately 6%. The organization is in a surplus position. Dennis mentioned that he and Meg are working on initial budgets for 2025-26.

B. Presentations

i. Santa Barbara Learning Center Update -*Presented by Lisa O'Shea, Learning Center Director*

Lisa O'Shea, Learning Center Director for Santa Barbara and Buellton, presented about some of the goings on at the learning centers, including highlighting staff members, science labs, art and music workshops, and testing.

C. Trainings

None

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval to set one calendar year (12 months) as the time frame for allowing involuntarily removed students to re-enroll in any Olive Grove Charter School

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve one calendar year (12 months) as the time frame for allowing involuntarily removed students to re-enroll in any Olive Grove school, effective immediately and applicable to all students involuntarily withdrawn at the end of this school year.

SECONDED: Hank Gallina

DISCUSSION: Meg Rydman explained that this timeframe is specified in the *Academic Probation* procedure but applies to any student who is involuntarily removed. Practice to date has been that students who are

involuntarily removed (also known as referred back to their district of residence) are ineligible to re-enroll during the same school year, but they are eligible to re-enroll in the next school year if they choose to reapply and a space becomes available. Approval of this revision will make these involuntarily removed students ineligible for re-enrollment at any Olive Grove school for one calendar year (12 months) from the date of involuntary withdrawal.

The Board discussed alternative time frames, such as 6 months or one semester.

AMENDED MOTION: Deb Willems moved to set the time frame for involuntarily dismissed students to be eligible again for enrollment to be no less than one full semester, effective immediately.

SECONDED: Jackie Heidt

APPROVED by a vote of 5-0

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

B. Approval of revisions to OGCS, Inc. Fiscal Policies and Procedures

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve the revisions to the OGCS, Inc. Fiscal Policies and Procedures.

SECONDED: Hank Gallina

DISCUSSION: Meg Rydman explained that this serves as the annual review of the fiscal policies. Revisions were made to Section 406 Accounts Payable Payment Policy and Cash Disbursements (in section 1100) to reflect the implementation of a new accounts payable system, Edstruments. Additionally, "Superintendent" replaces "Executive Director" throughout.

APPROVED by a vote of 5-0

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

C. Approval of revisions to OGCS Inc. Education for Homeless Children and Youth Policy

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve the revisions to the OGCS, Inc. Education for Homeless Children and Youth Policy.

SECONDED: Terry Dickinson

DISCUSSION: Meg Rydman explained that these revisions are made at the recommendation of legal counsel, in order to stay compliant and up to date with current rules and regulations. Additionally, "Superintendent" replaces "Executive Director" throughout.

The Board determined that the word "homeless" should be replaced throughout with the term "unhoused", and their vote to approve is conditioned upon that change being made..

APPROVED by a vote of 5-0

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

D. Approval of revisions to OGCS Inc. Education of Foster and Mobile Youth Policy

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve the revisions to the OGCS, Inc. Education of Foster and Mobile Youth Policy.

SECONDED: Jackie Heidt

DISCUSSION: Meg Rydman explained that just like the policy above, these revisions are made at the recommendation of legal counsel, in order to stay compliant and up to date with current rules and regulations. Additionally, "Superintendent" replaces "Executive Director" throughout.

APPROVED by a vote of 5-0

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

E. Approval of revised OGCS, Inc. Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) Policy

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve the revisions to the OGCS, Inc. Uniform Complaint Procedures (UCP) Policy.

SECONDED: Jackie Heidt

DISCUSSION: Meg Rydman explained that just like the policies above, these revisions are made at the recommendation of legal counsel, in order to stay compliant and up to date with current rules and regulations. However, different from those above, the prior UCP language was entirely replaced with new language. Additionally, “Superintendent” replaces “Executive Director” throughout.

APPROVED by a vote of 5-0

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

~~F. Approval of LC specific action plans to address identified areas of need and challenge~~

Removed from agenda.

G. Approval of Accelerate Quote 2025-26

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve the 2025-26 Accelerate quote.

SECONDED: Jackie Heidt

DISCUSSION: Meg Rydman explained that this purchase will secure the selected curriculum for Olive Grove students in grades TK-5 for the 2025-26 school year. The total cost is \$25,575.

APPROVED by a vote of 5-0

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

H. Approval of FlexPoint Quote 2025-26

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve the 2025-26 FlexPoint quote.

SECONDED: Terry Dickinson

DISCUSSION: Meg Rydman explained that this purchase will secure the selected curriculum for Olive Grove students in grades 6-12, ELD and an orientation course for the 2025-26 school year. The total cost is \$90,577.50.

APPROVED by a vote of 5-0

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

I. Approval of IXL Quote 2025-26

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve the 2025-26 IXL quote.

SECONDED: Terry Dickinson

DISCUSSION: Meg Rydman explained that this purchase will secure the intervention platform for the 2025-26 school year. The total cost is \$9,900.

APPROVED by a vote of 5-0

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

J. Approval of Parsec Quote 2025-26

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve the 2025-26 Parsec quote.

SECONDED: Jackie Heidt

DISCUSSION: Meg Rydman explained that this purchase will secure the ongoing use of Parsec’s data analytics platform and support and Parsec Real, a platform for collecting and analyzing educational partner feedback for the 2025-26 school year. The total cost is \$22,000.

APPROVED by a vote of 5-0

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

8. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Board Business

- i. June 26 - Charter renewal petition study session

Meg Rydman proposed the idea of holding a study session to review the charter renewal petitions. The Board discussed possible dates, and it will likely occur in July.

Deb directed Meg to include a closed session item on the June 5 agenda for Meg's contract negotiations. The Board discussed including policies that do not include much content change on future agendas under the consent agenda, with the understanding that they could always be pulled off the consent agenda if a member wishes to discuss it. They directed Meg to do so.

B. New Business/Future Agenda Items

- i. Public hearing for LCAPs

9. NEXT MEETING DATES

- June 5, 2025, 4:00pm - Public Hearing for LCAPs
- June 12, 2025, 4:00pm

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23pm.

Minutes submitted by Terry Dickinson, OGCS, Inc. Board Secretary

Terry Dickinson
