



OLIVE GROVE CHARTER SCHOOLS, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 15, 2026, 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 4:06pm.

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve the agenda as presented.
SECONDED: Terry Dickinson
DISCUSSION: None
APPROVED by a vote of 3-0
Deb Willems (Y) Terry Dickinson (Y) Hank Gallina (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 regular Board meeting on December 11, 2025, the check register for the month of November.
SECONDED: Terry Dickinson
DISCUSSION: None
APPROVED by a vote of 3-0
Deb Willems (Y) Terry Dickinson (Y) Hank Gallina (Y)

6. **REPORTS/ TRAININGS/ PRESENTATIONS**
 - A. **Reports**
 - i. **Superintendent's Report**

January is Board Appreciation Month. Meg Rydman expressed appreciation for the Board's dedication to Olive Grove's students and staff.
She reported that the 2nd semester started Monday, and mid-year i-Ready benchmarks are underway. Also starting soon is the schools' first administration of the reading difficulties screener. This screener will be given to all K-2 students starting next week.

Meg provided a brief overview of where OGCS Santa Barbara is in its appeal process. She and LC director Lisa O'Shea will present at the ACCS meeting on February 3 in Sacramento, and hopefully the appeal will be moved forward to the State Board meeting in March.

Enrollment as of 1/14/26: 464 students [450 enrolled, 14 pre-enrolled], plus 7 accepted so enrollment is in process

- 54 elementary (TK-5)
- 73 middle school (6-8)
- 337 high school (9-12)
- 84 sped students
- 38 EL, 2 tbd students
- Waitlist: 63

ii. Board Members' Reports
None

iii. Financial Report *through November 2025*

Dennis Nguyen provided financial information through November 30, 2025. He reported actual expenses and revenue as of November 30 compared to the revised budget (first interims). He reviewed the financial health of the organization, the cash balance over time, and the balance sheet showing assets and liabilities. Overall, the organization is fiscally healthy. There was a discussion regarding budget options or potential considerations should OGCS SB's appeal be denied. This topic will be explored further should it become necessary.

B. Presentations

i. Special Education -*Presented by David Zitin, Director of Special Education*

David Zitin presented information about special education at Olive Grove. He introduced the special education team members and highlighted the fact that we are currently fully staffed in that department. He showed some data regarding enrollment trends and some information about the types of disabilities our students are experiencing. He explained that the number of students with extensive support needs is increasing.

C. Trainings

None

7. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of 2024-25 School Accountability Report Cards (SARC) for each Olive Grove Charter School

- i. 2024-25 SARC -Olive Grove Charter-Buellton
- ii. 2024-25 SARC -Olive Grove Charter-Lompoc
- iii. 2024-25 SARC -Olive Grove Charter-Orcutt/Santa Maria
- iv. 2024-25 SARC -Olive Grove Charter-Santa Barbara

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve the 2024-25 School Accountability Report Cards (SARC) for each Olive Grove Charter School.

SECONDED: Terry Dickinson

DISCUSSION: Meg Rydman presented background information about the SARC, and she explained that SARCs must be updated annually, reviewed and approved by the school's Governing Board, and published by February 1.

APPROVED by a vote of 3-0

Deb Willems (Y) Terry Dickinson (Y) Hank Gallina (Y)

B. Approval of Olive Grove Charter Schools, Inc. Policy on Referral Protocols for Addressing Pupil Behavioral Health Concerns

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve Olive Grove Charter Schools, Inc. Policy on Referral Protocols for Addressing Pupil Behavioral Health Concerns.

SECONDED: Hank Gallina

DISCUSSION: Meg Rydman explained that Senate Bill 153 (from 2024) requires all LEAs serving grades 7–12 to adopt a board-approved policy on referral protocols for addressing pupil behavioral health concerns by January 31, 2026. These protocols are intended to support timely, equitable identification, referral, and follow-up for students experiencing mental health or substance-use challenges. She indicated that his policy was developed based on guidance provided by the CDE and in accordance with the requirements of SB 153.

APPROVED by a vote of 3-0

Deb Willems (Y) Terry Dickinson (Y) Hank Gallina (Y)

C. Olive Grove Charter Schools, Inc. Board Organizational Items

DISCUSSION: Meg Rydman explained that the Board will go ahead with this item despite the fact that there a couple of members absent. It has been tabled a couple of times, and it is important to take care of this task. Changes could possibly be made in the future, if necessary.

i. Board Discussion - Board member roles and review of current member terms and plans

DISCUSSION: The Board reviewed current member terms. Several members' terms are coming to an end in the next several months. Deb asked members to let her or Meg know their plans regarding renewing their terms. Terry Dickinson will not be seeking to renew her term when it ends.

ii. Election of Chairperson of the Olive Grove Charter Schools, Inc. Board of Directors

INTRODUCTORY DISCUSSION: Meg Rydman explained what the OGCS, Inc. Bylaws indicate for the election of a chairperson for the Board and officers for the corporation.

MOTION: Terry Dickinson moved to elect Deb Willems Chairperson of the OGCS, Inc. Board of Directors.

SECONDED: Deb Willems

DISCUSSION: None

APPROVED by a vote of 3-0

Deb Willems (Y) Terry Dickinson (Y) Hank Gallina (Y)

iii. Election of Officers of the Olive Grove Charter Schools, Inc. Corporation

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve the following slate of officers of the corporation:

- President - Meg Rydman (per bylaws, this is the Superintendent)
- Vice President - Jackie Heidt
- Secretary - Ivette Martinez
- Treasurer- Hank Gallina

SECONDED: Terry Dickinson

DISCUSSION: The Board agreed they could revisit the officers at a future date, if needed or desired.

APPROVED by a vote of 3-0

Deb Willems (Y) Terry Dickinson (Y) Hank Gallina (Y)

D. Approval of Olive Grove Charter Schools, Inc. Resolution Delegating Authority to Personnel to Act on Board's Behalf

MOTION: Deb Willems moved to approve Olive Grove Charter Schools, Inc. Resolution Delegating Authority to Personnel to Act on Board's Behalf.

SECONDED: Terry Dickinson

DISCUSSION: Meg Rydman explained approval designates the Charter Personnel Authorized to Act as District Agents, including the Board Chair and the Superintendent. It also designates Charter Personnel Authorized for Release of Commercial and Payroll Warrants from the Santa Barbara County Education Office, including the Board Chair, the Superintendent, and the Director of Fiscal Services & Facilities. Deb's name will be filled in as Board Chair.

A corresponding "Certification of Signatures and Delegation of Authority" form will be sent to the Board members for electronic signature, so it can be submitted to the Santa Barbara County Education Office's (SBCEO) School Business Advisory Services office to meet their annual requirement to update OGCS, Inc.'s authorized signatures.

APPROVED by a vote of 3-0

Deb Willems (Y) Terry Dickinson (Y) Hank Gallina (Y)

8. DISCUSSION/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

A. Board Business

i. Brown Act

Meg Rydman explained that Senate Bill 707 (2025) now requires public agencies to distribute the Brown Act to their governing board members. Disseminating this booklet fulfills this requirement.

Meg reminded the Board about the digital Board binder, where documents such as the Brown Act booklet, past Brown Act training slides, key policies, past meeting agendas and packets, etc. are housed.

B. New Business/Future Agenda Items

Special meeting tentatively scheduled for 3:30pm on Wednesday, January 28.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

- Special meeting: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 3:30pm
- Thursday, February 12, 2026 4:00pm

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:26pm.

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

Terry Dickinson
