



**Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, June 5, 2025**

MINUTES

Participants:

Glen Howard, Chair
Scott Bess
Dawn Bowen
Kim R. Ford
Michelle Gilliard

Evelyn Lee
Lisa Mallory
Catherine Meloy
Sharrena Munford
April Young

The following staff members were also present: Chelsea Kirk, Colleen Paletta, Elizabeth Rienzo, Jeffrey Rostand, Bennice Thayer, and Josh Wallish. Ms. Rienzo recorded the minutes of the meeting.

Mr. Howard called the meeting to order at 9:34 am.

Mission Moment

Dr. Kirk shared three Mission Moments.

1. A video showcasing GEC.
2. Two recent graduates who completed the Capital One Catapult Café Cohort in April 2025.
3. Current students sharing how GEC has positively impacted their lives.

Ms. Mallory joined the Meeting at 9:40 am.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Howard asked for any proposed corrections or other revisions to the March 12, 2025, Board meeting minutes. There being none and, upon motion duly made and seconded, the **Board unanimously approved the minutes by roll call vote.**

Ms. Young joined the meeting at 9:43am.

2025-2030 Strategic Plan

Ms. Meloy introduced Ms. Jennifer Meder of Hyve, who presented the 2025-2030 strategic plan, outlining the process, stakeholder input themes, and strategic priorities. She explained that the

plan focuses on fortifying organizational structure, unleashing innovation, equipping students for success, and leveling up staff capacity and support.

Extensive discussion followed, with Ms. Meder and Ms. Paletta responding to numerous questions.

Ms. Lee joined the meeting at 10:33am.

Management Agreement

Mr. Wallish and Mr. Rostand presented the proposed updated Management Agreement with Goodwill of Greater Washington (“GGW”) and explained that the Agreement’s management fee is based on GGW’s actual expenses to provide services to GEC. Mr. Wallish reminded the Board that the Management Agreement is a “conflicting interest contract” under Public Charter School Board policy because three members of the GEC board are also on GGW’s board. After discussion, the Disinterested Board Members (Mr. Bess, Dr. Gilliard, Ms. Bowen, Ms. Munford, and Ms. Young) **unanimously approved the following resolution by roll call vote:**

- The Management Agreement is found to be fair to the Goodwill Excel Center because:
 - the staffing structure is reasonable,
 - the total fee is reasonable in light of the scope of services, and
 - the total fee is significantly less than the Goodwill Excel Center would pay if it had to hire staff to provide the same quality of management as is provided by GGW under the Management Agreement; and
- The Management Agreement is approved.

FY2026 Budget

Mr. Rostand and Ms. Thayer presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026.

Discussion followed, with Mr. Rostand and Ms. Thayer responding to questions. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the **Board unanimously approved the FY2026 budget by roll call vote.**

Accreditation Update

Dr. Kirk announced that GEC has officially received Middle States accreditation (valid through 2032), making it the first Goodwill Excel Center in the country to achieve this status.

Update on GGW Efforts in Prince George’s County

For the Board’s information only, Ms. Paletta provided an update on GGW’s efforts to establish an Excel Center in Prince George’s County, including securing funding from the Maryland governor’s budget, awaiting curriculum feedback, exploring potential facilities, and strategic stakeholder meetings.

SY25-26 Instructional Day Calendar – Request for Waiver

Ms. Paletta reported on an ongoing issue with OSSE regarding the instructional day requirements for students under age 18. She said that GEC has submitted a formal waiver request and is awaiting response.

Summer Graduation

Dr. Kirk announced that the summer graduation is scheduled to take place on July 11, 2025, at 11 am at Lisner Auditorium.

Governance

After thanking Mss. Bowen and Munford for their valuable Board service, Mr. Howard announced the nomination of two current GEC students for election as new student Board members:

- Davonne Constantin
- Malick Curry

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the **Board unanimously elected the two students to the Board by roll call vote.**

Other Business

Ms. Meloy announced that Jeffrey Rostand, Chief Financial Officer, would be leaving GEC to become the CFO of the Catholic Archdiocese of DC. Board members expressed their gratitude to Mr. Rostand for his contributions to GEC and wished him well in his new role.

Public Comment

No one from the public attended the meeting.

Mr. Howard adjourned the meeting at 11:32 am.

Scott Bess

Scott Bess
Secretary