Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday, September 17, 2026

MINUTES

Participants:

Glen Howard, Chair
Michelle Gilliard
Melanie Jalloh
Lisa Mallory
Catherine Meloy
Alisha Swann

The following staff members were also present: Chelsea Kirk, Colleen Paletta, Elizabeth Rienzo, Kristen Strain, Bennice Thayer, and Molly Vanderloo. Ms. Rienzo recorded the minutes of the meeting.

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

Mr. Howard welcomed and introduced two new student Board members, Melanie Jalloh and Alisha Swann.

Mission Moment

Dr. Kirk highlighted key milestones, including the July graduating class which included 95 graduates.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Howard asked for any proposed corrections or other revisions to the June 10, 2026 Board meeting minutes. There being none and, upon motion duly made and seconded, the **Board unanimously approved the minutes by roll call vote.**

Facility and Lease Planning:

The Board discussed the pending five-year lease extension for the current 1776 G Street NW location and ongoing efforts to identify a future location. Ms. Meloy reported that the proposed lease extension includes favorable early-exit terms with no penalty, allowing the organization to relocate quickly if/when a suitable site is secured

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Financial Update

Ms. Vanderloo presented the June 2026 year-end financials, explaining that higher-than-expected per-pupil funding, operating savings from staffing costs, and cash reserves exceeding one year of operating expenses resulted in a strong financial position.

Discussion followed, with Ms. Vanderloo responding to questions.

Strategic Update

Ms. Paletta outlined the "Level Up" initiatives designed to strengthen people-management capabilities and introduce new performance evaluation rubrics across the organization. She described that the initiatives include manager training, coaching support, and organization-wide alignment on core competencies and performance expectations.

Year-to-Date Goals

Dr. Kirk reported that all charter performance goals were met or exceeded year-to-date. Notable outcomes included 68% credit attainment, surpassing a long-standing target; successful reading and math progress metrics; and 100% of graduates earning either college credit or an industry-recognized credential.

Dr. Kirk then reported current enrollment of 360 students against a target of 440 and described efforts to close the gap before the October 5 roster freeze. She described that recruitment strategies currently include expanded orientations, alumni outreach, student referral incentives, community engagement, targeted marketing campaigns, and re-engagement of previously withdrawn students.

OSSE Mandatory Board Training

Ms. Meloy said that new citywide trustee training requirements will take effect during the current school year, including that Board members will be expected to complete three asynchronous training modules on financial oversight, academic accountability, and board effectiveness before the January compliance deadline.

Update on GGW Efforts in Prince George's County

For the Board's information only, Ms. Meloy provided an update on a new Goodwill of Greater Washington Excel Center in Prince Georges County, Maryland location, including execution of a lease, the hiring of founding director Dr. Jeremy Easley, and approximately $1.5 million in public funding commitments. She also reported that the next phase will focus on advancing the new Excel Center as part of GGW's broader transformational growth strategy.

Public Comment

No one from the public attended the meeting.

Mr. Howard adjourned the meeting at 10:42am.

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Scott Bess
Secretary