



**Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 12, 2025**

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Glen Howard, Chair
Dawn Bowen
Kim R. Ford
Michelle Gilliard
Evelyn Lee
Lisa Mallory
Catherine Meloy
Sharenna Mumford
April Young

Board Members Absent:

Scott Bess

The following staff members were also in attendance: 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 9:35 a.m. One member of the public was present via Teams.

Mission Moments

The first Mission Moment highlighted alumna Ms. Shareia Thomas, a 2021 GEC graduate and current Trinity University student pursuing her goals in early childhood education. The second was a video celebrating 32 January 2025 graduates and what they “Excel in.”

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Howard requested any proposed corrections or revisions to the December 17, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the **Board unanimously approved the minutes by roll call vote.**

Financial Report

Mr. Rostand presented the year-to-date 2025 financials, focusing on financial highlights, the Statement of Activities, and the Statement of Financial Position. Discussion followed, with Mr. Rostand responding to questions.

Mr. Rostand then presented risk mitigation measures for potential DC budget changes. Extensive discussion followed, with Mr. Rostand and Ms. Meloy responding to questions.

Year-to-date Goals Update

Ms. Paletta and Dr. Kirk provided YTD goals progress through Term 3, focusing on:

- Re-enrollment
- Cumulative Audited Enrollment
- Achievement – Credit Attainment
- College Credit/Credential
- College/Employment six months post-graduation
- In-seat Attendance Rate
- Graduation
- Math Progress
- Reading Progress

Charter Goals Amendment Application

Ms. Paletta and Dr. Kirk reported that, as discussed in previous meetings, in July 2024, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt retired the Scholastic Reading Inventory (SRI) assessment that GEC had previously used to measure reading progress for newly enrolled GEC students. With PCSB's approval, GEC spent many months beta-testing other potential options to determine a suitable replacement.

Following those efforts, GEC staff completed a proposed charter goals amendment application to update the reading charter goal with a new reading assessment, Exact Path by Edmentum.

Ms. Paletta and Dr. Kirk described the current goal under the SRI (*i.e.*, that, at the end of two eight-week terms, at least 65% of students who initially test below the 1000 Lexile level on the SRI would either grow at least 75 Lexiles or reach the high school-ready Lexile level of 1000). They then described the proposed goal: that, at the end of two eight-week terms, at least 65% of students who initially tested below the 900 Lexile level would either grow at least 75 Lexiles or reach the high school-ready Lexile level of 900, both as indicated by the Edmentum Exact Path Assessment.

Mr. Howard proposed that the Board approve submission of the charter amendment application to PCSB to change GEC's reading progress goal (as presented in greater detail in the previously distributed board meeting materials). **Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board unanimously approved the Charter Goals Amendment by roll call vote.**

PCSB Mid-Year Board Update

Ms. Paletta provided the following mid-year Board update:

- **Community Complaints-** PCSB received zero for GEC through 1/31/25
- **Compliance Review Report and Procurement Compliance-** Compliant in all areas
- **Financial Compliance and Procurement-** Compliant in all areas
- **Charter Conditions-** All met
- **Charter Goal Attainment-** SY 22-23 and SY 23-24 validation process still in progress

PCSB Quality School Review

Ms. Paletta explained that before its five-year charter review, PCSB will evaluate GEC's school environment and instructional quality. The evaluation will include:

- Unannounced campus observations from PCSB staff / contracted consultants (Weeks of May 15 - 23); QSR team observes 75% of core content classrooms and mission-critical classes.
- Review of sample ELA and Math assignments.
- Debrief with the campus leadership team.
- A formal QSR report summarizing PCSB's findings, which will be included in GEC's 10-year Charter Review.

OSSE School Improvement Plan Update

Ms. Paletta provided an update on the OSSE School Improvement Plan.

Strategic Planning Progress Update

Ms. Paletta reminded the Board that GEC's accreditation review aims to create a strategic plan, and the process is proceeding as planned.

Goodwill of Greater Washington's Prince George's County Update

Ms. Meloy provided an informational update on GW's outreach to Prince George's County officials regarding an Excel Center. Discussion followed with Ms. Meloy responding to questions.

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05am.

Scott Bess
Secretary