

# Great Oaks Charter School — Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** September 15, 2025

**Location:** Zoom

**Called to Order:** 00:05:14pm

**Adjourned:** ~00:07:06pm

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## **Attendees:**

**Chair:** Britney

**Board Members Present:** Ed, Natasha, Stacey, Amy, Antionette

**Absent:** Kelly (travel)

## **Staff/Guests:**

Ms. Price — School Leader

**Dr. Parana** — Assistant Principal

Michelle Lambert — Finance

**Vanessa Fisher** — Nativity Prep, prospective board member

Ms. Sneed/Snead — Math Teacher, Teacher Representative

## **1. Agenda & Prior Minutes**

The agenda was approved (motion and second noted).

Approval of previous board minutes (three sets) was **tabled**.

Chair Britney will post all prior minutes on the website before the next meeting.

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## **2. Board Candidate: Vanessa Fisher**

Introduced as a candidate interested in joining the Great Oaks Board.

Background: Director of Graduate Support at Nativity; long-term student support through college/career; strong commitment to Wilmington youth.

Discussed expected time commitments: attendance at monthly board meetings and participation in committees as the board expands.

Additional conversation scheduled for Executive Session; public vote will occur later.

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### 3. Safety Policy

Updated Safety Policy reviewed.

**Approved unanimously** by voice vote.

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### 4. Financial Report (Through August 31)

**Presenter:** Michelle (Finance)

First two months of the fiscal year (~17% elapsed).

**Revenue:**

\$1.6M received out of a \$3.9M preliminary budget.

State funds loaded as expected.

Local funds (“charges to school district”) expected in October.

Federal grants being expended down as planned.

**Expenses:**

\$458k spent YTD.

Facilities/Maintenance at ~24–25% (due to 3 months of rent timing).

Instructional Support at ~10% (timing).

Transportation at ~2% (will increase as school year progresses).

**Financial Position:**

Net surplus of ~\$1.1M.

Ending fund balance of ~\$2.3M.

Financially sound, but **September 30 unit count** remains a key driver.

**Transportation:**

Costs expected to decrease this year due to a switch to a lower-priced bus company.

After-school transportation remains adequate for basketball (via Hicks Anderson Center partnership).

Additional needs anticipated for cheerleading.

**Audit:**

Nearly complete; awaiting state pension allocation data.

No findings anticipated.

**Motion:** July & August financial reports **approved**.

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## 5. School Updates — Ms. Price & Dr. Parana

### Instruction & Achievement

#### Goals for the year (from SIP):

10% proficiency growth  
95% MAP testing participation (MAP began today)  
82% average daily attendance (ADA)

#### Attendance context:

Prior baseline before new leadership: 34%  
Last year: 77%  
Current year start: ~76%

#### Walkthrough data:

8/9 classrooms with objectives posted  
8/9 using prescribed curriculum  
8/9 demonstrating high-quality instructional materials  
Very high engagement; only 3 students observed using cell phones

PLC/POC focus: accommodations, student supports, MAP preparation.

### Climate & Culture

Four out-of-school suspensions this year to date.

Increased interventions with CEB, including an on-floor student advocate supporting at-risk and re-entering students.

Spirit Week completed; HBCU Week planned.

### Operations

Enrollment: **141/149** students

Current unit count: **14.56**

Home visits underway: 10 targeted students; 4 students returned through CEB support.

Infinite Campus migration ongoing, especially SPED files; working with DOE to resolve issues before Sept 30.

Guidance Counselor start date: **September 18**

Still actively hiring a Special Education teacher.

### **Compliance**

Heavy workload completing 60-day IEP meetings for transfer students (23+ meetings).

Some flexibility now provided via data service overrides.

SPED caseload: ~59 students

Increase in McKinney-Vento identifications (3 new cases in the last week).

A due process complaint involving a former student was received (details discussed in Executive Session).

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### **6. Executive Session**

Executive Session entered to discuss sensitive enrollment and student matters.

No public actions taken during session.

### **7. Meeting Adjourned at 7:06pm**