

Great Oaks Charter School — Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Feb 9, 2026

Location: Zoom

Called to Order: 00:05:16pm

Adjourned: ~00:06:24pm

Attendees

(Based on transcript; may not be exhaustive)

- Chairperson (unnamed)
 - Ed
 - Kelly
 - Britney
 - Natasha
 - Vanessa
 - Michelle Lambert
 - Ms. Price (School Leader)
 - Dr. Pirhana (Special Education)
 - Cicely Baptiste Sneed (Teacher Representative)
 - Additional board members and staff (unnamed)
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1. Call to Order & Public Comment

- Meeting called to order.
 - No public comments were received or presented.
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2. Approval of Agenda & Previous Minutes

- **Agenda:**
 - Revised agenda included an added discussion on **AI Opportunity**.
 - Motion: Made
 - Seconded: Yes
 - Vote: **Approved unanimously**
 - **Previous Meeting Minutes:**
 - Motion: Made
 - Seconded: Yes
 - Vote: **Approved unanimously**
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3. Financial Report

Presented by: Michelle Lambert

Key Highlights (as of December 31):

- **Revenue:**
 - At ~90% of expected income.
 - Federal funding appears low (14%) due to timing; expected to catch up.
 - Earnings on investments trending below budget (likely permanent variance).
- **Expenses:**
 - Running at **43%** of total budget (~\$1.7M of \$4.1M).
 - Minor variance noted (\$48 printing cost).
 - Transportation and other categories expected to normalize over time.
- **Financial Position:**
 - **Surplus:** \$2.4M
 - **Ending Fund Balance:** ~\$3.6M

Motion:

- Motion to approve financial/web report: **Natasha**
 - Seconded by: **Vanessa**
 - **Approved unanimously**
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4. Annual School Report

- Board reviewed report in advance (previously presented).
- No questions raised.

Motion:

- Motion to approve: Made
 - Seconded: Yes
 - **Approved unanimously**
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5. AI Opportunity Discussion

Led by: Ed

Overview:

- Delaware has entered an agreement with **OpenAI** to provide AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT) in a **secure, “walled garden” environment** for educators.
- Participation allows:
 - Protected use of AI tools without risking student data privacy.
 - Integration via state-managed systems (DTI).
 - Early access before broader rollout.

Key Points:

- Initial rollout is **for teachers only**, not students.
- No cost through **2027**.

- Delaware aims to be a leader in AI integration in education.
- Teachers are already using AI tools informally; this provides safeguards.
- Potential future:
 - Expansion to students
 - Development of AI policies
 - Increased instructional use

Decision:

- Great Oaks opted to **join the initiative**, with flexibility on rollout timing and scope.
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6. School Leadership Updates

Presented by: Ms. Price

Staffing:

- **Cicely Sneed:** Recognized for taking on additional math instruction (Algebra I, II, Precalculus).
- **Ms. Harrell:** Supporting SPED students during staffing shortage.

Instruction:

- Continued focus on **10% student growth goal**.
- 100% curriculum implementation.
- 90% student engagement observed.
- Instructional coach supporting data-driven teaching and POCs.

Student Achievement:

- **41 students on Honor Roll** (Marking Period 2).

Enrollment:

- **28 new applications** during school choice (highest to date).

Attendance:

- Currently **75–79%**, goal is 82%.
- Ongoing outreach: calls, texts, and home visits.

Operations:

- Continued transportation challenges.
- Exploring new vendor (**Oasis**) for next school year.

Student Activities:

- College preparation ongoing for seniors.
 - Senior Night planned for athletics participants.
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7. Special Education Update

Presented by: Dr. Pirhana

- Still **down one SPED teacher** (hire pending).
 - **DVR representative resigned**; replacement not yet identified.
 - **McKinney-Vento:**
 - 12 students identified (~10–11% of student population)
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8. Executive Session

- Motion to enter Executive Session: **Kelly**
 - Seconded by: **Natasha**
 - **Approved unanimously**
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9. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned after returning from Executive Session.
- Board members exchanged Valentine's Day well wishes.
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