



SchedgenGirls Athletic Leadership School Denver

January 22, 2026 Board of Directors/Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 22, 2026

6:19 – 8:08 p.m. MDT

GALS Library

I. Call to Order

Chair Saviers called the meeting to order at 6:19 pm.

II. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Shannon Saviers, Pam Horiszny, Vivian Morales, Margaret-Ann Burness, Shellie Chambers, Angie McPhaul, Allison Romagnoli, Hillary Bisknar, Michael McManus

Board Members Absent: Kerry Lander, Jennifer Evans, Rebecca Leatherman

Staff Present: Timeri Tolnay (Executive Director) Julie Thornton, 7th Grade Math Teacher

Others Present: Jessica Churchill, Orthopedic Surgeon, Denver Health
Joanna Jasmin, Financial Consultant

III. Public Comment

The board opened the floor for public comment providing three minutes per comment. No public comment was presented.

IV. Approval of December Board Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve: Angie McPhaul
- Motion to second: Committee Chair Romagnoli
- Vote: Unanimous

Motion adopted.

V. Building Thinking Classrooms Demonstration

Executive Director Tolnay shared progress on Content Area PD. Each department has focused on developing and identifying learning objectives. Teachers are now taking what they have learned and applying it in their classrooms. They are collecting data and determining how they will measure success.

The math department is using Building Thinking Classrooms. Julie Thornton explained how this concept differs from a traditional teacher led classroom. Students work together and initiate their learning. Julie led the board through a sample lesson using the Building Thinking Classroom Model.

VI. Committee Reports

A. Governance Committee

Committee Chair Romagnoli shared that Rebecca Leatherman is taking a leave of absence from the board.

Vivian Morales will assume the role of interim vice chair.

Shellie Chambers will assume the role of interim secretary.

- Motion to approve: Committee Chair Romagnoli
- Motion to second: Past Chair Burgess
- Vote: Unanimous

Motion adopted.

B. Finance and Audit Committee

Executive Director Tolnay provided an update on the FY2026 budget since December. There has been a reduction in revenue, made up of a change in Sped Reserve and a lower facility grant number.

She made a request of \$262,320 for general operations.

She made a request of \$77,974 to be released from DPS facility MLO & Capital Construction reserves for special construction projects. Those projects include:

Vape detectors - complete & in use - \$18,500

Library - construction complete - \$36,507

EV Charging Stations - paid & in progress - \$5,130

Locker Room - paid & in planning - \$30,000



Locker room work should be done over spring break.

The request also includes funds for an electric sign fronting 8th avenue. GALS is waiting for a quote from DPS for electrical work for the sign.

Treasurer Horiszny reminded the board of the reduced fundraising goal which also increased the deficit.

Executive Director Tolnay shared enrollment scenarios with declining enrollment and flat enrollment. She shared the impacts of each on the budget for upcoming fiscal years.

Executive Director Tolnay shared fundraising progress. There is a new grant, a new grant opportunity, and new commitments since December.

Executive Director Tolnay shared additional enrollment information, including detailed GALS Choice numbers. Data shows that fewer 6th grade students selected GALS as their top choice compared to last year. There was discussion as to why. Questions asked: Is there declining enrollment at our top feeder schools? How does GALS engage/follow up with families who did not put GALS as their top choice? Enrollment is declining in DPS. How will this impact GALS?

Treasurer Horiszny explained the beneficial accounting of the changes to TABOR reserve due to the high school closure and to the unassigned fund balance as a result of the deficit. TABOR change with loss of high school will not be an option next year.

There was a Question about the ability to maintain the current level of staffing with flat growth. Executive Director Tolnay explained that staff does more than just teach their content area. They teach movement and also teach intervention. Staffing reductions could challenge the ability to deliver the other pieces of the GALS model.

The resolution to approve the updated budget was shared on the screen.



Be it resolved by the Board of Education of GIRLS ATHLETIC LEADERSHIP SCHOOLS located in Denver Public Schools in Denver County that \$4,570,540 be appropriated to the charter school general fund as specified in the REVISED BUDGET for the ensuing fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Be it further resolved, in accordance with C.R.S. 22-44-105, the Board of Education authorizes the use of a portion of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Beginning Fund Balance from the General Fund in the amount(s) of \$ 343,294 for the purposes of supporting operations as GALS transitions to a Middle-School-only model.

Be it further resolved, that the use of this portion of the beginning fund balance for the purposes set forth above will not lead to an ongoing deficit, provided the use of funds from fund balance is one time only.

- Motion to approve: Treasurer Horiszny
- Motion to second: Vice Chair Morales
- Vote: Unanimous

Motion adopted.

VII. Executive Director Report/School Updates

Executive Director Tolnay updated the board on various items:

- Shared staff satisfaction survey results. The average is 3.23 out of 4. The satisfaction score was a 3 even in December with the staffing changes.
- Academic progress with iReady on track to meet goals in academic areas and many have already met those goals.
- Enrollment changes: 10 students have left GALS and 10 students have enrolled.
- GALS is being featured in some upcoming television promotions.
- GALS students are spearheading Eco Schools Certification.
- GALS students attending new Orthopedic Surgery elective project at Denver Health.
- Dr. Churchill shared details about the program and how it came to be. She is a potential new board member.



- Three GALS students participated in DenBot neighborhood robotics program and made it to the state championships.
- Insights Assessment shows strong growth based on agreed upon SEL skills
- Denver Summit selling us discounted soccer tickets. We will select a home game in September and attend as a board
- Change the evening meeting on April 16 to an all day strategy meeting at GALS on April 17.

VII. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn: Secretary Chambers
- Vote: Unanimous

Motion adopted.

Chair Saviers adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Board Meetings	<p>AUG: 8/7/25, SEP: 9/11/25, OCT: 10/7/25 - 8:30-10:30am, NOV: 11/13/25, DEC: 12/9/25, JAN: 1/22/26, FEB: 2/10/26, MAR: 3/12/26, APR: 4/17/26 - 8:30a-4p, MAY: 5/14/26, JUN: 6/11/26</p> <p>Official schedule can be found here.</p>
Board Standards	<p>1-Focus Relentlessly on Student Achievement, 2-Ensure Exceptional School Leadership, 3-Commit to Exemplary Governance, 4-Act Strategically, 5-Raise and Use Resources Wisely, 6-Maintain Legal and Regulatory Compliance, 7-Advocate for High Quality Schools Center in: People, Culture, Equity</p>
Board Priorities FY25-26	
Board Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shannon Saviors (Board Chair), Rebecca Leatherman (Vice Chair), Pam Horiszny (Treasurer), Vivian Morales (Secretary), Margaret-Ann Burness (Preceding Board Chair), Kerry Lander, Allison Romagnoli, Hillary Bisknar • Emeritus - Jennifer Evans • Shellie Chambers - MS Parent Rep • Michael McManus - MS Parent Rep • For more details: visit: https://galsdenver.org/about/board-of-directors/