Girls Athletic Leadership School Denver

September 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 10, 2026
6:00 – 8:00 p.m. MDT
Virtual via Google Meets

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Morales called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Board Members Present:	Vivian Morales, Shellie Chambers, Kerry Lander, Margaret-Ann Burness, Angie McPhaul, Allison Romagnoli, Hillary Bisknar, Mary Clark, Michael McManus
Board Members Absent:	Shannon Saviers, Jessica Churchiill
Staff Present:	Timeri Tolnay (Executive Director)
Others Present:	Joanna Jasmin, Financial Consultant Paige Neuharth, DPS Representative

III. Public Comment

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

IV. Approval of August Board Meeting Minutes

- Motion to approve: Angie McPhaul
- Motion to second: Michael McManus
- Vote: Unanimous

Motion adopted.

V. Executive Director Report

Discussion: Executive Director Tolnay shared the updated version of the Director's Annual Goals.

VI. Committee Reports

Discussion: Allison Romagnoli shared committee descriptions, essentially an elevator pitch, and asked for updates and revisions from each committee by the end of 2026.

A. Finance and Audit

Discussion: Kerry Lander and Director Tolnay shared a financial update.

- Budget for this year: 227 students.
- Current enrollment: 226 students.
- Current Working Budget includes a contingency of +$41,378
- Working with the finance committee to determine an appropriate raise we might provide teachers this year, given 10/1 enrollment.
- DPS is facing a four year deficit of $28 million.
- Per the Colorado League of Charter School, GALS can expect a 1% increase in PPR every year until 2031. Sustainability committee will work to address how to work with that increase.
- Goal is to raise $330,000 to meet this year's fundraising goal and stay aligned to budget.

B. SAC/PTO

Discussion: Director Tolnay shared that 17 people attended the first PTO/SAC meeting on August 25. GALS strong CMAS data was shared.

C. Governance

Discussion: Allison Romagnoli shared that all Director Agreements and Conflict of Interest Forms have been completed. She shared a Sunshine Law Refresher. Minutes and Agendas should be sent to Carrie Horn to be added to the GALS website.

Four prospective board members, all parents, have been interviewed.

- Gina Goncheva - met with Timeri and Michael - background in marketing
- Kristen Ingram - met with Hillary and Allison - background in tech
- Michelle Montagno - met with Timeri, Hillary and Shellie - background in mental health
- Shannon Carson - met with Shannon, Timeri and Allison - attorney

Based on the backgrounds and interview feedback, the Governance Committee has made the following recommendations.

- Michelle for Parent Rep
- Shannon for 3 Year Rep
- Gina and Kristen for Committee Representation for 26/27.
- Action: Motion to approve slate of parent representatives
    - Motion to approve: Shellie Chambers
    - Motion to second: Margaret-Ann Burness
    - Vote: Unanimous

Motion adopted.

Allison Romagnoli shared the pairings for the Board Partner program. Partners will meet monthly and complete an activity shared by the Governance committee. Goal is to connect for 20-30 minutes monthly with your partner to get better acquainted, gain better understanding of board business, and contribute more confidently.

D. Fundraising

Discussion: Hillary Bisknar shared an update on the fundraising committee's first meeting on August 26.

- 10 people attended.
- Director Tolany shared GALS fundraising needs: $330,000 + Capital Campaign Launch for new Vans, + Education Freedom Tax Credit opportunity.
- Next steps include:
    - Updating GALS website with GIVE TO GALS | CELEBRATE GALS

opportunities for all stakeholders to invite prospective GALS donors.
    - Quarterly Donor Newsletter
    - Making a one-page ask / leave behind for potential donors.
- Reminder of GALS Board expectations: Give or Get $1500 / year.
- Please be thinking about who & how you can introduce your network to GALS. Invite them to upcoming events.
    - October 2, 2026 Final Mile Fall ExtravaGALSa
    - December 8, 2026 - Movement & Breakfast on Colorado Gives Day
    - February 3, 2027 - National Girls & Women in Sports Day
    - March 10, 2027 - Annual Luncheon
    - March 24, 2027 - Radical Runway
    - May 7, 2027 GALympics Opening Ceremonies & Donor Thank you
    - May 15, 2027 Annual Golf Tournament.

Director Tolnay shared progress toward this year's fundraising goal. She also i introduced a potential new capital campaign to purchase new vans and to fund an AM/PM Transportation initiative.

E. Sustainability
Discussion: Angie McPhaul asked to confirm the assumption that we should strive to limit changes to the educational program due to sustainability concerns. The board confirmed that assumption. The sustainability committee will work to ensure that GALS is operationally sustainable to deliver our model at approx 226 kids in perpetuity. This requires we consider a number of financial scenarios and work to align budget to opportunities and values. First meeting is 9/14.

F. Enrollment
Discussion: Director Tolany shared the goals of the Enrollment Task Force, including supporting the Enrollment specialist in increasing GALS presence at elementary schools. GALS bought family addresses in our attendance zip codes and mailed advertising postcards with a QR code that can help track their effectiveness.

G. Leadership for Girls
Discussion: Director Tolnay shared an update. Goal of the committee is to ensure that the Leadership in Girls Athletic Leadership School mission is explicitly addressed. Committee will kick on in Q2.

VII. School Updates

Discussion: Director Tolnay shared an article in DenverBiz highlighting our Denver Health Partnership and the Mission Wolf elective.

VIII. Adjourn

- Motion to adjourn: Kerry Lander
- Second to adjourn: Vivian Morales
- Vote: Unanimous

Motion adopted.
Vice Chair Morales adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Board Meetings	**AUG**: 8/13/26, **SEP**: 9/10/26, **OCT**: 10/1/26 - 8:30-10:30am, **NOV**: 11/12/26, **DEC**: 12/10/26, **JAN**: 1/21/27, **FEB**: 2/16/27, **MAR**: 3/25/27, **APR**: 4/16/27 - 8:30a–4p, **MAY**: 5/13/27, **JUN**: 6/10/27 Official schedule can be found here.
Board Standards	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
Board Priorities FY25-26	
Board Members	• Shannon Saviors (Board Chair), Vivian Morales (Vice Chair), Kerry Lander (Treasurer), Shellie Chambers (Secretary), Margaret-Ann Burness (Preceding Board Chair), Allison Romagnoli, Hillary Bisknar, Angie McPhaul, Jessica Churchill, Mary Clark • Emeritus - Jennifer Evans • Michael McManus - MS Parent Rep • For more details: visit: https://galsdenver.org/about/board-of-directors/