

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD**

October 9, 2024

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

GVRA Day at the Georgia National Fairgrounds
401 Larry Walker Parkway, Perry, Georgia 31069

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tom Wilson, Chair
Faye Perdue, Vice Chair
Sandy Adams, Secretary
Jane McCall

Chris Wells, GVRA Executive Director
& Ex Officio Member
Suzanne Dooley (virtually)
Louise Hill (virtually)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Craig Camuso
James Defoor

Vincent Martin
Johnathan Taylor

Invocation

Mr. Tom McCall, President and CEO of the Board of the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation offered the invocation for the October Board meeting.

Opening and Welcome

GVRS Board Chair Tom Wilson welcomed everyone in attendance, and the meeting was called to order at 10:41 a.m.

Approval of Agenda and Consent Agenda

Chairman Wilson performed a roll call and recommended the agenda be as amended as follows:

- Move the FY2024 and FY2025 Budget Reports to Executive Director Wells's section as an Informational Item

Chairman Wilson recommended the approval of the amended agenda.

On motion of Secretary Adams, seconded by Vice Chair Perdue, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Agenda as amended.

Chairman Wilson recommended the approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the following:

- Approve Board Meeting Minutes from Previous Session

On motion of Vice Chair Perdue, seconded by Mrs. McCall, and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Consent Agenda as presented.

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD**

October 9, 2024

Page 2 of 3

GVRA Staff Updates/Reports:

Executive Director Report – Executive Director Chris Wells

Budget Reports

Executive Director Wells reviewed the FY2025 Budget and Bond Request with the Board and shared examples of projects for the Bond Request. ED Wells further shared performance measures for each area within the Agency.

Agency Spotlights

- Executive Director Wells highlighted those chosen as Employees of the Month for July 2024 and August 2024:
 - John Malone, Asset Management Specialist, July 2024 Employee of the Month
 - Phillip Parker, IPSE Counselor at the Valdosta Office, August 2024 Employee of the Month

The Eleanor Roosevelt School

Mr. Debron Walker, Co-Owner of the Eleanor Roosevelt School shared the mission and latest happenings at the School, including:

- A partnership with Bodyswaps to create wraps for college mascot statues and other highly visible items
- The creation of a Victory Garden and their Agriculture Initiative
- A Partnership with Duke University to develop soft skills

Old Business/New Business

Chairman Wilson proposed the Board meeting dates for 2025:

- January 8, 2025 – Georgia Student Finance Commission, Tucker, Georgia
- March 12, 2025 – TBD
- May 14, 2025 – Athens Technical College, Athens, Georgia
- August 13, 2025 – Roosevelt Warm Springs, Warm Springs, Georgia
- October 8, 2025 – Georgia National Fair, Perry, Georgia

On motion of Secretary Adams, seconded by Vice Chair Perdue, the board unanimously voted to approve the proposed 2025 GVRS Board Meeting dates.

Public Comment & Adjournment

Chairman Wilson opened the floor for public comment. Juliet Hardeman, State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) Chairman, offered the SRC's full support to the GVRS Board and the GVRA mission and support to help resolve issues as quickly as possible.

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
GEORGIA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES BOARD**

October 9, 2024

Page 3 of 3

SRC Chairman Hardeman encouraged the Agency to consider the five (5) “P’s”

- Parents – Coach parents/caregivers and assist them in learning how to take the lead as an advocate for their students.
- Partners – Build up partners’ understanding of what GVRA does and leverage the Chambers to allow them to tap into our workforce.
- Promotion – Promote our offerings such as Benefits Counseling, CWAT, Social Security Work Incentives, etc.
- Perception – Build up the positive perception of the agency through success stories.
- Participation – Create a deeper outreach to pull in as many GLRS and RESA agencies as possible to spread the message to schools.

ED Wells responded with an appreciation of the SRC and Chairman Hardeman’s leadership. He shared items in the works with Georgia Public Broadcasting, work incentives, etc. Chairman Wilson echoed these sentiments on behalf of the GVRS Board.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Wilson called for a motion to adjourn.

On motion of Secretary Adams, seconded by Mrs. McCall, the board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 a.m.