APPROVED

Escuela Avancemos! Academy

Minutes

Escuela Avancemos Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday September 19, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Location
Escuela Avancemos Academy
2635 Howard St
Detroit, MI 48216
Room 105

MISSION STATEMENT: Prepare, educate, and inspire every child, every day to be lifelong leaders and learners in our 21st-century world.

Directors Present
A. Bordeianu, C. Stamatin, L. Chittum, M. Barbour, M. Gonzalez

Directors Absent
None

Guests Present
A. Ulloa, Dahime Gordon, Dr. Azra Ali, Fatima Gomez, J. Joubert, L. Coggins, Larry Wilkerson, Maria Estrada, S. Johnson

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

C. Stamatin called a meeting of the board of directors of Escuela Avancemos! Academy to order on Tuesday Sep 19, 2023 at 6:43 PM.

II. Approval of Agenda

A. Approval of Agenda

A. Bordeianu made a motion to approve the September 19, 2023 board meeting agenda.
M. Barbour seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. Barbour	Aye
L. Chittum	Aye
M. Gonzalez	Aye
A. Bordeianu	Aye
C. Stamatin	Aye

III. Consent Agenda Item

A. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

L. Chittum made a motion to approve the minutes from Escuela Avancemos Regular Board Meeting on 08-29-23.
M. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Chittum	Aye
M. Gonzalez	Aye
M. Barbour	Aye
C. Stamatin	Aye
A. Bordeianu	Aye

IV. New Business

A. Spring 2023 Board Policy Updates for Escuela Avancemos! Academy

M. Barbour made a motion to adopt the National Charter Schools (NCSI) Spring 2023 Board Policies.
L. Chittum seconded the motion.
The adopted policies include:

Policy 7540.02	Web Accessibility, Content, Apps, and Services
Policy 7540.03	Student Technology Acceptable Use and Safety
Policy 7540.04	Staff Technology Acceptable Use and Safety
Policy 8315	Information Management

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

L. Chittum	Aye

Roll Call

M. Barbour Aye
C. Stamatin Aye
M. Gonzalez Aye
A. Bordeianu Aye

B. Financial Annual Audit Presented by Wilkerson & Associates P.C.

The audit report was presented by Mr. Wilkerson and included the report to the board, the financial statements, and the A-133 compliance report with no findings. The board reviewed the reports in advance of the meeting and had no questions for Mr. Wilkerson. The board thanked him for his work.

V. Reports

A. 21st Century Community Learning Centers Monthly Report

Dahime Gordon, the 21st CCLC Site Coordinator, presented the 21st Century Community Learning Centers monthly programming and budget report. The 21st CCLC anticipates offering Robotics two days a week for students who participate in the after-school programming. Board Secretary Monica Barbour inquired if soccer would be offered in the fall. Soccer is only offered in the Spring through Detroit Pal athletic programs. Board Treasurer Linda Chittum would like for students to experience attending a soccer game for more exposure to the sport.

B. August Financials

August 2023 financial reports were presented by Dr. Lorilyn Coggins highlighting cash on hand, year-to-date revenues, year-to-date expenditures, and the current fund balance in a summarized format. The financials are in order.

C. Sanga Monthly Management Report

The Sanga Monthly Management Report was presented by Ana Ulloa (CEO and founder). Students are enjoying Music and Language Acquisition classes. The Language Acquisition period allows for differentiation and intervention that is designed for **E**nglish **L**anguage **L**earners and formerly **E**nglish **L**earner students to develop their language proficiency in the target language. Students have received workshops on organizing for learning: time management skills and organization skills are emphasized this month. All students have received a planner and will learn to use it daily to keep track of their priorities. Dr. Arza Ali shared with the board of directors the importance of all instructional staff members receiving Professional Development in **S**heltered **I**nstruction **O**bservation **P**rotocol instruction to build students' academic language skills. SIOP planning documents allow for increased deliberate practices to ensure that all students are learning and achieving their student achievement goals. The Instructional Coach and EL Coach are working together to provide increased support to instructional staff members on using evidence-based strategies. In addition, instructional staff members

have received Amplify Science and Success For All Program training sessions. Friday's half-day **P**rofessional **L**earning **C**ommunity and PD are allowing for increased and sustainable time to build professional learning relationships and staff development. Leader in Me and Restorative Justice training will be provided in October along with an emphasis on SIOP utilization across the curriculum.

NWEA Testing is set to begin the week of September 25th. New teachers are receiving training in proctoring the assessment. NWEA will be administered to students in grades K-8 in math and reading. Students who have less than 12 months in the country will be waived from testing in the Reading component of the test. Students will develop literacy and numeracy skills to improve their proficiency and growth goals using the NWEA and MSTEP indicators of success.

WIDA screeners are currently being administered to all kindergarten students and new students who have identified their Home Language to be another native language other than English. WIDA screeners help identify ELL students and their placement status for EL services. IReady assessments/lessons will be used for progress monitoring and digital practice of online assessments so that students have more opportunities to experience digital learning and testing options. During targeted intervention times, students will practice their learning skills and will receive feedback on learning targets.

Sanga management is working and collaborating with different special education companies that can provide services at the school. There is a shortage of special education staff to provide services to charter schools. Child Study Team and **R**esponsive **T**o **I**ntervention training will be provided for all new and returning teachers. It's Dr. Azra Ali's suggestion to restructure the RTI model that is currently being used. Ms. Ulloa believes that teachers need to earn the right to influence students.

Detroit **C**hildren's **F**und partnership to continue this year to support the student achievement goals. DCF will be meeting with Ana Ulloa on partnership initiatives for this current school year. In August DCF felt deflated after speaking to school administrators about the partnership. After some negotiations with Ms. Ulloa, the retention bonuses for staff members that were effective last year will continue. The academy will move onward and forward to keep leading with "heart and mind" this school year.

The leadership is excited to announce "Cafecito" parent meetings once a month. Parents of Escuela Avancemos Academy are pleased to know that parent engagement events will resume this year as they did not last school year. Maria Estrada shared how the parent engagement component is important for her and other families. Escuela Avancemos Academy allows families to feel a sense of belonging and is one of the reasons why her children have been attending the academy for years.

VI. Extended Public Comment:

A. This public comment section is reserved for all remaining comments.

Fatima Gomez would like to see the great communication the academy once had on the return to the school year. Ms. Gomez travels 30 minutes to the school to ensure that her students receive a good education and feels that Escuela Avancemos Academy provides that experience for her children. Some parents are concerned if translation will be provided during the board meetings. Ana Ulloa and Beatrice Hill are certified interpreters and will be willing to handle translation during the board meetings moving forward.

VII. Board Comments

A. Authorizer Comments

The Governor John Engler Center for Charter Schools Central Michigan University Field Operations School Lead, Jennifer Joubert thanked the parents for attending the board meeting. Central Michigan University's visit to the academy was great. Both Orlando Castellon and Christopher White enjoyed their visit and speaking with the school management team. This meeting was one of the best meetings. The Center for Charter Schools 8th grade Fire Up for the Future field trip information communication will be shared with the team within the upcoming weeks.

B. Escuela Avancemos! Academy Board of Directors Updates

Board Trustee Mariva Gonzalez is available to attend Cafecito meetings as a representation of the Escuela Avancemos Academy Board of Directors. It's essential for the parents to see the board outside of board meetings.

Board Treasurer Linda Chittum expressed thankfulness to the team for another great audit. A special acknowledgment was expressed to Dr. Coggins for a fantastic job with the audit and the academy's financials. Speech and Language Pathologist service contacts will be shared with the management team to help fill the open vacancy.

Board President Cristina Stamatin requested for all school marketing materials to be shared with the board for review. Accolades were disbursed to the leadership team and Dr. Coggins for their great work. A special thanks was expressed to the parents who attended the board meeting. Beatrice Hill was interviewed by Metro Detroit Maganize. The Board of Directors is excited to review the article once it is published. The selected date for the Fall 2023 Board Retreat is slated for November 3rd - 4th.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Reconfirmation of Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 6:30 pm at Escuela Avancemos! Academy.

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Johnson

Approved by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, October 24, 2023

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Board Secretary Date