APPROVED

Escuela Avancemos! Academy

Minutes

Escuela Avancemos Regular Board Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday March 24, 2026 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
C. Stamatin, L. Chittum, M. Barbour, M. Gonzalez

Directors Absent
A. Bordeianu

Guests Present
A. Ulloa, Dr. Azra Ali, J. Joubert, L. Coggins, S. Johnson, Shannon Barnes

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 Mar 24, 2026 at 6:37 PM.

II. Approval of Agenda

A.

Approval of Agenda

M. Barbour made a motion to approve the Escuela Avancemos Academy Regular Board Meeting agenda on March 24, 2026.
M. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

III. Consent Agenda Item

A. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

M. Gonzalez made a motion to approve the minutes from Escuela Avancemos Regular Board Meeting on 02-24-26.
L. Chittum seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

IV. New Business

A. Request to Withdraw Previously Submitted Contract Amendment

L. Chittum made a motion to The Academy’s Board of Directors, in collaboration with the Educational Service Provider, determined that in light of potential changes for the upcoming school year, it is in the best interest of the Academy to withdraw the previously submitted contract amendment related to curriculum changes. The Board agreed that continuing the curriculum review process at a measured and thoughtful pace is the most appropriate course of action at this time. Additionally, Ana Ulloa emphasized the importance of taking a step back to further analyze the student population to identify the most effective long-term supports for English Language Learners. Board President Cristina Stamatin expressed support for this approach, noting the importance of taking incremental steps while continuing to move forward with curriculum research.
M. Barbour seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. Resolution to Approve Audit 2026 Letter of Engagement from Wilkerson & Associates P.C.

M. Barbour made a motion to approve the Audit 2026 Letter of Engagement from Wilkerson & Associates P.C.
L. Chittum seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

V. Reports

A. February Financials

February 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. Ana Ulloa asked whether the Academy would need to apply for a bridge loan for the upcoming school year if two months of additional revenue are already reflected in the budget. Lorilyn Coggins responded that she will review the financials and run the necessary projections to determine if a loan is required, noting that it may still be needed to ensure operations can continue until state aid funds are released.

B. 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Elizabeth Rodriguez was unable to attend the meeting. The Board of Directors reviewed the 21st CCLC report included in the board packet.

C. Sanga Monthly Management Report

The Sanga Monthly Management Report was presented by Dr. Ali and Ana Ulloa. Dr. Ali discussed the process for supporting students identified as at risk of failing, including the development of academic improvement plans for all middle school students and the structure for a more formalized process to address skill gaps.

Professional development held on March 18, 2026 focused on M-STEP preparation, targeted group interventions, and K–8 math unit plan alignment to support horizontal planning. A curriculum audit was conducted to ensure students have been adequately exposed to the material in preparation for upcoming assessments. The summer program was also discussed as an opportunity to help students build and retain foundational skills in preparation for the next school year. Plans are in place to collaborate with the behavior team, and families will be formally notified if their child is identified as at risk through these processes.

WIDA ACCESS testing for multilingual learners has been completed. April marks the beginning of the testing season, with M-STEP assessments scheduled for grades 3–8. Eighth-grade students will take the PSAT in English Language Arts and Mathematics, as well as M-STEP assessments in Science and Social Studies. Instructional staff continues to support students through online practice tests, test-taking strategies, and initiatives designed to promote student engagement and confidence.

During March, the Academy celebrated Reading Month with a variety of activities to promote literacy, including student assemblies, mystery guest readers, and spirit week. The Board expressed appreciation to Ms. Faraj for leading the initiative and to all staff who supported daily activities. Special recognition was given to Elizabeth Rodriguez for her role in securing a donation from Scholastic Books, providing five books per student.

Ana Ulloa inquired about authorizer expectations regarding a 50% growth target for both NWEA and M-STEP. Dr. Ali explained that i-Ready and reading interventions are being used to help ensure students are exposed to necessary content prior to assessments. Given the wide range of student skill levels, further discussion took place regarding how assessment data is analyzed and used for grouping.

Ana Ulloa also raised concerns regarding low math scores. Dr. Ali shared that the curriculum has transitioned from Eureka Math to Eureka Math Squared and noted that i-Ready may not be the best instructional tool due to its rigidity. Jennifer Joubert advised that if i-Ready is not meeting the Academy’s needs, the team should not feel obligated to continue its use.

Board President Cristina Stamatin asked why NWEA Math Fluency had not been utilized previously. The discussion emphasized that consistent exposure to aligned materials and targeted interventions will support student academic progress. Board Treasurer Linda Chittum inquired whether there had been instances of students not being exposed to necessary materials prior to testing in the past. The summer program was noted as an opportunity to strengthen foundational skills.

Board President Cristina Stamatin also encouraged increased visibility within the community and on social media to support student recruitment and to build a strong waitlist. Ana Ulloa shared her perspective that the Academy may be better positioned as a K–5 model to more effectively support students. Door-to-door transportation is why families enroll their children.

VI. Extended Public Comment:

A.

This public comment section is reserved for all remaining comments.

None at this time.

VII. Board Comments

A. Authorizer Comments

Jennifer Jourbert, Field Operations School Lead from the Governor John Engler Center for
Charter Schools at Central Michigan University thanked Cristina Stamatin and Linda Chittum for attending the CMU networking event. Members were reminded of the 2026 Annual Conference scheduled for August 19, 2026, at Huntington Place in Detroit, where educators may earn SCECHs and Board members may earn professional development credits.

B. Escuela Avancemos! Academy Board of Directors Updates

Board Trustee Mariva Gonzalez shared that she enjoyed serving as a mystery reader for the kindergarten classes. Board Treasurer Linda Chittum apologized for missing a previous meeting and noted that she enjoyed attending the CMU networking event; she also confirmed that the financials are in order. Board Secretary Monica Barbour emphasized the importance of continuing to address the needs of a sensitive student population, noting the impact of trauma and challenges at home. A suggestion was made that future CMU events be scheduled from 6:00–8:00 p.m. to accommodate Board members' availability.
Board President Cristina Stamatin emphasized the importance of board members setting aside at least 24 hours each year for a board retreat. She noted that this time allows members to build stronger relationships and work together on both short- and long-term succession planning goals. She also shared that the Board is committed to supporting the Academy and is interested in being involved in leadership team committees.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Reconfirmation of Next Board Meeting

Due to scheduling conflicts, the Board would like to move forward with changing the meeting date from April 28, 2026, to April 21, 2026, to better accommodate Board member availability, if possible.

B. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Johnson

Approved by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.