APPROVED

Escuela Avancemos! Academy

Minutes

Escuela Avancemos Annual Board Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday June 23, 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
A. Bordeianu, C. Stamatin, L. Chittum, M. Barbour, M. Gonzalez

Directors Absent
None

Directors who left before the meeting adjourned
M. Barbour

Guests Present
A. Ulloa, L. Coggins, S. Johnson, melem@theeaacademy.org

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 Jun 23, 2026 at 6:50 PM.

II. Approval of Agenda

A. Approval of Agenda

A. Bordeianu made a motion to approve the Escuela Avancemos Academy Annual Board Meeting agenda on June 23, 2026.
M. Barbour seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call	
C. Stamatin	Aye
M. Gonzalez	Aye
L. Chittum	Aye
A. Bordeianu	Aye
M. Barbour	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 05-19-26.
M. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

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

IV. New Business

A. Election of Officers

M. Barbour made a motion to confirm that the current Board of Directors officers will remain in their respective roles and continue serving in those capacities without change.
L. Chittum seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

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

B.

Approval of Board Corresponding Agent

M. Barbour made a motion to appoint Shan'Ta Johnson as the Board's Corresponding Agent.
L. Chittum seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Approval of McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Liaison

M. Barbour made a motion to appoint the School Social Worker as the Homeless Children and Youth Liaison.
L. Chittum seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Approval of Chief Administrative Officer Designation

M. Barbour made a motion to appoint the Board Treasurer, Linda Chittum as the Chief Administrative Officer.
M. Gonzalez seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

E. Approval of Title IX Representative

M. Barbour made a motion to appoint Lorilyn Coggins as the academy's Title IX Representative.
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	Aye
M. Barbour	Aye

F. Approval of Designation of Legal Counsel

M. Barbour made a motion to appoint Dickinson Wright PLLC to represent the academy in all ongoing legal business matters.
L. Chittum seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

G. Approval of Freedom of Information Act Representative

M. Barbour made a motion to appoint Shan'Ta Johnson as the Freedom of Information Act Representative.
L. Chittum seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

H. Approval of the Office of Civil Rights Representative

M. Barbour made a motion to appoint Lorilyn Coggins as the academy's Civil Rights Representative.
L. Chittum seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

I. Approval of School Safety Liaison

M. Barbour made a motion to appoint Ana Ulloa as the School Safety Commission Liaison.
L. Chittum seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

J. Approval of the 2025-2026 Amended Budget

M. Barbour made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Amended Budget.
L. Chittum seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

K. Approval of the 2026-2027 Projected Operating Budget

M. Barbour made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Projected Operating Budget.
L. Chittum seconded the motion.
Dr. Lorilyn Coggins provided an overview of the projected 2026–2027 operating budget and shared that a SAN note will not be required. Board Secretary Monica Barbour inquired about the budget classification for paraprofessionals, and Dr. Coggins clarified that paraprofessionals fall under compensatory education. Ms. Ana Ulloa further explained that Title funds may not be used for supplanting and that employees paid with Title funding must perform only the duties aligned with the approved Title-funded roles. Board Vice President Andreea Bordeianu inquired whether the academy engages in fundraising activities. Ms. Ulloa shared that the academy does not engage in significant fundraising; however, she highlighted that third-grade teacher Ayatt Faraj has been instrumental in securing donations that support student activities throughout the school year. Ms. Ulloa requested that the Board consider sending Ms. Faraj a letter of appreciation in recognition of her efforts.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

A. Bordeianu	Aye

Roll Call

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

V. Reports

A. May Financials

May 2026 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.

B. 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Members of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) after-school program did not attend; however, they submitted the monthly program and budget report for the Board’s review.

C. Sanga Monthly Management Report

The Sanga Monthly Management Report was presented by Dr. Marquez Elem and Ana Ulloa. It was reported that the Michigan Department of Education approved Escuela Avancemos Academy for a pre–Labor Day start date of August 31, 2026, for the next three academic years. This early start is intended to mitigate learning loss by expanding extended learning opportunities and maximizing instructional time prior to the administration of standardized assessments.

Dr. Elem respectfully shared that the final Needs Assessment Data Report will be presented to instructional staff prior to being shared with the Board of Directors at a public meeting, ensuring that teachers are fully informed of the data findings. A comprehensive needs assessment has been completed, with findings indicating the need to strengthen core instruction and implement consistent, evidence-based supports across all tiers of intervention. Identified priority areas include mathematics proficiency across grades K–8, English language proficiency with an emphasis on grades 6–8, and early literacy development in grades K–2.

Dr. Elem emphasized that insufficient staffing contributes significantly to existing learning gaps. He reported that Sanga has successfully secured a certified mathematics teacher and a math interventionist, which will strengthen mathematics instruction and expand opportunities for student achievement. Additional efforts will focus on expanding instructional support and building staff capacity to improve outcomes for multilingual learners, as well as strengthening literacy instruction across grade levels.

The Summer Discovery Program will begin July 6, 2026, and will serve approximately 90 students. The program is open to all students, including those recommended for additional academic support. The primary goal of the program is to reduce summer learning loss. The incorporation of Imagine Learning will provide literacy and math tutoring during the instructional day, with additional access to live tutors outside of the school building.

Board Vice President Andreea Bordeianu inquired whether Dr. Elem was aware of the math coaching supports offered by Wayne RESA. Dr. Elem confirmed familiarity with Wayne RESA resources but noted that sustained improvement requires qualified, invested in-house staff who can support daily instruction through co-teaching and embedded coaching models. He emphasized the importance of leadership and instructional teams being actively present in classrooms to close learning gaps.

Ms. Bordeianu also inquired about biliteracy needs. Ms. Ulloa shared that Kelly Alvarez, Section 41 Bilingual and Title III English Learner and Immigrant Consultant, supports the proposed instructional model to strengthen English Language Development in grades K–2 as a foundation for literacy growth. Ms. Ulloa and Board President Cristina Stamatin both emphasized the importance of developing critical thinking skills across grades K–8, noting the need to refocus on foundational academic skills to strengthen overall instructional outcomes.

Dr. Elem shared that members of the leadership team will be present in classrooms daily for approximately 30–45 minutes to support instruction and provide feedback. He further noted that finalized assessment data will be shared prior to the next board meeting, acknowledging that students may experience testing fatigue or frustration, which can impact performance. Board President Cristina Stamatin suggested administering assessments in smaller increments rather than condensed testing sessions.

Dr. Elem expressed optimism that with the appropriate instructional structures, committed teachers, and strong leadership, the academy is positioned to exceed the 50 percent growth benchmark required by the authorizer. Board President Stamatin inquired whether the academy has received any communication from Central Michigan University regarding recent assessment data.

It was also shared that a Special Education needs assessment will be completed by September and will include detailed progress monitoring and a Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) framework to provide targeted academic, behavioral, and social-emotional supports with fidelity. Board members noted that the State of Michigan offers specialized training for special education staff. Ms. Ulloa added that the use of Parallel Learning has helped reduce the historical overrepresentation of students receiving speech and language services at the academy.

Board Vice President Andreea Bordeianu emphasized that all available free state-provided trainings and resources should be fully utilized before engaging external vendors. Board President Cristina Stamatin asked whether students have received training on the risks and benefits of artificial intelligence as part of digital citizenship instruction. Dr. Elem encouraged board members attending the National Charter Schools Conference to attend a breakout session led by Paul Balance, noting his expertise in artificial intelligence and digital citizenship in education.

Dr. Lorilyn Coggins shared the estimated allocations for 26/27 have been published, and Escuela will receive the following:

Title I - $293,613

Title II - $25,124

Title III - $26,442
Title IV - $19,594
In addition, we were just notified that we will receive $153,150 from the Grow Your Own program.
The Academy continues to prioritize the maintenance of a safe, comfortable, and effective learning environment. Installation of new Variable Air Volume (VAV) units is currently underway in two classrooms that previously experienced heating and cooling deficiencies. These upgrades will improve classroom climate, enhance student and staff comfort, and support uninterrupted instruction.
End-of-the-year pictures were shared with the board members.

M. Barbour left at 8:00 PM.

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 with the Governor John Engler Center for Charter Schools at Central Michigan University, was unable to attend the meeting due to travel related to the National Charter Schools Conference.

B. Escuela Avancemos! Academy Board of Directors Updates

The Board of Directors expressed interest in the possibility of hosting an Escuela Avancemos Academy alumni event on campus. Board members also shared enthusiasm regarding the summer programming designed to address summer learning loss, noting that the budget presentation was thorough, detailed, and informative. The Board reflected positively on the conclusion of the school year and expressed confidence that the academy is positioned for a strong start to the upcoming academic year.
Board Vice President Andreea Bordeianu was recognized for being nominated for and receiving the Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award. The Board of Directors and school leadership extended their congratulations on this achievement.
Board President Cristina Stamatin shared her belief that the academy is moving in a positive direction and requested that a Career Day be scheduled, with at least one month’s advance notice to allow Board members adequate time to request time off from work to attend. She emphasized the importance of continuing to expose students to a wide range of career pathways.

Ana Ulloa suggested that members of the Board of Directors spend a half-day at the academy engaging with staff and students. Ms. Ulloa also expressed appreciation for Dr. Marquez Elem's leadership and commitment to Escuela Avancemos Academy.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Reconfirmation of Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 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 8:32 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Johnson

Approved by the Board of Trustees on Tuesday, July 28, 2026.