



Adelante Schools

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday October 21, 2021 at 6:00 PM

Location

1202 E Troy Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46203
Family Room, Floor 1

Parking information can be found [here](#).

Goals:

1. Approve organizational foundational tools and policies to govern our school and operate effectively.
 2. Deepen our understanding of Adelante's Emma Donnan operational state and provide any necessary support and guidance.
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Directors Present

A. Smith (remote), B. Burcope (remote), J. Garcia (remote), K. Kainrath, M. Staten (remote), M. Whitley (remote)

Directors Absent

A. Impink, K. Branson-Hutchison

Guests Present

Brian Anderson (remote), Eddie Rangel, Jordan Habayeb, M. Rooney

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

K. Kainrath called a meeting of the board of directors of Adelante Schools to order on Thursday Oct 21, 2021 at 6:05 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

Kainrath stated that there are some amendments that had to be made to the last meeting's minutes. No approval vote was held.

II. Finance

A. Financials

Anderson from CIES provided a debrief of financials:

- Statement of Financial Position (up through September 30th) is a snapshot of where the school is currently compared with last year's financials.
- During this quarter, there were \$400,000 in the bank, with other grant, leaving total assets, minus debt, at \$1,170,000.
- One year ago, the school's total assets have more than doubled. This is not typical of other start-up charters and can be considered a success story.
- The net asset position has improved by over a million dollars from one year ago.
- Financial ratios, financial targets for OEI, have been met.
- Statement of Activities report highlights - 1.2 million has been received, including 1.2 million spent, leading to a surplus of \$20,000+.
- Anderson stated that Quarter 1 is at a net loss due to a disproportionate amount of expenditures required at the beginning of the year, in addition to the fact that federal grants are reimbursed later in the year. Typically, Quarter 1 is a loss for schools, so the fact that the school is \$20,000+ in the green shows strong financial management for the beginning of the year.
- Habayeb outlined the Statement of Financial Position which allows all liabilities and assets to be consolidated on a single page to overview the total financial picture.

Garcia asked for clarity on the \$25,000 Talent Innovation grant which Rangel clarified would provide an 11-part PD series for Adelante staff to better serve English Language Learner instruction.

III. Academic Excellence

A. Academic Update

Whitley reminded the board of the difference between the diagnostic NWEA tests and the mastery focus of ClearSight. Both tests were administered in Quarter 1. Covid, learning loss, and chronically under-performing dynamics of the school mean that significant gaps are evident in both sets of data. OEI has provided an academic data dashboard format that all student performance data will be shared with the board and the authorizer. Addressing student culture is still a primary concern.

Rangel discussed the need to amend the charter's original goals (which were written prior to school year 2020-2021) to better account for the impacts and challenges of Covid, as well as where current academic data at Emma Donnan stands. While official amendments to the goals were not submitted to OEI during the window, but will work with OEI to review the goals with an academic analyst and create a recommendation. The plan is to update the goals for school year 2022-2023 to align with a 7% increase over the prior year (in line with turnaround schools in other states that take state tests with equivalent rigor as ILEARN).

IV. Development

A. Development and Community Engagement Update

Garcia will work with the committee to focus community engagement activities for the holiday season which could include Giving Tuesday, a drive, teacher celebrations, and other similar endeavors. Garcia and Impink will meet next week for next steps.

V. Governance

A. Governance Update

Burcope and Rangel met to discuss long-term succession plan and the development plan format to be submitted to OEI by the deadline. The committee will meet in early November to go over the update.

Board members must complete the economic interest form.

The mid-year review for the executive director will be occurring earlier (prior to January) because the final review will be due to OEI by June 30th.

Burcope will schedule a diversity recruiting meeting for early December.

VI. Board Chair Update

A. Amendment to Charter Enrollment

Kainrath discussed the updated enrollment numbers amendment to the charter. This is due to various issues, including:

- Rangel is working with IPS to reevaluate the bussing boundaries due to the wide disparity between the 7-8 and K-6. This is affecting the school's ability to transport certain age levels of students, especially elementary. Emma Donnan is the only innovation school with two different boundaries.
- A one-mile bussing boundary for kindergarten has made the originally projected Kindergarten enrollment of 90 untenable.
- Updated numbers are more realistic to the needs of the community.
- Despite the shifts in enrollment numbers, the overall numbers are still higher than the budgeted per pupil enrollment and will not have a financial impact.

B. November OEI Reporting Requirements (Handbook pg 111-112)

Kainrath went over the OEI reporting requirements for November. Audit review by CPA's will occur at the end of November. All updates are school-based and not directly applicable to the board.

VII. Executive Director Update

A. Executive Director Update

Rangel outlined a dashboard of Board Goals that cover both non-academic and academic indicators in line with charter and board goals.

Garcia asked how staff of color is identified which is through our HR platform. Rangel clarified that the goal is specifically for instructional teachers of color to reflect the research that teachers of color have an added benefit to the school's students, especially when teacher diversity reflects the demographics of the families, students, and community.

Rangel outlined attendance and suspension rates during Quarter 1 of the 2021-2022 school year. Daily attendance by 7-8 percentage points in four weeks once the Operations team started an attendance initiative that leverages daily live contact with absent student families and specific follow-up steps for chronically absent families.

For discipline data, the school has had 95 incidences in Quarter 1 that resulted in a suspension. Rooney dived into some of the extenuating reasons for these suspension numbers which include an overall trend nationwide, inconsistency in schooling for kids, chronic academic challenges, a lack of developmentally appropriate social-emotional development, social media influences, and the Tik Tok challenges. The board asked about context for the suspensions, the role and engagement of families in this process and the role of Pathways.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
B. Burcope

B. Executive Session (Board Member Only Required)

We unite in solidarity with our families and community to create a joyous neighborhood school, preparing all scholars to graduate from college and lead lives of leadership and service to Indianapolis