



American Dream Charter School

Minutes

ADCS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

SY22-23

Date and Time

Monday April 17, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Location

American Dream Charter School

403 Concord Ave, Bronx, NY 10454, USA, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3880187236>

Hybrid Virtual

Trustees Present

A. Cabrera (remote), L. Rojas (remote), P. Simon (remote), R. Espinal (remote), T. Hernandez (remote), Z. Martinez (remote)

Trustees Absent

None

Guests Present

Ana Martinez, C. Miranda, M. Melkonian (remote), Malkese Edwards, N. Gallagher (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

R. Espinal called a meeting of the board of trustees of American Dream Charter School to order on Monday Apr 17, 2023 at 5:42 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

R. Espinal made a motion to approve the minutes from ADCS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting on 03-20-23.

T. Hernandez seconded the motion.

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

II. Educational Success

A. BENCHMARK 1: Student Performance

- NYS Testing
 - Starts this coming Wednesday for Middle School Students.
 - No one has opted out just yet. They have until the morning of to opt out.
- Graduation Updates
 - June 23, 2023

B. BENCHMARK 2: Teaching and Learning

- Summer Boost Camp (M. Melkonian)
 - Awarded for 2nd Year \$250k grant
 - Serve 160 students - 23 summer school days
 - Requirements:
 - Pre-test & Post-test NWEA - will let us know the impact.

C. BENCHMARK 3: Culture, Climate, and Student and Family Engagement

College Office Updates:

Presentation:

Anna Martinez & Malkese Edwards (College Counselors)

- Projections:
 - 30% current seniors going away to colleges.
 - 19% current seniors Community Colleges.
- 32 students obtained \$894K+ financial grant aid
- Continuing to take students to college visits
- Scholarship Programs:
 - Questbridge Scholarship: 1 student
 - Hispanic Scholarship Finalists: 2 students
 - Posse Scholarship Semi-Finalist: 1 student
 - Thrive Scholars: 1 student
- Seniors have been accepted to private colleges fully funding students
- College Office Aspirations:

- (Team of 5 - Current team of 3 will split the caseload into 25 each.)
 - Admin Support (FT Position)
 - College Trip Coordination, College Rep Visits Coordination, Scholarships (Track & Source)
 - 9th/10th Grade Support - classroom pushins
 - Alumni Coordinator (FT Position/Remote Role)
 - Consistently engaged alumni (visiting the current alumni)
 - Ensure a successful HS college transition
 - Assist students in successfully satisfying advisement requirements, etc.
 - FAFSA/TAP Completion Feb 1st Annually
 - Satisfying major/minor/CORE Requirements
 - Socio-Emotional Persistence Support
 - Maintain newsletter for college internship/job opportunities
 - Over 200 graduates after this graduating class.
 - Working with our undocumented students at ADS has been hard because there's more 1:1 time needed, ensure schools are undocumented friendly, current student applied to private colleges and CUNY. Counselor calls in February'23 they were made aware that undocumented students are up against international students. Emery accepted current undocumented student. Current students have multiple options. Would be nice to have a fund for our undocumented students.
 - A. Cabrera:
 - NYS (CUNY & SUNY) - DREAM Act in place for state money not federal funding.
 - Stony Brook is undocumented friendly - scholarship.
 - Affidavit - Graduated HS/HSE from NYS.
 - Creating Community Service Professional Development - planning with private funders can participate in summer program which will pay \$500/student (unable to participate in SYEP).

III. Organizational Soundness

A. BENCHMARK 4: Financial Condition

- **Accounts Balance Review (N. Gallagher)**
 - **All accounts balances reviewed.**

B. BENCHMARK 5: Financial Management

- Board Report (Finances) -N. Gallagher

- Questions can be sent to N. Gallagher to then be addressed by finance team.

C. BENCHMARK 6: Board Oversight and Governance

- Update: BoardServe NY (L. Rojas & P. Simon)
 - Five (6) Potential Candidate Resumes
 - 3 Legal
 - 3 Real Estate
 - P. Simon
 - Filtered for Real Estate & Legal individuals (total of 100 applications)
 - filtered legal and real estate separately
 - real estate:
 - Locality, Years of experience, preference in budget & experience, board members, spanish speaking & hours of commitment (flexibility)
 - Sent resumes to N. Gallagher & L. Rojas for consideration.
- N. Gallagher
 - Board Members Term Renewal
 - A. Cabrera - last term was 1 year (3/21/22 - 3/21/23)
 - T. Hernandez - last term was 1 year (4/11/22- 4/7/23)

R. Espinal made a motion to renewal for 1 year for Teresa Hernandez.

L. Rojas seconded the motion.

- N. Gallagher
 - Board Members Term Renewal
 - A. Cabrera - last term was 1 year (3/21/22 - 3/21/23)
 - T. Hernandez - last term was 1 year (4/11/22- 4/7/23)

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

D. BENCHMARK 7: Organizational Capacity

IV. Faithfulness to Charter & Law

A. BENCHMARK 8: Mission and Key Design Elements

- ADCS Charter Renewal -N. Gallagher & M. Melkonian
 - Meeting regularly with team to renew the charter.
 - Draft will be sent out to the Board in advance of deadline in August.
 - L. Rojas - Helpful to have in advance to be able to speak explicitly about this.

B.

BENCHMARK 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention

- SY 23-24 Lottery held on April 3, 2023 -N. Gallagher
 - SY23-24 Final Application Numbers:
 - 6th Grade: 177
 - 7th Grade: 37
 - 8th Grade:46
 - 9th Grade: 426
 - 10th Grade: 43
 - 11th Grade: 34
 - 12th Grade: 17
 - Grand Total: 780
 - Total over 800 as applications are still coming in.
 - Recruitment Efforts:
 - Working with Creavista to launch social media campaign to recruit for the middle school.
 - 85 open 6th grade seats.
- BLACC Grant Received \$100K -M. Melkonian
 - Black Latino Asian Charter Collaborative
 - Applied for grant to help support ADCS, provide the best educators to our students.
 - Develop and cultivate a strong pipeline (Talent Manager Position) to attract the best teachers to work for us.
- Fiesta for Firsts -M. Melkonian
 - 2nd Year Obtained
 - Met with Advisory Board (June 7th or June 13th) working on securing a venue.
 - \$125/ticket
 - Board Members: -L. Rojas
 - Donate (Scholarship from Board)
 - Auction packages/virtual platform
 - \$80k goal this year - money raised will go to scholarships
 - Already Secured
 - \$10k NY Life & \$5k from Univision

C. BENCHMARK 10: Legal Compliance

V. 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 6:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. Espinal