



American Dream Charter School

Minutes

ADCS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

SY23-24

Date and Time

Monday July 17, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Location

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86732681534>

403 Concord Avenue
Bronx, NY 10454

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

Andy Liu (remote), C. Miranda, Digant Bahl, M. Melkonian (remote), N. Gallagher (remote), S. Espinal (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B.

Call the Meeting to Order

L. Rojas called a meeting of the board of trustees of American Dream Charter School to order on Monday Jul 17, 2023 at 5:37 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

L. Rojas made a motion to approve the minutes from ADCS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting on 06-12-23.

R. Espinal seconded the motion.

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

II. Educational Success

A. BENCHMARK 1: Student Performance

M. Melkonian

- Renewal Report
 - July 31st internal deadline for edits/comments
 - Report due August 15, 2023
 - Reconvene first week in August'23.
 - N. Gallagher will email BOT members to figure out a date.
 - N. Gallagher will send draft of the preliminary report to BOT members.
 - Track changes can be made by each BOT member in Microsoft Word.

B. BENCHMARK 2: Teaching and Learning

SY23 - 24 Academic Calendar Approval

- Graduation TBD may shift from June 21, 2024 to June 26, 2024 update for the Graduation.
 - Will need to speak with The Bronx Zoo.
- 185 School Days for ADCS.

L. Rojas made a motion to approve the SY23-24 Academic Calendar.

R. Espinal seconded the motion.

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

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

N. Gallagher

- Updating Student Discipline Policy
 - Andrea assisting with Charter Renewal.
 - Application renewal portal
 - Cross checked with NYSED

- NYSED wants to see the following in the policy which isn't explicitly stated:
 - Attachment D:
 - NEW: The discipline complaint policy must clearly state that in the event a manifestation determination review (MDR) determines that the conduct of a student with a disability is attributable to that disability, the student must immediately be permitted to return to the school, in lieu of beginning or completing the period of suspension.
 - If a student is up for expulsion they are provided an expulsion hearing. If the student has a disability this applies.
- Supportive environment of restorative justice circle to welcome students back in. L. Rojas
- Motion to approve and then a resolution will follow via DocuSign. N. Gallagher
- Applied to become a School Food Authority. Most students do not eat the food and it's wasteful. We can work with vendors that provide a higher quality of food for our students. Can offer high quality of school meals to students. Update in August.

L. Rojas made a motion to include the discipline complaint policy.

P. Simon seconded the motion.

NEW: The discipline complaint policy must clearly state that in the event a manifestation determination review (MDR) determines that the conduct of a student with a disability is attributable to that disability, the student must immediately be permitted to return to the school, in lieu of beginning or completing the period of suspension.

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

III. Organizational Soundness

A. BENCHMARK 4: Financial Condition

D. Bahl & A. Liu

- SY23-24 Budget Approval
 - SY23-24 Budget Reviewed
 - Actual Worksheet budgeted slightly higher than revenue expenses a bit higher than projections.
 - Overall had increase in budget basis.
 - 594 student enrollment projected
 - 4.7% increase in DOE per pupil
 - Encourage the Finance Committee to have a deeper Finance Committee meeting in end of August/early September.

- Late August R. Espinal & L. Rojas are available to meet.
- Federal & Stimulus Grants will end this year. Only expected change.
- Balance Sheets Reviewed
 - Surplus on budget basis for Year 22-23
 - Liabilities nothing major changes except the deferred rent - straight line of the lease.
- N. Gallagher - Per pupil funding has changed but we are financially healthy.
- R. Espinal - Need to finalize the numbers but okay with approving the budget.
- D. Bahl - Compliance Audit will be underway in the near future. The audit was held last week. The report will be provided between Oct 1 - Oct 20, 2023.

N. Gallagher

- Accounts balances reviewed.

R. Espinal made a motion to approve the SY23-24 Budget approval.

L. Rojas seconded the motion.

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

B. BENCHMARK 5: Financial Management

C. BENCHMARK 6: Board Oversight and Governance

- Board Recruitment N. Gallagher
 - BoardServe NYC Update
 - If any other BOT members would like to assist with this process it would be helpful.
 - L. Rojas - has two (2) potential candidates.
 - M. Melkonian - Provides evidence that we are actively recruiting.
 - S. Espinal - July 26th meeting/interviewing a Legal Candidate (N. Gallagher).
 - P. Simon pulled her resume from BoardServe NYC. She will work on getting more for August'23 meeting.
 - A. Cabrera - Can support on the weekends.

D. BENCHMARK 7: Organizational Capacity

IV. Faithfulness to Charter & Law

A. BENCHMARK 8: Mission and Key Design Elements

M. Melkonian

Paul O'Neil - will look at our policies in the upcoming weeks for approval by NYSED for the renewal.

B. BENCHMARK 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention

N. Gallagher

- Building 6th grade waitlist. Done additional advertisements on 6 Train Line and Bus Routes. Social Media campaigns.
 - P. Simon asked about Open Houses.
- School Mint Enrollment Numbers:
 - 6th Grade:
 - Offered - 23
 - Accepted - 3
 - In Progress - 3
 - Completed - 80
 - 7th Grade:
 - Offered - 1
 - In Progress - 2
 - Completed - 1
 - 8th Grade:
 - In Progress - 1
 - 9th Grade:
 - In Progress - 3
 - Completed - 10

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 6:19 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
L. Rojas