



# American Dream Charter School

## Minutes

### August Board Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Monday August 14, 2023 at 5:30 PM

#### Location

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3880187236>

403 Concord Ave  
Bronx NY, 10454

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#### Trustees Present

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

#### Trustees Absent

T. Hernandez

#### Guests Present

C. Miranda, M. Melkonian, N. Gallagher (remote), S. Espinal (remote)

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### 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 Aug 14, 2023 at 5:36 PM.

### **C. Approve Minutes**

L. Rojas made a motion to approve the minutes from ADCS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting on 07-17-23.

R. Espinal seconded the motion.

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

## **II. Educational Success**

### **A. BENCHMARK 1: Student Performance**

M. Melkonian

- August Regents will take place this week Thursday and Friday.
  - Could have over 120+ can take the exam.
  - We have about 45 students confirmed.
  - Students will retest or take the exam.
- Teacher Academy also on Wednesday.

### **B. BENCHMARK 2: Teaching and Learning**

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

## **III. Organizational Soundness**

### **A. BENCHMARK 4: Financial Condition**

N. Gallagher

- **Accounts Balance Reviewed**

### **B. BENCHMARK 5: Financial Management**

N. Gallagher

- Waiting for Accounting Solutions for the 5 Year Projected Budget & Fiscal Impact Budget.
  - Met last Friday with them in order to move forward. They will provide this by tomorrow at 11am.
  - Application is due on Friday.

### **C. BENCHMARK 6: Board Oversight and Governance**

N. Gallagher:

- Board Resignation
  - T. Hernandez - stepping away for personal reasons which is best for her at this time.
    - R. Espinal
      - Would she want to explore other areas of ADS. (friends of, Advisory Board, etc)
      - Immediate need to find new BOT members. Have others help P. Simon with the search.
  - Has 5 BOT members at this time which is the minimum.
    - M. Melkonian is not a Voting Member anymore due to NYSED Guidelines.
- Motions To:
  - Approve the update to the Complaint Policy
    - Prescribed by NYSED.
    - NEW: The complaint policy must clearly state that persons with formal complaints...
    - Attorney Paul stated that the language should include (though the Board of Trustees may seek assistance in investigating a complaint from counsel or other individuals).
  - Board Resolutions
    - July Board Resolutions - BOT take a few minutes to review and sign.
  - School Food Authority
    - Application submitted. Two vendors applied to work with us. Whitson's and Red Rabbit. Whitson's did not submit menus for 6 - 12 grades. Red Rabbit serves other schools in NYC and adopts to our cultures. Whitson's not within NYC area at this time and not sure if they have the capacity/infrastructure. Red Rabbit's bid was higher. Any funds in the discussion will be reimbursed by Federal School Meal program. There's dollar amounts attached. This is not coming out of the schools general budget. This service will be refunded through Federal and State nutrition programs.
    - Breakfast, lunch and snack. Have the option to expand to dinner.
    - We can open the IFB process again if we aren't pleased with the services.
    - Need a motion to approve.
  - Adopt the Procurement Procedures for the SFA
    - We do not have any contenders at this time can move onward.
  - Approve the submission of the Charter Renewal Application.
    - No questions at this time.
    - Ten Benchmarks are helpful from BOT members. Good practice and important for BOT to have the language.
- Approve the Charter Renewal Certification Statement.
  - L. Rojas approves verbally.

- Strategic Planning Objectives

- Sent to BOT members from N. Gallagher.
- Would like to add Fundraising, Board Recruitment and continuing to improve Student Academics/Performance/Attendance to be added to the charter renewal application.
  - P. Simon - Fundraising goals increasing revenue to 10%. Are we sticking to 10%?
    - This can be changed if needed.
    - This would equate to another \$7k.
  - L. Rojas
    - As BOT Members how will we support this work and our students. Advisory Board has been instrumental

- Board Recruitment

- BoardServe NYC Update
  - S. Espinal and N. Gallagher interviewed a candidate. Currently resides in Florida but would like to join the BOT. N. Gallagher emailed the Lawyer to see if she is allowed to sit on the board. She's an Attorney which works remotely in NYC. If we need to return to in person meetings this may be an issue if there's a vote that needs to be completed. She might not be a non voting member. She was aligned with the ADS mission.
  - N. Gallagher - Sent the credentials to A. Cabrera for logging in.
- BOT Addresses
  - None have moved within the last 12 months.

L. Rojas made a motion to Approve the updated schools Complaint Policy.

R. Espinal seconded the motion.

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

L. Rojas made a motion to approve Red Rabbit as the Schools meal vendor for school year SY23-24.

R. Espinal seconded the motion.

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

L. Rojas made a motion to approve the submission of the Renewal Application by Nicholas Gallagher.

P. Simon seconded the motion.

Need L. Rojas permission to approve the Charter Renewal Certification Statement on her behalf.

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

L. Rojas made a motion to approve the ADS Board of Directors Strategic Plan for SY23-24.

R. Espinal seconded the motion.

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**

##### **B. BENCHMARK 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention**

###### **SY23-24 Enrollment: (C. Miranda)**

- 6th Grade: 79
- 7th Grade: 87
- 8th Grade: 84
- 9th Grade: 93
- 10th Grade: 86
- 11th Grade: 76
- 12th Grade: 71

- Under enrolled for 6th grade but we need 7 students.
- Enrolled a total of 90 students for grades 6 - 8.
- A. Cabrera - Can advertise with the Mayor's Office only concern would be that we would not have enough seats. Will check the possibilities.

##### **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 6:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
L. Rojas