APPROVED

American Dream Charter School

Minutes

ADCS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

SY25-26

Date and Time
Monday August 18, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Location
Zoom

Trustees Present
A. Cabrera (remote), L. Rojas (remote), P. Simon (remote), Z. Martinez (remote)

Trustees Absent
R. Espinal

Guests Present
M. Melkonian (remote), N. Gallagher, 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 Aug 18, 2025 at 5:37 PM.

C.

Approve Minutes

L. Rojas made a motion to approve the minutes from ADCS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting on 07-21-25.
A. Cabrera seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Executive Session - HR Matters

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- Executive Session took place.

II. Educational Success

A. Benchmark 1: Student Performance

Beginning of SY2526

- First Day of School is Wednesday, August 27th
- Students are sitting for Regents on Tuesday, the 19th, and Wednesday, the 20th.

State Scores (NYSTP and Regents)

- Regents' data given by Dr. Melkonian
  - **Educational Strategies & Student Performance**
  - **Mathematics:** Emphasis on intentional six-week progress monitoring, targeted interventions, and use of Illustrative Mathematics.
  - **Science:** Mixed results – improvements in art, science, and chemistry linked to consistent teachers; declines in living environment tied to turnover. There is a need for stronger literacy integration in science courses.
  - **ELA & History:** ELA scores improved from **59%** → **63%**. History scores remain the strongest subject area.
  - **Literacy Integration:** Push to embed literacy strategies into STEM courses to support comprehension and critical thinking.
  - **Classroom Practices:** Aim to reduce laptop dependency and return to more traditional note-taking to strengthen study skills.

B. Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning

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

III. Organizational Soundness

A. BENCHMARK 4: Financial Condition

Account balances

- **All account balances given by - NG**
- **NG will order pager checks for the new Chase account, and the old account will close.**

B. BENCHMARK 5: Financial Management

ADCS Financial Report at 06-30-2025 for Board's Review

- Andy from Financial Solutions submitted the final report. The board will review, and if there are any questions, prepare them for Degant.

C. BENCHMARK 6: Board Oversight and Governance:

- Renew Roselin Espinals Board Term - 3 years - Roselin's Board term needed to be renewed earlier in the year (this is overdue). If we can retroactively approve a three-year renewal that expires in March of 2028, that would be ideal. (pending RE's - agreement).
- FY24-25 Board Assessment - Luz and Angelo's assessments are the final outstanding assessments for completion
- Board Meeting Schedule 3rd Monday of the month. If it falls on a holiday or weekend, it's the 2nd Monday of the month, which gives us more time to

  Reschedule if we don't have a quorum for whatever reason.
  - August 18, 2025 (3rd Monday)
  - September 15, 2025 (3rd Monday)
  - October 20, 2025 (3rd Monday)
  - November 17, 2025 (3rd Monday)
  - December 15, 2025 (3rd Monday)
  - January 13, 2026 (2nd Monday - 3rd Monday is MLK Day)
  - February 9, 2026 (3rd Monday) - 3rd Monday we are out on winter break)
  - March 16, 2026 (3rd Monday)
  - April 20, 2026 (3rd Monday)
  - May 18, 2026 (3rd Monday)
  - June 15, 2026 (3rd Monday)
    - The board members approve all dates.

D. BENCHMARK 7: Organizational Capacity

- Discussed support for incoming Teach For America teachers at the middle school campus.

- Two new high school teachers hired; focus remains on filling remaining high school vacancies.

IV. Faithfulness to Charter & Law

A. BENCHMARK 8: Mission and Key Design Elements

B. BENCHMARK 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention

Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention Nicholas Gallagher 6th Grade Enrollment update for SY2526

- Sixth-grade enrollment is low.
- Board discussed strategies such as **referral reward programs** for staff and families, and **early recruitment ads** to boost numbers.
- 56 Fully complete applications (We have created a referral reward system to be posted soon)
- Offers sent that have not been accepted yet

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 6:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
L. Rojas