



# 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 06-16-25.

A. Cabrera seconded the motion.

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

### **D. Executive Session - HR Matters**

Executive Session - HR Matters

- 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 Espinal's 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