



## American Dream Charter School

### Minutes

#### ADCS II Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

SY25-26

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##### **Date and Time**

Monday November 17, 2025 at 6:30 PM

##### **Location**

Join Zoom Meeting

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

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##### **Trustees Present**

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

##### **Trustees Absent**

L. Rojas

##### **Guests Present**

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

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#### **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 Nov 17, 2025 at 6:13 PM.

### C. Approve Minutes

R. Espinal made a motion to approve the minutes from ADCS II Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting on 10-20-25.

P. Simon seconded the motion.

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

### D. Startup Activities

- **CSP Grant Update**

- CSP Grant Secured

- School has officially been awarded the CSP grant.
    - The original application was prepared for approximately \$2 million, so the awarded amount required a major budget review and adjustments.

- Budget Revision in Progress

- Several lower-priority items were removed from the budget, including:
    - Conference travel
    - Certain consulting services
    - A revised budget is currently being resubmitted for approval.

- Current Status

- Grant is a major win, but implementation is a significant lift requiring extensive administrative work and planning.
  - Team is moving forward with all required steps to ensure the grant can be activated and utilized once approved.

- Upcoming Liaison Input

- Brandy, our CSP liaison, indicated she has additional information to share regarding her work in CSD 6, which may inform our long-term strategy.
  - Further updates are expected during the December meeting, once we receive her guidance and assess potential next steps.

- Next Steps

- Continue toward final budget approval.
  - Prepare to begin spending once authorization is granted.
  - Maintain parallel planning to align CSP work with potential expansion or new-school pathways, pending December discussions.

## II. Finance

### A. Accounts and Balances

- **Account Balances & Financial Update**

- Current Account Balances given by - NG

- **Importance of Maintaining These Funds**

- CSP funding now works on a reimbursement model, not upfront disbursement as it did when ADS opened in 2014.

- The school must spend funds first, then submit documentation to draw down grant money.
- Having cash on hand is essential - without these balances, the school would be unable to cover upfront CSP-eligible expenses.

- **Clarification on the CSP Grant**

- CSP grants are typically awarded to new or opening charter schools to support early startup costs.
- New schools remain unfunded until students are enrolled and per-pupil payments begin, often not until the summer before opening.
- Without CSP funding, new charters would be financially unsupported until around July 2026 (in this case), creating significant operational risk.

- **Funding Structure**

- CSP is a federal grant program, but states manage distribution, oversight, and the application rating process.
- Funds originate federally, flow to the state, and then are awarded to schools that meet the criteria.

### **III. 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,  
R. Espinal