



American Dream Charter School

Minutes

ADCS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

SY25-26

Date and Time

Monday February 9, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Location

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 892 3909 4103

Trustees Present

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

Trustees Absent

None

Guests Present

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

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 Feb 9, 2026 at 5:38 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

R. Espinal made a motion to approve the minutes from ADCS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting on 01-26-26.

Z. Martinez seconded the motion.

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

D. Executive Session

E. The Board entered executive session to discuss personnel and other confidential matters.

II. Educational Success

A. Benchmark 1: Student Performance

B. Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning

Eighth-Grade Mathematics Program

Leadership discussed a possible modification to the eighth-grade mathematics program for the 2026–2027 school year.

- The school is considering whether all eighth-grade students should continue taking Algebra I or whether some students should instead receive the eighth-grade mathematics curriculum and take the Grade 8 New York State mathematics assessment.
- Leadership reported that some students have struggled with Algebra I.
- The Board discussed the possibility of offering Algebra I to students who demonstrate readiness while providing an alternative eighth-grade mathematics course for other students.
- The Board also discussed double-block mathematics programming, foundational-skills support, Illustrative Mathematics, professional development, instructional coaching, and the importance of reviewing student-performance data before making a final decision.
- Z. Martinez offered to arrange an observation of her school's mathematics program and connect leadership with an experienced mathematics teacher and instructional coach.
- No final decision was made. Any change would take effect during the following school year and would require a non-material charter revision.

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

Fiesta for Firsts

The Board continued its discussion regarding the Fiesta for Firsts fundraising event.

- Board members were asked to invite approximately five potential guests or donors, sponsor tickets for guests, or help secure a raffle item.
- P. Simon contacted Touro University regarding the possible use of its West 43rd Street location.
- Touro University requested additional information regarding the event date, expected attendance, catering, and other logistical details.
- P. Simon agreed to connect school leadership with her university contact.
- School staff offered to prepare concise emails and text messages that trustees could use to invite members of their networks.
- Board members expressed support for assisting with invitations, ticket sponsorships, or raffle contributions.
- Leadership will continue planning and provide the Board with event materials and updates.

III. Organizational Soundness

A. BENCHMARK 4: Financial Condition

- Account Balances Reviewed

B. BENCHMARK 5: Financial Management

- ASNY did not present a formal monthly financial report. The report would be circulated to the Board after it was prepared by Accounting Solutions.

C. BENCHMARK 6: Board Oversight and Governance:

NYSED Liaison Visit

- The school's NYSED liaison was scheduled to visit the school on March 26, 2026.
- Trustee attendance was not required, but Board members were invited to attend.
- M. Melkonian and N. Gallagher planned to participate in the visit.

D. BENCHMARK 7: Organizational Capacity

R. Espinal made a motion to Extension of Board Chair's Term for two months.

Z. Martinez seconded the motion.

Leadership reported that L. Rojas's current Board term had technically expired. To provide additional time for her to consider renewal, the Board considered extending her current term by two months.

R. Espinal made a motion to extend L. Rojas's term as a trustee and Board Chair for two months.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

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

IV. Faithfulness to Charter & Law

A. BENCHMARK 8: Mission and Key Design Elements

B. BENCHMARK 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention

Sixth-Grade Recruitment

- Leadership reported that sixth-grade enrollment had not materially changed.
- The school had received **46 applications** at the time of the meeting.
- Univision had visited the school to record new advertising content featuring M. Melkonian.
- The television advertising campaign was expected to begin March 1.
- Additional digital advertising was expected to begin the following week.
- The school was working with Underdog Strategies on telephone outreach, in-person canvassing, social-media advertising, and other recruitment efforts.
- Underdog Strategies reported collecting approximately 20 additional applications that had not yet been entered into the school's online application system.
- Leadership expected to provide updated application figures at the next meeting.

C. BENCHMARK 10: Legal Compliance

Middle School Burglary and Security Update

Leadership updated the Board regarding a burglary at the middle school campus.

- The burglary occurred shortly after the school returned from the winter recess.
- The police responded, and a police report and insurance claim were filed.
- The most valuable stolen items were laptops, including two staff devices.
- School security protocols were activated to protect student information, and the affected Chromebooks were remotely disabled.
- Some devices were subsequently recovered.
- The middle school is located in the PS 30 building, where building access and the primary security system are managed by the New York City Department of Education.
- The perpetrators reportedly entered through a roof entrance and exited through the front of the building.
- Leadership later learned that the building alarm had not been functioning since November.
- PS 30 also experienced property loss during the incident.
- Leadership expressed concern that media coverage did not adequately explain the building's shared governance or the DOE's responsibility for the building security system.

Security Cameras

- American Dream Charter School had installed cameras in its fourth-floor space several years earlier.
- Those cameras captured the available footage of the individuals involved in the burglary.
- The DOE had previously asked the school to remove its cameras because they were not part of the DOE security system.
- The school's understanding was that its cameras could remain until the DOE installed a replacement camera system.
- Following guidance from legal counsel, the school informed the DOE that it would retain the cameras until the DOE system was installed.
- The roof-access gate was subsequently repaired.
- At the time of the meeting, leadership could not confirm whether the building alarm system had been fully restored.

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 6:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
R. Espinal