APPROVED

American Dream Charter School

Minutes

ADCS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

SY25-26

Date and Time
Monday May 18, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Location
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3880187236

Meeting ID: 892 3909 4103

Trustees Present
L. Rojas (remote), P. Simon (remote), R. Espinal (remote), Z. Martinez (remote)

Trustees Absent
A. Cabrera

Guests Present
M. Melkonian (remote), N. Gallagher (remote), 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 May 18, 2026 at 5:34 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

L. Rojas made a motion to approve the minutes from ADCS Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting on 04-20-26.
R. Espinal seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Educational Success

A. Benchmark 1: Student Performance

B. Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning

The Board discussed Teacher Appreciation Week, which was celebrated across both campuses.
Highlights included:

- Daily appreciation gifts for staff.
- Catered meals and refreshments.
- Personalized tokens of gratitude.

Leadership noted positive feedback from faculty, including comments from teachers who shared that this was the first school where they received daily recognition during Teacher Appreciation Week.

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

III. Organizational Soundness

A. BENCHMARK 4: Financial Condition

Account balances given by - NG

B. BENCHMARK 5: Financial Management

- Accounting Solutions completed a compensation study comparing the school's instructional salary schedule to the latest UFT salary schedule.
- The school's salary structure remains competitive and aligned with market benchmarks.
- Offer letters for returning and new staff were distributed during the previous week.

- Accounting Solutions will attend the June board meeting to present the proposed 2026-2027 operating budget.

C. BENCHMARK 6: Board Oversight and Governance:

R. Espinal made a motion to To renew Luz Maria's Board Member Term.
P. Simon seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. BENCHMARK 7: Organizational Capacity

The current sixth-grade class is under-enrolled

- Typical sixth-grade enrollment is approximately 85 students.
- The current sixth-grade cohort has 63 students.
- This cohort will become next year’s seventh-grade class.
- Early application data indicates that lower enrollment trends are likely to continue for the incoming sixth-grade class.

Program Adjustments
To address enrollment-related budget pressures, several modifications are being implemented in the middle school program.

Spanish Co-Teaching Model
Since the school’s founding, seventh- and eighth-grade Spanish classes have been co-taught.

After reviewing student needs:

- Leadership determined that no students currently require foreign language IEP services.
- Beginning next school year, Spanish classes in grades 7 and 8 will be staffed by one teacher instead of two.

Operations Staffing Changes
To better align staffing with summer operational needs, several operations staff positions will transition from 12-month to 11-month contracts.
Rationale

- July workload does not justify full staffing levels.
- Summer operations will be covered by a streamlined team.

Summer Staffing Plan
At the high school campus, July staffing will include:

- Operations Manager
- One Administrative Assistant

- One School Aide

Approximately five operations staff members are affected by this change. Leadership noted that:

- All impacted employees still received salary increases.
- However, total annual compensation is lower because contracts cover 11 months instead of 12.
- Staff members have responded professionally, though leadership recognizes the financial impact.

Offer letters have been distributed, and signed contracts will provide a clearer indication of retention.

IV. Faithfulness to Charter & Law

A. BENCHMARK 8: Mission and Key Design Elements

B. BENCHMARK 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention

Current Enrollment: 556 Total:

- 7th - 83
- 8th - 82
- 9th - 84
- 10th - 89
- 11th - 86

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 6:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
L. Rojas