



Anser Charter School

Anser Charter School Board of Directors

Minutes

April 22 2025 Anser Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday April 22, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

Anser Charter School

Anser's Mission is to educate the whole child in a collaborative learning community where individuals are inspired to be self-motivated and to feel a sense of connection and responsibility to the world.

Anser's vision is to foster learning that imagines a better world and works toward realizing it; set high academic standards; promote creativity, discovery, reflection and balance; embrace diversity; and use developmentally appropriate practices and real-world experiences to educate within a climate of collaboration, community, character, and compassion.

Directors Present

Brian Whitney, Erik Moncada, Hannah Read Newbill, Jessica Budzianowski (she/her), Katie Hanson, Lynne Funke, Roger Stewart, Sarah Butler, Suzanne Gregg, Victor McCraw (remote)

Directors Absent

None

Ex Officio Members Present

Anne Moore, Nicole Pape

Non Voting Members Present

Anne Moore, Nicole Pape

Guests Present

Annie Edwards, Heather Dennis

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

Brian Whitney called a meeting of the board of directors of Anser Charter School Board of Directors to order on Tuesday Apr 22, 2025 at 6:02 PM.

C. Approve Agenda and the Minutes of the Prior Meetings (Action)

Lynne Funke made a motion to approve the minutes from March 25th, 2025 Board Meeting on 03-25-25.

Sarah Butler seconded the motion.

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

Lynne Funke made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Meeting on 04-08-25.

Sarah Butler seconded the motion.

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

D. Opening Crew

Julia Wood, K-5 School Counselor, provided a "Year in Review" report about the school counseling program that she runs. She provided a hand-out that covered the depth and scope of her work including such things as the number of individual counseling sessions completed this year, the number of self-harm risk assessments completed, etc. She provided a very informative and helpful report that the Board might consider using as a template if they wish to require future annual reports going forward.

Siler McCraw, AMS social worker, provided a report about the work she accomplished this year. She provided a hand-out that covered the depth and scope of her work including such things as the number of individual counseling sessions completed this year, her supervision of social work interns, her 504 student case management, and her work with 8th to 9th grade transition. She provided a very informative and helpful report that the Board might consider using as a template if they wish to require future annual reports going forward.

Declan Stewart-Fatzinger, a 7th grade student at Anser and also the AMS student government president, provided an overview of the accomplishments of the AMS student

government this year. He reported that soccer nets had been purchased and are being regularly used and appreciated by students at all grade levels and that a successful spring dance had recently been conducted on a Friday evening. He also provided an overview of future plans the student government has developed.

II. Finance

A. March 2025 Budget Summary (Action)

Brian Whitney made a motion to approve the March 2025 Budget Summary.

Suzanne Gregg seconded the motion.

Special education Medicaid reimbursements appear to be on track to meet the projected target for this year of around \$200,000-250,000. This is a very positive outcome and all Anser staff who are involved in filing for these funds and all of the staff at Bluum who have also worked hard to achieve this milestone should be commended and thanked.

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

B. Approve Emergency Closure (Action)

Hannah Read Newbill made a motion to approve school closure due to snow on February 7, 2025.

Erik Moncada seconded the motion.

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

C. Enrollment Update

Heather Dennis provided an enrollment update for the 2025-2026 school year.

Enrollment is the best that it has been for several years. This year's lottery is the first year since the pandemic where a surplus of applicants remained after all open seats were filled. At this point, it appears the enrollment expansion that Anser has been pursuing over the past 5 years is nearing completion.

All grade levels have been over-enrolled by six students, which equates to two students per classroom. This is not a new practice since by fall there are always a few students in each classroom who choose to not attend.

Returning students increased this year, especially in Anser Middle School. This is a very positive outcome since returning students are critically important to Anser's mission and goals. All faculty, staff, and administration are to be commended for this fine work because students and families remain at a school only when they are happy with the way they are being treated and are pleased with the way their children are being educated. Along with high student retention and an improving lottery pool, teacher retention appears to be strong with only perhaps two or three new teachers being hired for the upcoming school year.

D. FY26 Budget Discussion

Heather Dennis provided an update regarding development of the 2025-2026 budget.

The State has not finalized budget templates for next year so the final Anser budget

remains somewhat in limbo. An 8% increase in health benefit funding will be included for next year. The number of staff who chose to participate in the program was greater than projected last year so for next year the increase is necessary. Thus far, the budget numbers look positive concerning Anser meeting its loan covenants next year. This is a very positive outcome and it is a direct result of the hard work of Anser staff, the Finance Committee, the Board, and staff at Bluum.

E. Approve FY26 Salary Schedule

Brian Whitney made a motion to approve FY26 salary schedule.

Sarah Butler seconded the motion.

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

Heather Dennis, Anne Moore, and Nicole Pape reported that faculty were overall pleased with the 2025-2026 salary schedule. Anne reported that there were some questions and those are being answered. The goal of everyone receiving at least a 3% raise was accomplished and some received more because of the state-required shift to career ladder funding. Because of the shift, the total cost to Anser for salary increases for next year were \$80,000 more than if everyone had received only a 3% raise.

F. Approve FY26 Executive Director Contract (Action)

Hannah Read Newbill made a motion to approve Renee Bade as Anser Executive Director for FY26.

Erik Moncada seconded the motion.

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

III. Organization Integrity

A. Federal Executive Orders

Heather Dennis provided slides with links to the recent presidential Executive Orders.

She reported that she had shared these with staff also. She stated that all staff have been informed of all relevant orders impacting them and that Anser remains in alignment with current guidelines.

IV. Strategic Planning

A. Succession Planning

Brian Whitney provided a brief update on succession planning. Since an executive director has been hired, what is now needed is to begin the work of the transition committee. Members will be finalized and a scope and sequence of work will be finalized in the near future.

B. Board Strategic Planning

Brian Whitney asked all Board members involved in subcommittees to work with their groups to send 3-5 essential questions to the Board by May 9, 2025. In addition to the questions, the Board would appreciate when in the calendar year each question will be answered.

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

The June 10, 2025 Board meeting will be at 6 pm instead of its usual daytime meeting. There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roger Stewart