



Anser Charter School

Anser Charter School Board of Directors

Minutes

May 20th, 2025 Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday May 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM

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 (remote), Lynne Funke, Roger Stewart, Sarah Butler, Sasha Rojas Zaragoza, Suzanne Gregg, Victor McCraw

Directors Absent

None

Ex Officio Members Present

Destin Tonkin, Nicole Pape

Non Voting Members Present

Destin Tonkin, Nicole Pape

Guests Present

Annie Edwards, Heather Dennis, Renee Bade

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 May 20, 2025 at 6:02 PM.

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

Hannah Read Newbill made a motion to approve the minutes from April 22 2025 Anser Board Meeting on 04-22-25.

Lynne Funke seconded the motion.

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

D. Opening Crew

All attendees shared highlights and positive moments from this past school year.

II. Finance

A. Draft Budget Review

Note: For some odd reason the minutes window in Board on Track is not showing the right IIIA. It should be April 25 Budget Summary (Action). I contacted BOT and they said such an oddity was not possible since the agenda can not be adjusted in the minutes window. I still can't find the proper IIIA so I am going to combine the Budget Summary item with the Draft Budget Review item here.

IIIA. April 2025 Budget Summary (Action):

Annie Edwards from Bluum reviewed the April 2025 Summary Balance Sheet--All Funds. She said that it was an active month but there were no surprises. She reported that Anser appears to be on track to meet their budget projections for the 2024-2025 school year.

Brian Whitney moved to approve the April 2025 Budget Summary. Suzanne Gregg seconded the motion. The board voted unanimously to approve.

IIIB. Draft Budget Review

The draft 2025-2026 budget was reviewed. Annie Edwards from Bluum and Heather Dennis provided detailed information about the budget and how it compares to last year's. Heather provided in the board meeting materials a very helpful Budget Summary Narrative with additional information. The budget includes funds for one additional middle school teacher plus other needed adjustments based on projected enrollments and needs of the school. Annie explained what "Moving" means in the right margin of the Draft Budget sheet. They are notes telling how categories of funds have been moved to different categories so that Anser's accounting system better aligns with the state electronic reporting system. Erik Moncada asked Annie about the capacity to derive statistics that illustrate the impacts of attendance on the budget for the purpose of the Attendance Works initiative at Anser. Attendance Works is an important and highly successful initiative that focuses on optimizing student attendance. Erik was interested in receiving statistics such as the following: How much does one half a percentage point increase in attendance impact the amount of money received by Anser? This is just an example of the sort of information that would be useful. Annie said that she thinks she can provide some information like this. Although this was not an action item, the Board agreed that the draft budget as presented was excellent and reflects the improving financial situation at Anser.

B. Approve FY26 Contracts (Action)

Hannah Read Newbill made a motion to approve contracts for all of the listed people with the exception of K. Olsoe who resigned her position at Anser after the meeting agenda was posted.

Erik Moncada seconded the motion.

Heather Dennis reminded the board that they will need to provide formal permission at the next board meeting for the Executive Committee to be able to approve contracts over the summer when the full board does not meet.

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

C. Approve unpaid leave for Employee A (Action)

Hannah Read Newbill made a motion to approve unpaid leave for Employee A.

Erik Moncada seconded the motion.

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

III. Strategic Planning

A. Board Succession Planning

Brian Whitney reported that he has received board members' responses to the interest survey. The survey was sent to all board members and explored what committees, roles, and offices board members are interested in for next year and the future. Brian had not had time to compile all of the responses since he had just received the last of the

responses in the past day or so. Brian also reported that he will put a board member inventory on Board on Track with member terms, offices, etc.

B. Board Strategic Planning

Brian Whitney discussed the subcommittee essential question templates that were distributed to chairs prior to the board meeting. Subcommittees are asked to adjust them to better align with the scope of work they do and the timelines under which they operate each year. Brian asked that this work be completed prior to the June, 2025 board meeting since the goal is to have them completed by August of this year for use during the 2025-2026 school year. Jessica Budzianowski suggested that the board needs a better system to announce upcoming events that may be important for board members to attend, etc. Hannah Read-Newbill recommended that these announcements become a regular part of the board agendas, appearing on the agendas in the same location and format each month so members become accustomed to using the agendas as a reminder of events. Roger Stewart, board secretary, will work with Renee Bade, the new executive director, to add this to agendas.

IV. Organization Integrity

A. Enrollment/Weighted Lottery Policy Discussion

Heather Dennis explained her rationale for bringing this item to the board's attention. Anser's student profile has changed since the weighted lottery was instituted. Low socio-economic status students increased to 31% of the student population during the 2024-2025 school year. She anticipates that it will continue to increase for the 2025-2026 school year since the weighted lottery was in force during the most recent lottery. The goal when the weighted lottery was started was to have Anser better reflect the demographics of the Boise School District. Heather posed the question to the board whether or not they wanted to adjust the lottery weights. She said the decision needs to be made by October so that the lottery software company can have the necessary time to adjust Anser's lottery to reflect the changes to the weights. Nicole Pape asked who was going to take a closer look at this issue. Perhaps a committee? Discussion ensued concerning the ramifications of no change to the weights, changes to the weights, etc. Destin Tonkin suggested that the Education Committee would be a good place for the more in-depth look into this matter to occur. She said she would take the matter up with the Education Committee and provide additional data that will help shed light on the decision to be made.

B. Legislative Update

Heather Dennis presented a summary of important legislative changes impacting Anser. She provided a slide deck that presents additional details. In aggregate, there were many policy changes this past legislative session that will require policy changes at Anser. The governance committee will need to begin work on these as soon as possible since the changes will go into effect for the upcoming school year.

C. Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(b)

Brian Whitney made a motion to amend the agenda to remove the executive session since it is no longer needed.

Hannah Read Newbill seconded the motion.

When the agenda was developed and prior to posting it to the public, there was a need for an executive session. After posting the agenda to the public, circumstances changed and there was no longer a need.

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

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 8:31 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Whitney