APPROVED

Anser Charter School

# Anser Charter School Board of Directors

# **Minutes**

## August Board Meeting

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**Date and Time**
Tuesday August 26, 2025 at 6:00 PM

**Location**
Anser Charter School - Board Room
202 E. 42nd St.
Garden City, ID 83714

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Anser's Mission is to e*ducate 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 f*oster 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.

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**Directors Present**
Brian Whitney, Erik Moncada (remote), Haley Bethune, Hannah Read Newbill, Katie Hanson, Lynne Funke, Roger Stewart, Sarah Butler, Sasha Rojas Zaragoza, Suzanne Gregg, Victor McCraw

**Directors Absent**
Jessica Budzianowski (she/her)

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**Ex Officio Members Present**
Anne Moore, Destin Tonkin, Renee Bade

**Non Voting Members Present**
Anne Moore, Destin Tonkin, Renee Bade

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## 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 Aug 26, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

### C. Welcome New Board Members

### D. Approve August 26, 2025 Meeting Agenda (Action Item)

Hannah Read Newbill made a motion to approve the August 26, 2025 agenda.
Suzanne Gregg seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### E. Approve Minutes of June 10, 2025 Meeting (Action Item)

Katie Hanson made a motion to approve the minutes from Anser Charter School Board of Directors Annual Meeting on 06-10-25.
Sasha Rojas Zaragoza seconded the motion.
One grammatical error and one spelling error were noted by members. Board Secretary Stewart said that he would make corrections and finalize the minutes.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### F. Opening Crew

Given that this was the first Board meeting of the 2025-2026 school year, Chair Brian Whitney took the opportunity to provide an overview of the work of the Board for the coming year. He said that last year the Board accomplished a lot of foundational work, and because of that the upcoming year will be focused on building on that work by looking more deeply into Anser's operations to look for efficiencies that need to be retained and leveraged while also uncovering inefficiencies that need attention. The overarching goal of this work will be to better align Anser's budget with actual revenues so the school regains its historically sound financial footing beginning with the 2026-2027 school year. He emphasized that Anser has always had strong results academically ever since it began in 1999, and that it has been a wonderful school for over a quarter century at this point. But because of ongoing enrollment challenges and increased costs, the financial side of the organization has struggled and thus needs immediate attention.

## II. Policy Review

### A. Update Public Comment Policy (Action Item)

Lynne Funke made a motion to approve the updated Public Comment policy as presented.
Victor McCraw seconded the motion.
Executive Director Renee Bade provided an overview of the changes made to the Public Comment policy so that the document reflected changes made to the underlying statute. No discussion ensued because the changes were well executed and required.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## III. Finance

### A. Approve Contracts (Action Item)

Renee Bade explained who was hired. All contracts were for certified staff. The individual contracts cover the following areas: 5th grade STEAM with an art emphasis, special education, and 1st grade.
Hannah Read Newbill made a motion to approve contracts for G. Lagattuta, C. McVey, and M. Cardenas.
Brian Whitney seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## IV. Organization Integrity

### A. Enrollment Update

As of Monday, August 25, 600 students were enrolled. The original enrollment target for the 2025-2026 school year was 617. At one point in August, 647 students had completed Infinite Campus paperwork and looked like they were going to attend Anser. It is necessary at this point to find out why so many families chose to not attend Anser in the last few weeks before the beginning of school. Roger Stewart recommended that an enrollment committee be formed to undertake this work plus other necessary work to help increase and stabilize enrollments for the 2026-2027 school year. Discussion ensued and Haley Bethune recommended that a task force for this initiative be formed first and then after their work is completed the Board can decide at that time if a permanent committee focused on enrollment is needed. It was decided to put an action item on the next regular Board meeting agenda to vote on the formation of the task force.

### B. SY 25-26 EL Workplan

Destin Tonkin provided two handouts that provide details concerning the goals she and the teaching staff have established for the next three years (SY2025-26 through SY2027-

28). The goals revolve around the following themes: character, high quality work, mastery of knowledge and skills, and leadership.

### C. Elect Leon Samuels to the Anser Board of Directors (Action Item)

Leon Samuels' letter of interest and resume were reviewed and discussed. Brian Whitney also provided details about how future board candidates will be brought forward to the Board. The Governance Committee will first receive application materials from applicants for Board positions. They will review the materials and then make recommendations to the Board.
Hannah Read Newbill made a motion to elect Leon Samuels to the Anser Board of Directors.
Haley Bethune seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### D. SY 25-26 Calendar Review

Brian Whitney discussed next steps for the essential questions calendars for each of the Anser subcommittees. Brian stated that committees can make changes to the documents. He said that the documents are probably to the point now where they can be reviewed for items that will be brought to the board at specific times of the year for review and discussion. Board Secretary Stewart said that he would review the calendars for these items and develop a list that can be used when constructing the monthly Board Meeting agendas.

The "Opening Crew" agenda item that has historically been included on all monthly Board Meeting agendas will be reviewed in the future to assess whether changes are needed.

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

Destin Tonkin and Ann Moore left the meeting prior to entry into Executive Session.

The Zoom meeting attendees were checked to make sure only those eligible and/or necessary to the purpose of the Session were present.

Sarah Butler made a motion to enter Executive Session. Sasha Rojas Zaragoza seconded. A roll call vote was taken and all responded Yes. The Board entered Executive Session at 7:22 pm.

Hannah Read Newbill made a motion to exit Executive Session. Lynne Funke seconded. A roll call vote was taken and all responded Yes. The Board exited Executive Session at 7:43 pm.

## 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 7:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roger Stewart