



Anser Charter School

Anser Charter School Board of Directors

Minutes

September Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday September 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

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

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, Haley Bethune, Hannah Read Newbill, Jessica Budzianowski (she/her), Katie Hanson, Leon Samuels, Roger Stewart, Sarah Butler, Suzanne Gregg, Victor McCraw

Directors Absent

Lynne Funke, Sasha Rojas Zaragoza

Ex Officio Members Present

Destin Tonkin, Nicole Pape, Renee Bade

Non Voting Members Present

Destin Tonkin, Nicole Pape, 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 Sep 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

C. Welcome New Board Members

Leon Samuels was welcomed to his first Board Meeting as a member. He provided a brief overview of his background and was welcomed by the Board.

D. Approve September 16, 2025 Meeting Agenda (Action Item)

Erik Moncada made a motion to approve the September 16, 2025 Meeting Agenda.

Sarah Butler seconded the motion.

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

E. Approve Minutes of August 26, 2025 Meeting (Action Item)

Hannah Read Newbill made a motion to approve the minutes from August 26, 2025 Board Meeting August Board Meeting on 08-26-25.

Suzanne Gregg seconded the motion.

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

F. Approve Minutes of September 8, 2025 Special Board Meeting (Action Item)

Erik Moncada made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board Meeting September 8, 2025 September Board Meeting - Special Meeting on 09-08-25.

Jessica Budzianowski (she/her) seconded the motion.

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

G. Opening Crew K-5 Lab Leaders

Anser restructured their K-5 labs for the 2025-26 school year. The crew leaders introduced themselves and provided an overview of how the labs will function this year.

Presenters were Gina Lagatutta, Miranda Haight, April Cox, and Jessica McGinnis. A

new literacy lab component has been added along with other changes. The Lab Leaders expressed excitement about the changes and stated how scheduling and delivery of the curriculum and instruction were already going more efficiently and effectively.

H. ISBA Policy Membership (Action)

Erik Moncada made a motion to approve \$1,125 for a subscription to the ISBA policy library.

Haley Bethune seconded the motion.

Renee presented to the Board about Anser expanding its membership in the Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA). Anser does not currently have a full membership. Specifically Anser does not have access to the ISBA policy library. With the large number of policies needing to be added to Anser's current operating documents as they are revised and the number of new policies required by recent legislation, the \$1,125 cost for access to the ISBA library is warranted.

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

II. Organization Integrity

A. Enrollment Update

Tracy Quissell, Anser registrar, provided an enrollment update. As of 9/16/2025, 592 students were enrolled. There are potentially 3 more students who might be enrolled by next week. 617 was the enrollment number budgeted for this year so Anser is behind its target by 25 students. This has created about a \$225,000 budget shortfall for the 2025-26 school year. When asked what is needed to increase enrollments, Destin responded that wait lists are needed so more people can be contacted with offers to enroll at Anser.

B. Enrollment Task Force Update

Erik Moncada created a promotional video for Anser. It has been completed and Board members were asked to share it on their Linked in accounts and other appropriate places.

Magnetic signs to be placed on buses were found to be permissible and have thus been ordered.

Yard signs advertising Anser are being considered but whether they will be purchased and deployed will depend on their cost.

It was reported that Amanda Neill has been asked to contact local apartment complexes nearby Anser about distributing information about the school.

During discussion a recommendation was made that although the current promotional videos are excellent, future videos and other media need to also focus on academics.

Previously Anser was known in the community for its academics and this should become an additional focus of videos, media, and outreach efforts to promote the school and build enrollment.

C. 2025-2026 Bus Routes (Action Item)

Jessica Budzianowski (she/her) made a motion to approve 2025-2026 Bus Routes.
Sarah Butler seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. Prior Year Student Achievement Data

Destin provided an overview of prior year student achievement data. She and her staff have been diligently working to improve student achievement, including both standardized test scores and key Expeditionary Learning (EL) indicators of learning. She presented a slide deck showing trends in improved performance on most learning measures. She provided details about how specific changes to curriculum and instruction have resulted in improved student outcomes. If current trends hold, this year should result in additional improvements. Her target for student growth is the 75th percentile.

E. RDC Update & Fundraising Roles Discussion

Jessica provided an update on annual RDC goals and activities. She asked Board members to help with fundraising. The RDC has a goal for 2025-2026 of \$127,000. Anser has a 96% attendance goal this year. Last year the school achieved 95% attendance. Much current activity in the school is focused on achieving the goal, and Board members with children in the school reported hearing about the importance of attendance from their children and evidence of staff and students getting invested in efforts to achieve the school-wide goal.

Jessica distributed a table of "Philanthropic Expectations 2025-2026" for the Board, the RDC, and the staff. She requested feedback on the document. She also distributed an "Anser Charter School Board of Directors Pledge Form 2025-2026." She requested that all Board members make a pledge.

She mentioned that the Board agreed to conduct a community experience activity or participate in one. To this end, she said that she would send out a survey for Board members to complete asking what type of community service activity they would like to be part of.

III. Policy Review

A. DRAFT Anser Flags and Banners Policy

Pursuant to meeting the requirements of Idaho Code 33-143 concerning flags and banners displayed in schools, a first reading of a policy occurred at this meeting and a vote will be taken on the policy at the next monthly Board meeting.

B. Anser Personnel Policies (Action)

Brian Whitney made a motion to approve the employee manual as presented pending recommendations from legal counsel and with vacation payout policy removed and proofreading completed.

Haley Bethune seconded the motion.

Renee brought to the attention of the Board that the employee manual had not been updated since 2017 and was missing important policies and guidance. One policy in particular has to do with how accrued vacation days are paid out to employees upon their separating from Anser employment. Currently it is everyone who is eligible for this benefit no matter how long they worked for Anser or the circumstances around their separation. It is important to note that only 5 current positions at Anser are structured in such a way to accrue sick leave, so this issue is not one that impacts all Anser employees. Discussion ensued about what policy would be fair to employees and also affordable for Anser. No final policy was arrived at concerning this matter. Sarah mentioned that no matter what particular number of days is agreed upon in the end and what conditions have to be met to be eligible for payout, Anser needs to begin expensing accrued vacation days on the balance sheet because it is a liability that needs to be reflected in the accounting documents.

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

IV. Finance

A. Finance Update

Sarah provided a brief finance update. Anser is running a current budget deficit of roughly \$225,000. The reduction from \$800 to \$700 per month per employee who joined Anser's health insurance program netted about \$24,000 of total savings for the year instead of the much larger anticipated amount of savings. This was due to 58 people signing on to the insurance for 2025-2026 instead of the budgeted for number of 48 people. The Board will take up the issue of where to make budget cuts at the next monthly Board meeting.

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

Brian Whitney made a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(b).

Hannah Read Newbill seconded the motion.

The Board entered Executive Session at 8:47 pm.

At the conclusion of the session, Brian Whitney moved to exit the Executive Session pursuant to Idaho Code 74-206 (1)(b). Erik Moncada seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to exit Executive Session at 8:55 pm. No action by the Board was needed as a consequence of the session.

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

Roll Call

Sarah Butler	Aye
Roger Stewart	Aye
Sasha Rojas Zaragoza	Absent
Brian Whitney	Aye
Hannah Read Newbill	Aye

Roll Call

Victor McCraw	Aye
Erik Moncada	Aye
Haley Bethune	Aye
Leon Samuels	Aye
Suzanne Gregg	Aye
Katie Hanson	Aye
Lynne Funke	Absent
Jessica Budzianowski (she/her)	Aye

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Brian Whitney made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 pm.

Roger Stewart seconded the motion.

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Roger Stewart