

Desert Sands Charter High School

Minutes

Operated by Desert Sands Charter High School, Inc.

A California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation

Date and Time

Wednesday September 16, 2020 at 1:00 PM

Location

Conference Line: (661) 249-6805 Code:525676

MEETING LOGISTICS

On March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Executive Order allows state bodies covered by the Brown Act to hold public meetings via teleconferencing. The public is encouraged to participate in the meeting telephonically by dialing the conference line listed above and may submit written comments for prior consideration to the board members. Comments can be submitted to vmendoza@dschs.org. Public comment on the day of the meeting can also be given during the "Public Comment" section of the meeting agenda.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY

Please see the "Accommodations" notice below.

REMINDER

As required by state law (SB 126), this meeting will be audio recorded and posted on the charter school's website.

Directors Present

Dana Clark (remote), James Lott (remote), Marvin D. Smith (remote), Michael R Adams (remote), Ruth Escarcega Newell (remote)

Directors Absent

None

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Michael R Adams called a meeting of the board of directors of Desert Sands Charter High School to order on Wednesday Sep 16, 2020 @ 1:00 PM.

Board President Adams read aloud the notices regarding meeting logistics, accommodations, and audio recording.

B. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Board Member Smith led the pledge of allegiance.

D. Staff Introductions

- Jeff Brown, CEO
- Jeri Vincent, Corporate CFO/Secretary
- Taera Childers, Area Superintendent
- Tanisha Hamberlin, Principal
- Jeff Martineau, V.P. of Charter Relations
- Bill Thompson, Legal Counsel
- Guita Sharifi, CFO, LLAC
- Michelle Lopez, Legal Counsel, LLAC

E. Approve Agenda for the September 16, 2020, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors.

James Lott made a motion to approve the agenda for the September 16, 2020, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Dana Clark seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

- Michael R Adams Aye
- Ruth Escarcega Newell Aye
- Dana Clark Aye
- Marvin D. Smith Aye
- James Lott Aye

F. Approve Minutes of the August 17, 2020, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Ruth Escarcega Newell made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2020, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors. Operated by Desert Sands Charter High School, Inc. on 08-17-20.

Marvin D. Smith seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

- Marvin D. Smith Aye
- Michael R Adams Aye
- Ruth Escarcega Newell Aye
- Dana Clark Aye
- James Lott Aye

II. Consent Agenda

A. Consent Agenda

Board President Adams asked if anyone would like to discuss any of the items on the consent agenda. Hearing none, Board President Adams asked for a motion.

Ruth Escarcega Newell made a motion to approve the consent agenda.

James Lott seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

- Ruth Escarcega Newell Aye
- Michael R Adams Aye
- Marvin D. Smith Aye
- James Lott Aye
- Dana Clark Aye

III. Public Comment

A. Public Comment

Board President Adams read the following announcement for members of the public:

At this time, members of the public may address the Board on any item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board, whether or not the item is on the agenda. If you would like to participate in public comment, you must have signed in before the commencement of the meeting. Also, our teleconference line is open to members of the public who wish to participate in public comment. The time allotted per presentation will not exceed three (3) minutes, except in the case where a member of the public utilizes a translator, in which case the time allotted will not exceed six (6) minutes. The total time allotted for public comments will not exceed eighteen (18) minutes per agenda item, or ten (10) minutes for non-agenda items. In accordance with the Brown Act, no action may occur at this time but it is the Board's prerogative to hold a brief discussion, provide information to the public, provide direction to staff, or schedule the matter for a future meeting.

Board President Adams asked if there were any members of the public who wished to offer public comment. There were no members of the public who offered public comment or submitted written comment.

IV. School Reports and Information

A. Area Superintendent Update

Taera Childers presented the following updates:

- Updated guidelines for serving special education and English Learner students in-person
- Student engagement remains at 80% plus
- Community engagement event with local Sheriff's Department
- Community job fair partners
- Two social worker interns
- Dual enrollment update with Antelope Valley College
- Local food distribution
- Upcoming events: student empowerment conference and drive through graduation

V. Action Items

A. The Board will be asked to approve the Learning Continuity Plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

Taera Childers directed the board to the school's Learning Continuity Plan (LCP) for the 2020-2021 school year and explained the school must adopt the LCP by September 30, 2020. The LCP includes descriptions of the following: addressing gaps in learning; conducting meaningful stakeholder engagement; maintaining transparency; addressing the needs of low income students, English learners, foster students, students with unique needs, and students experiencing homelessness; providing access to necessary devices and connectivity for distance learning; and providing resources and supports to address mental health and social emotional well-being. Ms. Childers reviewed the updates to the LCP that have been made since the public hearing that was held on August 17, 2020. Ms. Childers also informed the board the LCP will remain on the school's website and a copy will be provided to the school's authorizer and the Los Angeles County Office of Education. Ms. Childers recommended the board adopt the LCP.

Board Member Lott requested that the school remain diligent and supportive of the special education and 504 plan students and thanked Ms. Childers and her team for the detailed plan.

James Lott made a motion to approve the Learning Continuity Plan for the 2020-2021 school year.

Marvin D. Smith seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Michael R Adams	Aye
Ruth Escarcega Newell	Aye
James Lott	Aye
Dana Clark	Aye
Marvin D. Smith	Aye

B. The Board will be asked to approve the revised Charter School Accounting Manual.

Taera Childers informed the board that revisions were made to the gifts of public funds section of the school accounting manual to include exceptions for HOPE Program students and an exception in the dollar amount during the COVID-19 pandemic to assist parenting students during this unprecedented time. Ms. Childers introduced Guita Sharifi to provide additional information on this revision.

Ms. Sharifi directed the board to the summary and redline changes to the gifts of public funds section of the charter school accounting manual and explained the purpose of the recommended revisions.

Ruth Escarcega Newell made a motion to approve the revised Charter School Accounting Manual.

James Lott seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Michael R Adams	Aye
Ruth Escarcega Newell	Aye
Marvin D. Smith	Aye
James Lott	Aye
Dana Clark	Aye

VI. Additional Corporate Officers and Board Members' Observations and Comments.

A. Observations and Comments

Jeff Brown expressed his concern about the stress experienced by students and staff and thanked the staff and the board for all their support during the pandemic.

Jeri Vincent thanked Ms. Childers for the HOPE program update and looks forward to the event in October.

Board Member Smith, Jeff Brown and Ms. Childers discussed the communication being shared about the school's program and student challenges with staff at the state level.

Board Secretary Newell thanked Ms. Childers for her leadership and the recent hiring of two social workers to ensure students are receiving all needed support..

Board Member Lott thanked Ms. Childers and staff for their incredible job in supporting students.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Ruth Escarcega Newell made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Dana Clark seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Marvin D. Smith Aye

Michael R Adams Aye

James Lott Aye

Ruth Escarcega Newell Aye

Dana Clark Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth Escarcega Newell

Accommodations. Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations, or translation services, in order to enable all individuals to participate in the Charter School's open and public meetings shall be made by contacting Soliman Villapando at (661) 272-1225 at least twenty four (24) hours before the scheduled meeting.

Non-Discrimination. The Charter School prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on the actual or perceived characteristics of disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, national origin, ancestry, race or ethnicity, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, immigration status, potential or actual parental, family or marital status, age, or association with an individual who has any of the aforementioned characteristics, or any other basis protected by federal, state or local law.

Public Documents. To request documents provided to a majority of the governing board regarding an open session item on this agenda, please send an email request to vmendoza@dschs.org.