

APPROVED

Desert Sands Charter High School

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting

Operated by Desert Sands Public Charter, Inc., A California NonProfit Public Benefit Corporation

Date and Time

Thursday October 26, 2023 at 3:30 PM

Location

Meeting Location: 177 Holston Drive, Lancaster, CA 93535

Or Join Using the Meeting Link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/dl/launcher/launcher.html?url=%2F_%23%2F%2Fmeetup-join%2F19%3Ameeting_ZDNjOWE1MGQtZDMwYi00NDY0LWFIZGUtN2ZmZmZmYTg2MWMw%40thread.v2%2F0%3Fcontext%3D%257b%2522Tid%2522%253a%2522c33f6d28-3425-42a7-8827-d21f10bb2e83%2522%252c%2522Oid%2522%253a%25224e4cd601-0d23-44be-8261-73cdf2e9f610%2522%257d%26anon%3Dtrue&type=meetup-join&deeplinkId=a0d40427-5cb0-4c24-b252-f725cdb6fc05&directDI=true&msLaunch=true&enableMobilePage=true&suppressPrompt=true

Or Call in for audio only:

Conference Line (657) 207-0015 Code: 490 193 272#

MEETING LOGISTICS

The public is encouraged to participate in the meeting in person, or by dialing the conference line or clicking the weblink listed on the posted agenda. The public may submit written comments to the Board by emailing publiccomments@dschs.org. The public may also provide comments 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, James Lott, Marvin D. Smith, Michael R Adams, Ruth Escarcega Newell

Directors Absent

None

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

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

Michael R Adams called a meeting of the board of directors of Desert Sands Charter High School to order on Thursday Oct 26, 2023 at 3:30 PM.

B. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Board President Adams introduced Vanessa Mendoza, who performed a roll call of the learning center locations that joined the meeting via a two-way teleconference line.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Board Secretary Newell led the pledge of allegiance.

D. Staff Introductions

Jeff Brown, CEO

Jeri Vincent, Corporate Secretary

Darin Bower, COO

Shellie Hanes, Superintendent

Taera Childers, Area Superintendent

Mary Reagan, Principal

Jenny Bonilla, Principal

Jeff Martineau, V.P. of Charter Relations

Bill Thompson, Legal Counsel

Guita Sharifi, CFO, LLAC

E. Approve Agenda for the October 26, 2023, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors

Dana Clark made a motion to approve Agenda for the October 26, 2023, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors.

James Lott seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

F. Approve Minutes of the August 31, 2023, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors

Ruth Escarcega Newell made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 08-31-23.

Dana Clark seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

II. Consent Agenda

A. Consent Agenda Items

1. The Board will be asked to approve the disposal of discontinued/obsolete technology equipment.

Board President Adams announced the consent agenda item and asked if any member would like to discuss any of the agenda. Hearing none, Board President Adams asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda item.

Marvin D. Smith made a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

Dana Clark seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Marvin D. Smith Aye
James Lott Aye
Dana Clark Aye
Michael R Adams Aye
Ruth Escarcega Newell 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. The time allotted per presentation will not exceed three (3) minutes, unless a member of the public utilizes a translator, in which case the time allotted will not exceed six (6) minutes. 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. Legislative Update

On behalf of Bob Morales, Bill Thompson provided updates to the board of directors on the current status of the legislature and the ongoing efforts of the LLAC External Affairs division.

Jeff Brown expressed his appreciation for the governor's recognition of charter schools.

Mr. Thompson informed the board that Mr. Morales recently attended the League of Cities event in Sacramento. Darin Bower shared that he also attended the event and discussed his experience.

Lastly, Mr. Thompson informed the board that the film La Lucha was recently shown at LA Live and had won additional awards. Jeff Brown discussed the impact of the film and his participation in the presentation of the movie in Los Angeles. Darin Bower also shared with the board his experience at the LA Live event and the impact of seeing the families and students from the film.

Board President Adams thanked Mr. Thompson for his update.

B. Area Superintendent Update

Taera Childers greeted the board and then discussed the school's ADA, Enrollment, Overall Credit Completion, Core Credit Completion, and 1-year graduation cohort rate. Ms. Childers congratulated the team for the steady increase in core credit completion.

Board President Adams thanked Ms. Childers for her presentation.

C. Principal Update

Mary Reagan explained this school year they are focusing on 1:1 Academic Advisement, High Quality Professional Development, and Literacy with a school motto this year of "discipline over motivation." She shared with the board how the school is supporting student

engagement and increasing credit completion and also reviewed the Fall NWEA testing and growth data.

Ms. Reagan then shared photos and a video of the quarterly student scholars celebration event, the recent Fall Festival and the back-to-school night event, which had over 400 attendees. She then presented about a recent professional development event and school counselor cohorts. She then introduced a new teacher, Kim Martin, who provided a brief overview of her professional background and passion for the school. Ms. Martin then introduced a senior student speaker who shared her journey and how the school's program, experiential learning opportunities, and staff support changed her outlook and that she looks forward to graduating.

Board President Adams thanked Ms. Reagan, Ms. Martin, and the student for their presentations.

Board Member Lott complemented Ms. Reagan's presentation.

Board Secretary Newell expressed her excitement about the increase in credit completion. She welcomed Ms. Martin to the school. Lastly, she congratulated the student.

Jeff Brown commented on the great work of the student presenter and Ms. Martin.

D. Finance Update

Guita Sharifi directed the board to the Hanmi Bank Revolving Line of Credit (RLOC) financial update included in the board packet and reviewed the school's credit amount including the current interest rate of 9.0%, unchanged from the previous RLOC update provided to the board. Ms. Sharifi then reviewed the expiration date, the current RLOC withdrawal amount, and the RLOC covenants ratios as of September 30, 2023.

Board President Adams thanked Ms. Sharifi for her update.

E. Updated 2023-2024 Board Meeting Calendar

Board President Adams directed the board to the revised 2023-2024 regular board meeting calendar located in their board packet.

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

A. Observations and Comments

Jeff Brown commented on the credit completion, one-to-one advisement, and the importance of personal discipline. He praised the program overall and the hard work of the staff.

Jeri Vincent acknowledged the attributes of the students and thanked the staff for their creativity.

VI. Closed Session

A. Adjourn open public Board meeting to go into closed session

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL— EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1).) Name of Case: Selena Villegas vs. Desert Sands Public Charter, Inc. et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. 22STCV24453
2. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION, (Government Code section 54957(b)(1).) Title: Area Superintendent
3. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION, (Government Code section 54957(b)(1).) Title: Superintendent

Ruth Escarcega Newell made a motion to adjourn open public Board meeting to go into closed session.

Marvin D. Smith seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Adjourn closed session and reconvene to open public Board meeting

Dana Clark made a motion to adjourn closed session and reconvene to open public Board meeting.

Marvin D. Smith seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

C. Report of action taken or recommendations made in closed session, if any

Board President Adams stated no action was taken in closed session for the following:

1. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL— EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code section 54956.9(d)(1).) Name of Case: Selena Villegas vs. Desert Sands

Public Charter, Inc. et al., Los Angeles County Superior Court Case
No. 22STCV24453

2. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION, (Government Code section 54957(b)(1).) Title: Area Superintendent
3. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION, (Government Code section 54957(b)(1).) Title: Superintendent

VII. Closing Items

A. Next Regular Board Meeting Date: December 4, 2023, 3:30pm

B. 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

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth Escarcega Newell

Accommodations. All meetings of the Board of Directors are held in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. 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 publiccomments@dschs.org. Documents are also available for public inspection at the Meeting Location noted on this agenda.