

APPROVED

Desert Sands Charter High School

Minutes

Regular Board Meeting Operated by Desert Sands Public
Charter, Inc.

A California Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation

Date and Time

Monday July 26, 2021 at 12:00 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 publiccomments@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

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 Monday Jul 26, 2021 at 12:00 PM.

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 Secretary
Taera Childers, Area Superintendent
Jeff Martineau, V.P. of Charter Relations
Jenny Bonilla, Principal
Bill Thompson, Legal Counsel
Michelle Lopez, Legal Counsel, LLAC

E. Approve Agenda for the July 26, 2021, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors

James Lott made a motion to approve Agenda for the July 26, 2021, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors.

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
James Lott	Aye
Marvin D. Smith	Aye

II. 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.

III. Public Hearing

A. Open Public Hearing

Ruth Escarcega Newell made a motion to open the public hearing.

Dana Clark seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

B. The Board will hold a public hearing to solicit the recommendations and comments of members of the public regarding the Revised Personalized Learning Policy

Board President Adams announced the public hearing opened 12:05 p.m. Taera Childers explained on July 9th, Governor Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill 130 which added a variety of new rules for independent study programs. AB 130 requires updates to our board-approved Personalized Learning Policy and student master agreements.

The Personalized Learning Policy has been updated to include language about procedures for tiered re-engagement in response to student absenteeism, a defined level of “satisfactory educational progress” for students, a provision that every student will have access to connectivity and devices, added documentation requirements, how often parents will be contacted regarding their student’s progress, and a mandated level of live interaction and synchronous instruction for certain grade spans.

The live interaction and synchronous instruction requirements for each of the school’s grade spans are:

- Grade 8: opportunities for both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year.
- Grades 9 to 12: opportunities for at least weekly synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year.

As defined in the new law, “synchronous instruction” means classroom-style instruction or designated small group or one-on-one instruction delivered in person, or in the form of internet or telephonic communications, and involving live two-way communication between the teacher and student. Synchronous instruction must be provided by the teacher of record for each student.

“Live interaction” means interaction between the student and charter school classified or certificated staff, and may include peers, provided for the purpose of maintaining school connectedness, including, but not limited to, wellness checks, progress monitoring, provision of services, and instruction. This interaction may take place in person, or in the form of internet or telephonic communication.

The Master Agreement and Addendum have been updated to include the following:

- The manner, time, frequency, and place for submitting a pupil’s assignments, for reporting the pupil’s academic progress, and for communicating with a pupil’s parent or guardian regarding a pupil’s academic progress.

- The specific resources, including materials and personnel that will be made available to the pupil. These resources shall include confirming or providing access to all pupils to the connectivity and devices adequate to participate in the educational program and complete assigned work.
- A statement of the policies adopted herein regarding the maximum length of time allowed between the assignment and the completion of a pupil's assigned work, the level of satisfactory educational progress, and the number of missed assignments allowed prior to an evaluation of whether or not the pupil should be allowed to continue in independent study.
- A statement detailing the academic and other supports that will be provided to address the needs of pupils who are not performing at grade level, or need support in other areas, such as English learners, individuals with exceptional needs in order to be consistent with the pupil's individualized education program or plan pursuant to Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Sec. 794), pupils in foster care or experiencing homelessness, and pupils requiring mental health supports.

Students typically sign the Master Agreement for the new school year on or before the first day of instruction, which is July 1st in our program. Since AB 130 was adopted on July 9th, 8 days after most students had already signed a Master Agreement for the new school year, this required the school team to reach out to students to obtain a new Master Agreement Addendum acknowledging the changes to the Master Agreement for the 2021-22 school year. AB 130 defined a 30-day grace period from the start of instruction to obtain the updated Master Agreement Addendum. As of today, the school has 96% of Master Agreement Addendums signed and collected. Taera Childers praised the school team for this accomplishment considering the new Addendum was not available for distribution until July 14th.

Taera Childers concluded her presentation and asked if there were any questions or comments from the board and members of the public. Board Secretary Newell praised Ms. Childers and her team for all of their hard work and their success on obtaining 96% of the Agreements.

C. Close Public Hearing

Marvin D. Smith made a motion to close the public hearing.
Ruth Escarcega Newell seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

Hearing no comments from the public, Board President Adams closed the public hearing at 12:11 p.m.

IV. Action Items

A. The Board will be asked to review and approve the Revised Personalized Learning Policy

Taera Childers recommended the board approve the revised Personalized Learning Policy that was shared during the Public Hearing.
James Lott made a motion to approve the Revised Personalized Learning Policy.
Ruth Escarcega Newell seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

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

A. Observations and Comments

Mr. Brown thanked the board for their attendance.

VI. Closing Items

A. Next Regular Board Meeting Date: August 23, 2021, 4:00pm

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

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 12:13 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 publiccomments@dschs.org.