

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

Monday November 15, 2021 at 3:30 PM

Location

Conference Line: (661) 463-5403 Code: 608 189#

MEETING LOGISTICS

This meeting is held in compliance with Assembly Bill 361, which allows flexibility in Brown Act teleconferencing procedures as addressed by the Board under Agenda Item I.E. The public is encouraged to participate in the meeting telephonically by dialing the conference line 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 telephonically 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 Nov 15, 2021 at 3:30 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
Jenny Bonilla, Principal
Jeff Martineau, V.P. of Charter Relations
Bill Thompson, Legal Counsel
Michelle Lopez, Legal Counsel, LLAC

E. Adopt Resolution Continuing Board of Directors' Authority to Hold Virtual or Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361

At the request of Board President Adams, Jeff Martineau discussed Assembly Bill 361, signed by Governor Newsom on September 16, 2021, and explained that the law exempts the board from certain provisions of the Brown Act related to teleconference meetings during states of emergency, as long as the Board makes required findings as detailed in the law. Under AB 361, boards that would like to continue to meet remotely must determine by majority vote whether as a result of the state of emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees. Jeff Martineau directed the board members to the resolution located in their packet and recommended the board approve the Resolution Continuing Board of Directors' Authority to Hold Virtual or Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361.

James Lott made a motion to adopt Resolution Continuing Board of Directors' Authority to Hold Virtual or Teleconference Meetings Pursuant to Assembly Bill 361.

Ruth Escarcega Newell seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

F. Approve Agenda for the November 15, 2021 Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors

Marvin D. Smith made a motion to approve Agenda for the November 15, 2021 Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Ruth Escarcega Newell seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Dana Clark	Aye
Marvin D. Smith	Aye

Roll Call

James Lott Aye
Michael R Adams Aye
Ruth Escarcega Newell 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, by dialing the teleconference line listed on the posted agenda. 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. 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 #1

A. Open Public Hearing

James Lott made a motion to open the public hearing.
Marvin D. Smith 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 Educator Effectiveness Block Grant Plan

Board President Adams announced the public hearing opened at 3:38 p.m.

Taera Childers provided background information to the board regarding the Educator Effectiveness Block Grant (EEBG), a state funding opportunity which will be apportioned to schools to spend from fiscal years 2021–22 to 2025–26. The school will be funded \$204,135 by the California Department of Education (CDE) for the EEBG to be used for professional learning for teachers, administrators, or

paraprofessionals who work with pupils, and classified staff that interact with pupils.

Ms. Childers explained there are two conditions for receipt of EEBG funding: (1) develop and adopt a spending plan by December 30, 2021, which must be presented at a public board meeting before the plan is adopted at a subsequent public board meeting; and (2) by September 30, 2026, report detailed expenditure information to the CDE.

Ms. Childers then reported on the school's two areas of focus for the EEBG funds. Ms. Childers further explained the school will review the EEBG plan and make refinements as needed to align with any organizational changes, school goals, and CDE requirements. The plan will be brought back to the board for final approval at the December board meeting.

Ms. Childers then asked if any board member or member of the public had any comments or questions regarding the EEBG Plan.

C. Close Public Hearing

Hearing no comments from the public, Board President Adams asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

James Lott 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

Board President Adams announced the public hearing closed at 3:43 p.m.

IV. Public Hearing #2

A. Open Public Hearing

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

James Lott 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

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 at 3:44 p.m.

Taera Childers provided background information to the board regarding the revised Personalized Learning Policy that complies with the latest legislative mandates per Assembly Bill 167, which was signed by the Governor on September 23, 2021. AB 167 is a follow-up bill to AB 130 that required the school to revise and board approve the Personalized Learning Policy back in July 2021.

Ms. Childers then reviewed the revisions with the board including the following highlights:

1. Which students must be identified for tiered reengagement strategies
2. As part of the tiered reengagement strategies, clarifying that parents or guardians must be notified within one school day of the recording of a non-attendance day or lack of participation.
3. The timeline for collecting master agreements for the 2021-22 school year, which is no later than 30 days after the first day of instruction in an independent study program or October 15, whichever date comes later.
4. Minor clean-up edits.

Ms. Childers then asked if any board member or member of the public had any comments or questions regarding the revised Personalized Learning Policy.

C. Close Public Hearing

Hearing no comments from the public, Board President Adams asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

James Lott made a motion to close the public hearing.

Dana Clark seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

Board President Adams announced the public hearing closed at 3:48 p.m.

V. Action Items

A. The Board will be asked to 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.

Dana Clark seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Marvin D. Smith	Aye
Michael R Adams	Aye
Ruth Escarcega Newell	Aye

Roll Call

Dana Clark	Aye
James Lott	Aye

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

A. Observations and Comments

Jeff Brown thanked Ms. Childers for her clear report. He also thanked the board for attending the meeting.

Jeri Vincent expressed her gratitude and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

VII. Closing Items

A. Next Regular Board Meeting Date: December 7, 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

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 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.