

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 April 18, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Location

Location:

https://teams.microsoft.com/dl/launcher/launcher.html?url=%2F_%23%2F%2Fmeetup-join%2F19%3Ameeting_MDEyZmFINjAtNTFmMi00N2M1LWE3OTEtNDRkZWQxYmExZGE5%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=95641c77-9293-4d67-9f12-2f8268938100&directDI=true&msLaunch=true&enableMobilePage=true&suppressPrompt=true

Or call in for Audio only:

Conference Line: (657) 207-0015 Code: 737 396 314#

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 or by 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 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 Apr 18, 2022 at 4:00 PM.

B. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Board Secretary Newell 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
Marilynn Jablonski, SGI Teacher
Bill Thompson, Legal Counsel
Adam Miller, Legal Counsel
Guita Sharifi, CFO, LLAC
Michelle Lopez, Legal Counsel, LLAC
Heather Stuve, Director of Special Education, LLAC

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

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. Mr. 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.

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

Marvin D. Smith seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

F.

Approve Agenda for the April 18, 2022 Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors

Marvin D. Smith made a motion to approve Agenda for the April 18, 2022 Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors.

James Lott seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

G. Approve Minutes of the February 28, 2022, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors

James Lott made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 02-28-22.

Ruth Escarcega Newell 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

II. Consent Agenda

A. Consent Agenda Items

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

Dana Clark made a motion to approve the consent agenda items.

Ruth Escarcega Newell 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

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, by dialing the teleconference line or by clicking the weblink 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 directions 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 comments.

IV. School Reports and Information

A. Area Superintendent Update

Taera Childers greeted the board and provided a presentation on the following topics:

Academics:

- Student engagement averaged 89% for learning period 9.
- State testing is in progress and 95% of the required students from the Lancaster learning center have been tested for SBAC, ELA, SBAC Math, CAST and ELPAC.

Student Events:

- On March 14-18, several students attended the Crime Scene Investigation experiential learning Trip to the University of Las Vegas. Students were introduced to the world of forensics and discovered crime scene investigation, forensic science including fingerprinting, lab processing, and more.
- In collaboration with local partners, the school held a H.O.P.E program drive-through event last month supplying parenting students with essential supplies.
- On March 23, the school held its third quarter English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC) meeting. At the meeting, we reviewed the school's LCAP goal updates, introduced the CARE team which includes counselors and social workers, and the student retention team.
- On March 9, students attended the Student Success Kick-Off at Antelope Valley College. The event included a tour of the campus and presentations of the various programs offered at the college.

Upcoming Events:

- April 27 – Spring Festival Open House/PAC
- May 2 – Staff C.A.R.E Celebration Day, a professional development event for staff to analyze and celebrate the progress of their Culture, Academics, Regional Collaboration, and Engagement (C.A.R.E. goals)
- May 11-18 – World War II Hawaii Pathways Trip
- May 23-27 – Senior Week
- May 27 – Graduation will be held at 5pm at the AV Fairgrounds

Ms. Childers then introduced Marilynn Jablonski, Small Group Instruction Teacher. Ms. Jablonski discussed the school's class offerings in Professional Skills and Expressive Writing, and the Performing Arts Club. Ms. Jablonski then introduced a student who shared how the Expressive Writing class built her confidence and love for reading, writing and filmmaking.

Ms. Childers thanked Ms. Jablonski and the student speaker for their presentations.

B. Finance Update

Guita Sharifi directed the board to the Hanmi Bank Rotating Line of Credit (RLOC) financial update included in the board packet and reviewed the school's credit amount, including the current interest rate of 4%, an increase from the prior RLOC update. Ms. Sharifi then reviewed the expiration date, the current RLOC withdrawal amount, and the RLOC covenants ratios as of March 31, 2022.

C. CDE Notification of 2020-21 Annual Determination Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Selection for 2022 Special Education Monitoring Activities

Heather Stuve explained that the California Department of Education (CDE) is required to make an annual determination on the performance and compliance data of each local educational agency (LEA) through the Performance Indicator Review process. Ms. Stuve then explained the CDE has introduced the Compliance and Improvement Monitoring (CIM) Process to replace the previous monitoring activities such as the Special Education Plan. Ms. Stuve informed the board the school received a Compliance Only performance monitoring level for the 2022 school year.

Finally, Ms. Stuve discussed how the school will be monitoring and addressing these areas.

D. Area Superintendent Performance Review Timeline Update for the 2021-2022 School Year

Jeff Martineau directed the board to the summary page and the board-approved 2021-2022 Area Superintendent Performance Evaluation Tool. Mr. Martineau reviewed with the board the performance review process and timeline, and reminded the board the Area Superintendent evaluation is scheduled to occur during the August 2022 regular board meeting during closed session. Mr. Martineau then directed the board to Ms. Childers, who discussed when the board will receive the Area Superintendent's school data and goals for the 2021-2022 school year in advance of the August 2022 regular board meeting. She expressed her excitement for sharing the updated data with the board.

V. Action Items

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

Guita Sharifi directed the board to the summary page overview of the recommended changes to the Charter School Accounting Manual included in the board packet, and reviewed the following recommended revisions:

- Minor spacing and formatting corrections
- Three purchase order quotes for any purchases more than \$50,000 – an increase from the previous procedure of \$25,000
- ACH withdrawal procedures and controls
- Monthly check register review by a school official
- Any purchase order greater than \$25,000 requires two signatures, one of whom must be a Board Member, the second being the Area Superintendent or Corporate Officer

Ms. Sharifi then recommended the board approve the revised Charter School Accounting Manual.

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

Dana Clark seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Dana Clark Aye

Roll Call

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

B. The Board will be asked to approve the Declaration of Need (DON) forms as a prerequisite to the issuance of an emergency permit and/or limited assignment permit for teachers at the School for the 2022-2023 School Year per California Code of Regulations §80026

Taera Childers reminded the board of the purpose of the annual Declaration of Need (DON) forms, which ensure the school's eligibility to apply for emergency and/or limited assignment permits for teachers. Ms. Childers explained this will allow qualified individuals to be authorized to serve in their teaching assignment while they are working towards completing the credential requirements for the educator's assignment. Ms. Childers then reviewed the areas of anticipated need for fully qualified educators, limited assignment permits, and efforts to recruit certificated personnel. Ms. Childers explained the school is anticipating six permits for the 2022-23 school year.

Ms. Childers recommended the board approve the DON form for the school for the 2022-2023 school year.

Dana Clark made a motion to approve the Declaration of Need (DON) forms as a prerequisite to the issuance of an emergency permit and/or limited assignment permit for teachers at the School for the 2022-2023 School Year per California Code of Regulations §80026.

Marvin D. Smith seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

VI. Closed Session

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

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code section §54956.9(d)(1).) Name of Case: Milton vs. Desert Sands Public Charter, et al., San Bernardino Superior Court Case Number: CIVDS1821125

Marvin D. Smith made a motion to adjourn the open public Board meeting to go into closed session.

Ruth Escarcega Newell seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

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

Marvin D. Smith made a motion to adjourn closed session and reconvene to open public Board meeting.

Ruth Escarcega Newell seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Dana Clark	Aye
Michael R Adams	Aye
Marvin D. Smith	Aye
Ruth Escarcega Newell	Aye
James Lott	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 CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION (Government Code section §54956.9(d) (1).) Name of Case: Milton vs. Desert Sands Public Charter, et al., San Bernardino Superior Court Case Number: CIVDS1821125.

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

A. Observations and Comments

Jeff Brown thanked Ms. Childers and her staff for all of their effort. He praised the HOPE program and thanked Ms. Jablonski for bringing a student on to share their story.

Jeri Vincent thanked everyone for their participation and support.

Board Secretary Newell thanked the staff for all they have done.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Next Regular Board Meeting Date: May 12, 2022, 4:00pm

B. Adjourn Meeting

Marvin D. Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ruth Escarcega Newell 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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 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.