

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 May 12, 2022 at 4:00 PM

Location

https://teams.microsoft.com/dl/launcher/launcher.html?url=%2F_%23%2Fmeetup-join%2F19%3Ameeting_NjZmNGlwZjEtOTNhNi00NzkyLTk4NzAtOTljZmU2OThmOGQx%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=81b795e1-b32a-4c27-a5cd-82bf406984ba&directDI=true&msLaunch=true&enableMobilePage=true&suppressPrompt=true

Or call in for Audio only:

Conference Line: (657) 207-0015 Code: 268 508 505#

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 Thursday May 12, 2022 at 4:00 PM.

B. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

C. Pledge of Allegiance

Board Member Smith led the pledge of allegiance.

D. Staff Introductions

Jeri Vincent, Corporate Secretary
Taera Childers, Area Superintendent
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

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.

James Lott seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

F. Approve Agenda for the May 12, 2022 Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors

Marvin D. Smith made a motion to approve Agenda for the May 12, 2022 Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Dana Clark seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

G. Approve Minutes of the April 18, 2022, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors

James Lott made a motion to approve the minutes from Regular Board Meeting on 04-18-22.

Ruth Escarcega Newell seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

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

Ruth Escarcega Newell seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Marvin D. Smith	Aye
Ruth Escarcega Newell	Aye
Dana Clark	Aye
James Lott	Aye
Michael R Adams	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 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. Local Control and Accountability Plan Goals and Metrics

Taera Childers directed the board to the LCAP goals and metrics information located in their board package. Ms. Childers informed the board the data reflects the progress the school has made on Goals 1 through 4 from July 2021 to March 10, 2022. Ms. Childers then reviewed each of the goals, highlighting the following:

Goal 1: Increase Academic Progress – Focus Goal

- Teachers are highly qualified – metric shows a decrease due to the change in how this item is being reported this school year. Ms. Childers informed the board the school continues to hire highly qualified teachers and discussed the recent board-approved Declaration of Need form for school year 2022-23.
- Reading Lexile average – metric had a shift in how the rate is being calculated this school year compared to prior years, which only included the RIT metric; however, this school year, the Lexile average includes both the RIT and grade level equivalency. The 2021-22 data is currently in progress.
- Mathematics quintile average – metric for 2021-22 includes 795 students year-to-date and is currently in progress.
- EL reclassification rate – increased significantly to 16% and well above the state average of 8.6%.
- Credit completion – significantly increased
- DASS graduation cohort rate – still in progress.

Goal 2: Students Will Gain Skills for College and Career Readiness – Broad Goal

- Several categories are still in progress and year-to-date data are exceeding the 2020-21 data.

Goal 3: Increase Student Retention Rate – Maintenance Goal

- Student attendance rate is higher than the previous two school years.
- Suspension and expulsion rates are 0%.

Goal 4: Increase Educational Partner Engagement – Maintenance Goal

- This goal has significantly improved this year and parent-teacher conferences are in process.
- Parents, students, and teachers feel safe and connected at the school's learning centers.

Ms. Childers then requested input from the governing board members on the LCAP goals and metrics.

Board Secretary Newell thanked Ms. Childers and praised her and her team for doing a great job.

V. Action Items

A.

The Board will be asked to approve entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Paraclete High School to provide instruction to students

Taera Childers directed the board to the MOU with Paraclete High School located in their board package. Ms. Childers reminded the board that the school has established a very successful partnership with Paraclete High School to provide enrichment programming for students. Ms. Childers then explained approval of the Student Enrichment and Credit Recovery Program agreement will allow that program to be established as agreed between Paraclete High School and Desert Sands to provide opportunities for students. Paraclete High School and the school will work cooperatively to ensure that the classes offered through the Program meet Paraclete High School and state academic credit requirements, and that all eligible students who enroll and participate in the Program meet state requirements for charter school attendance accounting purposes.

James Lott made a motion to approve entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Paraclete High School to provide instruction to students.

Marvin D. Smith seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. The Board will be asked to approve entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Antelope Valley Union High School District to provide instruction to students

Taera Childers directed the board to the MOU with Antelope Valley Union High School District (AVUHSD) located in their board package. Ms. Childers reminded the board that the school has established a very successful partnership with AVUHSD to provide enrichment programming for students. Ms. Childers then explained approval of the Student Enrichment and Credit Recovery Program agreement will allow that program to be established as agreed between AVUHSD and Desert Sands to provide opportunities for students. AVUHSD and the school will work cooperatively to ensure that the classes offered through the Program meet AVUHSD and state academic credit requirements, and that all eligible students who enroll and participate in the Program meet state requirements for charter school attendance accounting purposes.

Ruth Escarcega Newell made a motion to approve entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Antelope Valley Union High School District to provide instruction to students.

James Lott seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

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

A.

Observations and Comments

Jeri Vincent thanked Ms. Childers for the LCAP update and for presenting the MOUs. She also thanked the board for their oversight.

Board Member Smith asked when the board meetings will return to meetings in-person. Bill Thompson informed the board they do not have a timeline in place yet. He discussed the status of the pandemic and current legislation in place.

VII. Closing Items

A. Next Regular Board Meeting Date: June 1, 2022, 3:30pm

B. Adjourn Meeting

Marvin D. Smith 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 4:20 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.