

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

Tuesday February 20, 2024 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_NzBhZWVjMDUtYWNmOS00ZWJlTlMNGMtODYzZDE2YTlZyY5%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=a61b572f-fc87-478e-8445-4774f2e13b59&directDI=true&msLaunch=true&enableMobilePage=true&suppressPrompt=true

Or Call in for audio only:

Conference Line (657) 207-0015 Code: 556 090 752#

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 Tuesday Feb 20, 2024 at 3:30 PM.

B. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Board President Adams performed a board member roll call and a quorum was established.

Board President then 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 Member Smith led the pledge of allegiance.

D. Staff Introductions

Jeff Brown, CEO

Jeri Vincent, Corporate Secretary

Shellie Hanes, Superintendent

Victor Nardiello, Area Superintendent

Alex Morris, State and Federal Programs Coordinator

Bill Thompson, Legal Counsel

E. Approve Agenda for the February 20, 2024, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors

Ruth Escarcega Newell made a motion to approve Agenda for the February 20, 2024, Regular Public Meeting of the Board of Directors.

James Lott seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

III. School Reports and Information

A. Mid-Year Local Control Accountability Plan Update

Alex Morris directed the board to the 2023-2024 Mid-Year Local Control Accountability Plan (“LCAP”) report located in the board packet. Mr. Morris informed the board that in prior school years, schools were required to report on their performance metrics only once a year through the LCAP. Due to an expansion in LCAP requirements in state law, schools are now required to provide an LCAP mid-year report to the governing school board to ensure progress towards the school’s goals is continually monitored and evaluated.

Next, Mr. Morris explained data and information on the following goals:

- Goal #1 Increase Academic Progress: Metrics show average credit completion increased by 18.5%.
- Goal #2 Students Will Gain Skills for College and Career-Readiness: Metrics show an increase in student dual-enrollment participation.
- Goal #3 Increase Student Retention: Metrics have student’s average daily attendance increased to 92%.

- Goal #4 Increase Educational Partners' Engagement: Community partners increased to 21 partnerships.

Mr. Morris thanked the board for their support and asked if they had any questions or feedback.

Board President Adams thanked Mr. Morris for his report.

B. California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) 2- year Planning Grant Update

Alex Morris provided a presentation on the Community Schools Partnership Program Grant (CCSPP). Mr. Morris informed the board the school was awarded \$200,000 for a CCSPP Planning Grant for school years 2022-23 through 2023-2024. Mr. Morris explained that community schools serve students using a whole child approach with a focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement. Mr. Morris then reviewed the Four Pillars of Community Schools: 1) integrated support services, 2) family and community engagement, 3) collaborative leadership, and 4) expanded learning time and opportunities. Next, Mr. Morris reviewed the budget for school years 2022-23 and 2023-24, the school's needs assessment, and the three areas of focus with the school's progress for each area identified. Finally, Mr. Morris discussed the status of the CCSPP Implementation Grant submission.

Board President Adams thanked Mr. Morris for his update.

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

A. Observations and Comments

Jeff Brown thanked Mr. Morris for his presentation.

Jeri Vincent welcomed Victor Nardiello to his new position as Area Superintendent.

Darin Bower welcomed Mr. Nardiello and thanked Mr. Morris.

Victor Nardiello expressed his excitement to be a part of the school. He shared his history with Learn4Life, where he began as a tutor, then a teacher, and then moving on to the leadership team.

V. Closing Items

A. Next Regular Board Meeting Date: March 4, 2024, 3:30pm

B. Adjourn Meeting

Dana Clark made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

James Lott seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Dana Clark Aye
James Lott Aye
Ruth Escarcega Newell Aye
Michael R Adams 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 3:45 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.