

Damar Charter Academy
Wednesday December 19, 2018
11:30 am
Damar Services, Inc.
6067 Decatur Blvd
Indianapolis, IN 46241

Attendance

Members

Carlos Alexander
Lyle Coleman
Patty Edwards
Tifini McClyde
Karen Snyder
Allyson Strother

Staff

Dr. Jim Dalton
Aimee Brown
Elaine Showalter
Julie Gurule
Cora Collier
Paul Dennison
Ken File
Katie McCoy

Guests

Christina Burdine
Nora Burdine
Haley Wing
Joey Wright

The meeting was brought to order at 11:35 am by Carlos Alexander. Members, staff and guests were welcomed, and all enjoyed lunch. Haley Wing from the Mayor's office was introduced as the new liaison also attending was Christina Burdine (PTO President). The minutes from the October meeting were approved after adding Lyle Coleman to the attendance and correcting the spelling of Allyson Strother's name.

Aimee Brown shared the updates on the Academy. The first semester has been busy with new enrollments, IEP case conferences, orientation of new families and classroom programming. Highlights of the semester have been Spirit Week, the Talent Show and Holiday celebrations. The PTO sponsored a carnival with a parents night out and the first Santa Shop so that students could shop for gifts for family members. The PTO has become a big part of the DCA program with lots of thanks going to Christina Burdine for her great ideas and her planning of the events.

DCA is excited to have 11 different clubs that meet each Friday afternoon. The students enjoy cheer/dance, hiking and board games to list a few. This has proved to be a great structured extracurricular time.

At this time 194 students are enrolled.

Julie Gurule is leading the Sexual Abuse Education class that was mandated for all public schools to have lessons on for grades Kindergarten through grade 12. The classes are a series of sex abuse prevention lessons.

School Safety continues to be a top priority at DCA. Matt Hohman and Aimee attended the IDOE's School Safety Academy Basic Training in November. Other prevention strategies are in place such as two-way radios and installation of intercom and key card access to the two interior doors in the lobby.

DCA continues to hear the expansion need for schools that target the behavioral and learning challenged students. DCA faces challenges that would not meet a financial approved program in other parts of the city. DCA works well with staff from services that can help with the classrooms. DCA will continue to research ways to expand in the state.

Allyson Strother recommends that the school nominate a Teacher of the Year. She is not sure if a special needs teacher has ever won the honor of the award. It is a great way to get national attention to the program. School Administration will follow up and research the criteria for the award.

Haley Wing from the Mayor's office shared an event that will network to find new board members for Mayor sponsored schools. This is a recruit opportunity and will take place March 14th at the Rathskeller from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

The finances continue to be stable and adequately liquid.

Joey Wright has been nominated to serve the Damar Charter School Board of Directors. Ms. Wright has met with several members and attended as a guest at the board meeting. Patty Edwards made motion to approve a seat on the board to Joey Wright and Karen Snyder seconded the motion. All members agreed, and Ms. Wright was approved to join the board of directors.

Members were given a gift for the annual meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 27, 2019 at 11:30 am at Damar Services.