



Board Meeting Minutes

Date and Location

Wednesday April 22, 2010

Meeting Cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

DCA Members were emailed and mailed packets containing

- February 2020 Minutes
- April 2020 DCA Board of Directors Report
- Financials

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 2020 meeting will be approved at the next meeting scheduled for June 24, 2020.

Operation Highlights

The past six weeks have proven to be some of the most interesting in the history of Damar Charter Academy's near decade existence. Locally and nationally, societal unrest and uncertainty is in full swing with each day's latest COVID news report. At the beginning of March, business was usual at DCA with enhanced focus on handwashing, hygiene and sanitizing. Like many, we were shocked by Avon Community School Corporation's school closure announcement on March 9th. Immediately afterward, DCA Administration began developing an alternative plan in the event a closure became necessary.

Within three days, after careful thought and consideration were given to the vulnerable population we serve, the decision was made that DCA would begin utilizing remote learning strategies on Monday, March 16th, and continue until further notice. A meeting was held immediately to communicate expectations with all staff, and parents/guardians were then notified of the closure and subsequent change in delivery of instructional services. The governor's address on March 19th mandated all public schools close until at least May 1st, and in

response, DCA initiated a long-term continuous learning plan to take affect after the regularly scheduled Spring Break ended on April 6th. That plan is fully in place.

Curriculum and Programming

Per the IDOE's requirements, DCA submitted a Continuous Learning Plan outlining the various instructional methods and strategies to be utilized during the COVID-19 school closure. It includes modalities such as paper/pencil, Chromebooks, I-pads, Google Classroom, and Zoom for virtual lessons and meetings. The plan also states that DCA teachers will be available to assist students during normal school hours, Monday through Friday, and that they will communicate with all families twice weekly at a minimum. Though the state has currently issued up to 20 waiver days to Indiana public schools, DCA has chosen to continue remote learning through the end of the regularly scheduled school year on Tuesday, June 2nd, in an effort to support students and reduce the loss of skills due to an extended foreclosure. More information can be found at:

<https://www.damarcharteracademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Continuous-Learning-Plan.pdf>.

Additional family resources for remote learning continue to be shared each week, along with a list of School Food and Nutrition free meal providers. In conjunction with Gleaners Food Bank, generous donations have been delivered to DCA families in severe need. DCA Admin, teachers, counselors, and therapists are continuing to collaborate in order to serve our students, while adhering to the mandates and recommendations set forth by the Indianapolis mayor, the governor, the IDOE, and Damar Services.

Upcoming Events

Graduation: Graduation ceremonies scheduled for May 29th are cancelled due to the COVID-19 challenges and risks. Graduates will be invited to walk through next year's ceremonies if another reasonable date cannot be established.

Prom: The Prom scheduled for May 14th has been tentatively rescheduled to June 11th. However, it may be necessary to further delay the prom further or cancel the 2020 prom. More information will be forthcoming.

Grants/Fundraising

DCA recently submitted a new grant application to the Damar Foundation. If awarded, funds would be used to purchase additional technology for the school, including hardware

such as Chromebooks and tablets, as well as educational software. In addition, this would assist with replacing any student-issued technology that becomes lost or damaged during the COVID-19 school closure. The grant would also enable DCA to be better prepared for any future eLearning days due to weather cancelations or other incidents.

A-F Accountability

With the support of Damar's Lobbyist and contacts in the legislature, DCA continues to provide formal alternative assessment and accountability to the Department of Education for adoption of DCA standards. That process has been slowed by the COVID19 crisis. That said, internal work at DCA and Damar has continued in this regard via small workgroups using social distancing, phone calls and Zoom technology. The superintendent and the DCA controller continue to engage in direct communications and planning with the lobbying firm (Barnes and Thornburg).

Governance

Members may recall from the last meeting progress made toward the formalization of Board Committees. As the Board continues to vet and assign membership to Committees, the following Committees were discussed:

Finance Committee

Focus: Ensures the financial health of Damar Charter Academy.

Academics Committee

Focus: Provides consultation and support toward the school's educational and vocational curriculums and assists in the vetting of new programs.

Governance Committee

Focus: Responsible for ongoing review of Board members, the Board's processes, Board recruitment and Board meeting best practices.

Outcomes Committee

Focus: Supports the development of data reporting toward established school and student goals, monitors and reports trends, monitors the development and maintenance of an alternative assessment model, and ensures the timely assessment of the performance of the EMO and the School Leaders.

It is the expectation that Board members will serve on at least one Committee to support the development and strength of DCA. Members have been given the charge to contact the Board Chair or the Superintendent to discuss interest or assignment. It is

expected that assignments to Committees will occur at the next Board meeting (June 24th).

Finance

For the month ending February 29, 2020, DCA maintained a positive margin from operations of approximately \$73,800. The YTD margin has grown to more than \$245,400 in comparison to a YTD budgeted margin of \$88,600.

February's increase is primarily due to timing of grant reimbursements, adjustments to the State's Tuition Support payments and careful monitoring of expenses by the DCA administration. The higher than budgeted YTD margin can be attributed to a Federal IDEA grant delayed from FY2018-19, which increases grant revenue by approximately \$100,000 this year.

The balance sheet continues to remain stable and adequately liquid.