

### **Date and Location**

Wednesday December 15, 2021  
5:00 PM  
Damar Services, CLASS Building  
5125 Decatur Blvd  
Indianapolis, IN 46241

### **Board Members Present**

Lyle Coleman  
Patricia Edwards  
Amber Fields  
Jordan Maitland  
Sam Moya  
Karen Snyder  
Joey Wright

### **Others Present (Staff, Public)**

Aimee Brown, DCA, School Leader  
Dr. Jim Dalton DCA, Superintendent  
Julie Gurule, DCA  
Cora Collier, DCA  
Octavius Moltan, CFO  
Katie McCoy, Chief Executive Assistant  
Aaron Teeter, Mayors Office

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the October 2021 meeting were approved.

## **CURRENT ENVIRONMENT/ACTIVITIES**

### **Operation Highlights**

Damar Charter Academy will conclude the second quarter of the first semester on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. Educational services have continued to be delivered in-person, and social distancing/mask-wearing have been encouraged per the policy. Parents have been notified in cases where their child MAY have been considered a close contact and told to monitor for symptoms. Per the latest Marion County Health Department guidance, students are not

required to quarantine if the social distancing/mask-wearing protocols have been followed, unless they become symptomatic.

The first special education count of the year occurred on December 1st. This year’s revised enrollment target (due to a teacher shortage of 3 teachers) of 180 students was met, and 176 of those students had special education eligibilities that qualified them for funding. A preliminary breakdown of eligibilities is included within this report. Also included is an estimate of funding by category. DCA is anticipating receiving over 1.3 million dollars in special education funding. As data processing and conflict resolution continues (4 students currently effected), final numbers will be updated.

Funding Category	Public Pupil Count	Nonpublic Pupil Count	Total Pupil Count	\$ Per Student	Funding
APC Level 1	116	0	116	\$9,614	\$1,115,224.00
APC Level 2	56	0	56	\$2,415	\$135,240.00
APC Level 3*	113	0	113	\$500	\$56,500.00
Pre-School (3-5A)	0	0	0	\$3,150	\$0.00
Out-of-State	0	0	0	\$0	\$0.00
*Count possibly duplicated due to the exceptionality, speech services.				Estimated Total APC Disbursement:	\$1,306,964.00

## Primary Exceptionalities Report

Excep.	PW	PK	KG	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	Total
00 Not Applicable	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01 Multiple Disabilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	5
02 Orthopedic Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03 Blind or Low Vision	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
04 Deaf or Hard of Hearing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
05 Emotional Disability (Full Time)	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	3	5	3	10	6	6	0	38
06 Emotional Disability (Other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
07 Specific Learning Disability	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	2	0	8
08 Developmental Delay (Ages 3-8 only)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
09 Language/Speech Impairment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10 Mild Intellectual Disability	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	4	4	3	0	17

11 Moderate Intellectual Disability	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	3	2	6	0	15
12 Severe Intellectual Disability	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14 Deaf-Blind	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15 Autism Spectrum Disorder	0	0	1	1	0	4	2	2	7	3	9	9	12	6	17	0	73
16 Traumatic Brain Injury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17 Other Health Impairment	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	4	2	3	0	15
	0	0	1	1	3	5	6	3	12	7	17	20	35	24	38	0	172

### **Curriculum and Programming**

In conjunction with DCA’s Title I programming and Schoolwide Plan, DCA is hosting a family literacy night Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Highlights will include a movie presentation of Dr. Seuss’ “How the Grinch Stole Christmas,” along with pizza, popcorn, hot chocolate, and gifts delivered by Santa himself. Each family will also receive a copy of the book “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”

As previously mentioned, students are once again engaged in in-person learning. Teachers have imbedded the use of technology, thanks to previous grants, within the school environment, and many continue to use Google Classroom as a method for organizing classroom lessons.

Diploma-track students continue to utilize the online Edgenuity program. Several additional credits have been earned during the first semester, and a full report will be available in January.

Life skills classes are using the Unique Learning System platform and have embedded additional studies of books into their everyday educational curriculum in an effort to combine engaging stories, language arts standards, and fun activities.

The high school vocational program continues to follow the Life-Centered Education curriculum. Community-based instruction and volunteer group work outings have resumed and have included Goodwill, the post office, the grocery store, the BMV, and other volunteer organizations.

Applications have recently been submitted for two high school vocational students to the Project SEARCH program at Community East Hospital. If selected, these students would participate in a year-long training program focused on teaching them specific jobs within the hospital setting, general employability skills, and independent living skills such as navigating the IndyGo bus system.

### **School Safety**

The School Safety Committee held a meeting recently to discuss annual requirements and areas of concern. Topics included monthly safety drills, the back door access to the school, COVID protocols, the development of a backpack policy, and community incidents to be aware of per the School Resource Officer.

### **Leadership/Personnel**

Three teaching positions remain open. Once a teacher has been hired for the open elementary/middle school classroom, the enrollment target will return to the typical 195 students. DCA continues to operate with an enrollment of 180 students in the interim.

DCA was recently awarded a Teacher Appreciation Grant (TAG) by the Indiana Department of Education to be used to reward teachers achieving a “Meets Standard” or “Exceeds Standard” rating on their annual evaluation. It is anticipated that each teacher will receive a year-end incentive bonus of approximately \$800.

### **Grants/Fundraising**

Much collaboration has occurred amongst the DCA Administration, Damar’s CFO, and the DOE’s grant specialists over the past 3 months. Bi-weekly meetings have occurred internally, and several additional calls and virtual meetings have occurred with DOE to ensure DCA is aware of all potential grant opportunities, their application processes, and the requirements of each grant.

In addition to being a first-time recipient of the TAG grant, DCA hopes to be awarded a grant titled “Charter Schools Facilities Incentive Grant: Keys to Quality” which could be used to offset the cost of building rent. Also in process is a federal school improvement grant, which if awarded, would provide an additional \$63,000 in funding.

### **Governance**

The DCA Board Governance Committee is leading the charge to improve Board engagement and efficacy through the development of Board and Committee goals. These goals will be monitored and reported by Committee Chairs at each Board meeting. A draft of proposed goals from each committee is included as an attachment to DCA Board report information. There will

be a period of discussion of goals at the Board meeting and an ultimate agreement and adoption of the goals if/as appropriate. Goals are required to be targeted to the mission and strategies of DCA, are to be measurable, are available to direct data collection, and are reported in dashboard format – Exceeds Standard, Meets Standard, Approaching Standard, or Does not Meet Standard. Any data that does not meet standard is required to have a plan of action/correction provided to the Board.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.