

Date and Location

Wednesday February 23, 2022

11:30 am

Damar Services, Inc.

6067 Decatur Blvd

Indianapolis, IN 46241

Board Members Present

Jordan Maitland

Karen Snyder

Allyson Strother

Joey Wright-phone

Others Present (staff, public)

Aimee Brown, DCA, School Leader

Dr. Jim Dalton, DCA, Superintendent

Julie Gurule, DCA

Cora Collier, DCA

Octavius Molton, CFO

Katie McCoy, Chief Executive Assistant

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the December meeting were approved.

CURRENT ENVIRONMENT/ACTIVITIES

Operation Highlights

Damar Charter Academy began the second semester on Tuesday, January 4th, after a staff professional development day for Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) training on Monday, January 3rd. All Damar staff must pass an initial 40-hour TCI course upon being hired and then be re-certified twice yearly by successfully completing a 4-hour refresher class.

Following the most recent guidance from the Indiana Department of Health (dated 12/30/2021), DCA continues to uphold a mask mandate in order to ease the requirements for quarantining after exposure to someone testing positive for Covid 19.

The second membership count for funding was held on Tuesday, February 1st. The adjusted target of 180 students was successfully met. As previously mentioned, this target may once again increase to 195 students, pending personnel. A review of DCA's year-to-date financials

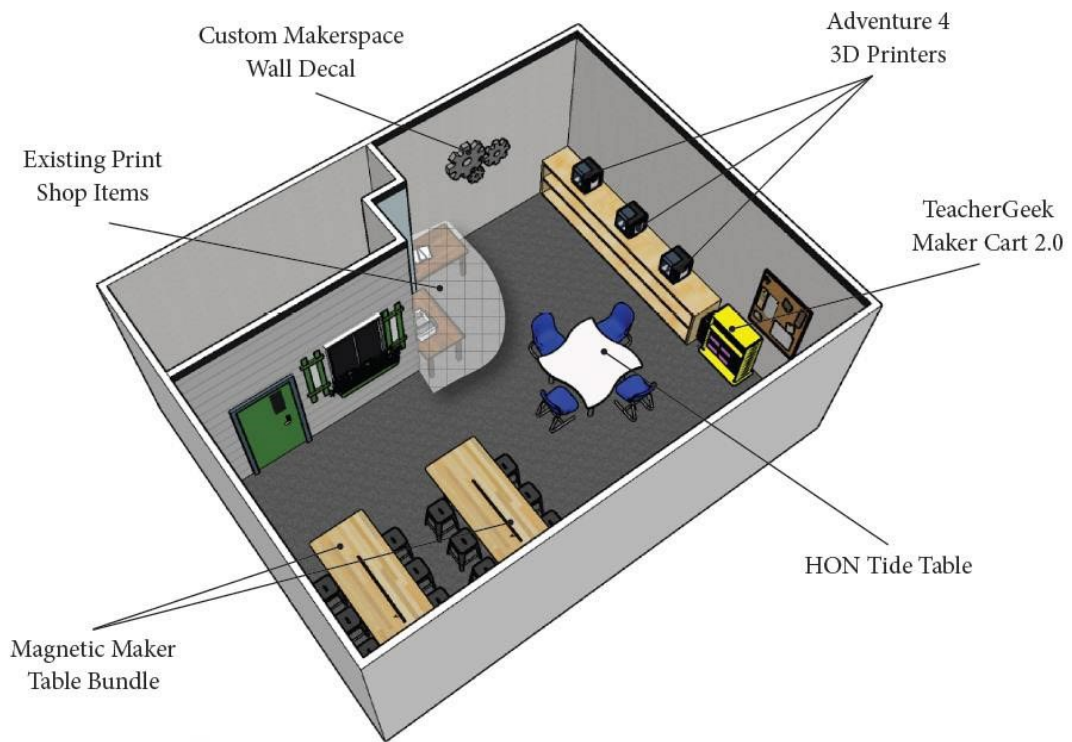
shows that the loss of additional student revenue has been offset by reduced costs for salaries and wages (due to the hiring shortage).


The 2022-2023 school calendar has been approved and is now available on the website.

Curriculum and Programming

DCA's December Title I Family Literacy Night was a huge success! Students and their families enjoyed a drive-in movie presentation, along with pizza, popcorn, and hot chocolate served by DCA staff, board members, and other volunteers. Santa and the Grinch were hugely popular and entertained all those in attendance. In addition, each family received a copy of the book "How the Grinch Stole Christmas." A Title I Family Math Night is being planned for later this spring.

Utilizing funds from the recently awarded School Improvement (SIG) Grant, combined with Title II and Title IV funds, DCA plans to improve instruction in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) through the addition of an official "makerspace" for creative, hands-on learning. An initial virtual meeting was held in December with representatives from 1st Maker Space to learn more about their offerings and to determine whether they would be a good fit for DCA students. A second meeting was held in January at DCA, during which 1st Maker Space reps came out and toured the school and examined the physical areas intended to house the future makerspace and other features, including a large Lego wall. Then, in early February, a team of DCA teachers and admin visited 1st Maker Space on location in Fishers and were able to explore everything they have to offer, from 3-D printers to robots, to curriculum and activities for students of all levels. Following these meetings, 1st Maker Space prepared a proposal for curriculum, equipment, and materials, as well as a design for the former computer lab space that will now house both the Dragon Press (print shop), and the newly created makerspace. Upon DCA's review and approval of the proposal, 1st Maker Space will begin working on the project later this spring/early this summer. A team of teachers will participate in professional development over the summer and will then be prepared to train all remaining teachers on how to use the materials and equipment beginning next school year safely and affectively.



Damar Charter Schools	
Main Maker Space	

School Safety

The School Safety Committee held a meeting first semester 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. Another meeting will be held in the spring.

Leadership/Personnel

As of December, three teaching positions remained open. One of the high school vocational positions has since been filled, and another promising candidate was recently interviewed for the other one. Once a teacher has been hired for the open elementary/middle school classroom, the enrollment target should return to the typical 195 students; however, DCA continues to operate with an enrollment of 180 students in the interim. Additional interviews are being held to fill open teaching assistant and one on-one positions.

Grants/Fundraising

As you may recall, DCA is now in year 4 of 4 for the Lilly Counseling Initiative Grant. Nearly \$75K of the \$100K grant has already been used to enhance career education for DCA students of all levels, through the purchase of curriculum, materials for the various hands-on areas (Dragon's Den, Dragon Depot, Dragon Press, Dragon Workshop, Dragon Boutique, etc.), and a contracted Career Specialist. The remaining funds will be used to finish remodeling (lighting, electrical, sound proofing) the Dragon Press area in preparation for the makerspace.

Approximately \$100K of the original \$150K Damar Foundation Technology grant remains after purchasing a new PA system, laptops for all teachers and admin, and upgrades to the back door entry system. The remaining funds will be used to purchase additional tablets and Chromebooks for students.

Governance

The DCA Governance Committee last met on February 17, 2022. The following agenda items were reviewed and vetted.

Committee Meetings and Committee Goals

The Governance Committee reviewed each Committee's submitted goals as of February 2022. Over the last months, Committee goals were expected to be reviewed in respective meetings and finalized for acceptance by the Board. Goals will be reviewed at this month's Board meeting.

It is anticipated that the Governance Committee will request data on Committee Goals to be submitted prior to each Board meeting to be included in the Board Report.

Board Recruitment

DCA is looking forward to the Mayor's Office sponsored Board Recruitment event scheduled for March 16th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the Tinker House. DCA has participated in this event in the past with great outcomes. The Mayor's Office has done a great job at communicating this event to various companies, firms, and individuals in the community that might be interested in serving on a school's board. Aimee Brown, Jim Dalton, Allyson Strother and Jordan Maitland will attend.

Annual Review/Responsibilities

To ensure compliance with DCA annual responsibilities, the Governance Committee is recommending that all annual requirements move to the end of the school year. These requirements include:

- Board Member Conflict of Interest
- Board Self-Evaluation
- Board Evaluation of the EMO (Educational Management Organization – Damar)
- Board Evaluation of School Leadership
- Re-Election/Re-Appointment of Board Member Terms

Board Member Terms

At the April 2022 DCA Board meeting, member re-election and re-appointments are expected to occur. Board members are requested to consider their service to the Board and their interest in re-election/re-appointment to a new term. Each Board member will be provided direct communication about their interest and intentions in this regard before the April meeting.

Critical Incidents

There has been one critical incident at DCA during this reporting period that requires reporting to the Board. This information will be provided at this month's Board meeting.