

Date and Location

Wednesday April 26, 2023

11:30 AM

6067 Decatur Blvd

Indianapolis, IN 46241

Board Members Present

Joey Wright

Allyson Strother

Brittney Kalmas

Julie Pitts

Sam Moya

Karen Snyder

Others Present (Staff, Public)

Aimee Brown, DCA, School Leader

Julie Fenton, Director of Student Services

Octavius Molton, CFO Damar Services

Katie McCoy, Chief Executive Assistant

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes from the February 2024 meeting were approved.

Operation Highlights

Damar Charter Academy began the fourth quarter on Monday, April 3rd, following a two-week spring break. The last day of school will be held on Friday, May 26th.

DCA's 12th graduating class will participate in a ceremony to be held in the Damar Services' gymnasium on Friday, May 19th, at 6:00pm. A cake and punch reception will follow in honor of the 14 graduates and their families. All board members are invited to attend and support our students and help celebrate all they have accomplished.

One of the most anticipated events of the year, the Damar Prom, will be held on Thursday, May 18th, at 5pm at the CRG Event Center (2499 Perry Crossing Way, Suite 205, Plainfield, IN 46168). Students will be transported via limo from Damar Services and will enjoy an evening of dinner and dancing, while awaiting the announcement of the 2023 Prom King and Queen. Board members are welcome to attend and share in this heartwarming experience!

The second special education count was held on Friday, March 31st. This count was for informational purposes only, not funding.

DCA's annual lottery will be held virtually on Wednesday, May 3rd, at 2:00pm. At that time, all current waiting list entries will be randomly assigned a number via an excel formula and then ranked according to that number. After adjusting for sibling preference, the new waiting list will be established. All new enrollments for the 2023-2024 school year will utilize this waiting list order. Notifications to selected families will begin shortly after and will continue throughout the summer, until all openings are filled. Any remaining students will continue to be on the waiting list for the year until an opening becomes available.

Curriculum and Programming

DCA students have begun taking the state's accountability assessments. IREAD, a reading test for 3rd graders, was successfully completed prior to Spring Break, along with the SAT for diploma-track 11th graders and the WIDA for English Learners. Students in grades 3-8 will be assessed primarily in the areas of math and language arts via ILEARN or IAM (alternate assessment). Results will hopefully be released over the summer and used toward calculating DCA's academic achievement results.

In conjunction with DCA's end of year talent show, a Title I Math Day/Parent Engagement Meeting is being planned for Wednesday, May 24th. The plan is to invite families to join us for a Parent Engagement Meeting to review the goals of the school and provide feedback regarding our School Improvement Plan (SIP) and then join us in the audience to support all of the incredible talent at DCA! Families will also be provided with academic resources to utilize with their children over the summer. More information will be forthcoming as details are finalized.

DCA continues to utilize the following curriculum resources:

- **Into Math/Reading** (elementary)
- ***Imagine Learning (formerly Edgenuity)*** (high school diploma-track)
- ***Life-Centered Education*** (high school vocational-track)
- ***Unique Learning System*** (life skills)
- ***Moby Max*** (elementary)
- ***Learning A-Z*** (elementary)
- ***Google classroom*** (various curriculum for all levels)
- ***Community-Based Instruction (CBI)***

School Safety

The School Safety Committee met on April 24th to discuss any outstanding areas of concern and review safety policies and procedures in need of updates for the next school year. A new backpack policy will be drafted, and other policies will be developed as necessary.

School-wide drills including tornado, fire, and lockdown have all been completed. Concerns resulting from those were addressed at the April staff meeting, and discussion surrounding what to do in atypical scenarios has since occurred and will be communicated to all staff and students.

DCA is looking forward to the installation of a video intercom system for the outside door at the front of the building which would require visitors to be buzzed in from outside, instead of just from within the lobby, thus providing another layer of protection for staff and students. Visiting Damar employees will continue to sign in on paper upon entering the building, and all outside visitors will continue to present their drivers licenses to be run through the Safe Visitors program which provides an immediate check against the sex offender registry.

In response to the frequency of school and other organization/employment setting shootings – especially those that have occurred over the past year - it is noted that DCA's Educational Management Organization (EMO), Damar Services, will be initiating a 24-hour armed officer policy/program for the main Damar campus beginning May 1, 2023. Damar will be moving to a central point of entry/exit to the main campus as a way to increase security and safety for clients, students and employees, and to provide possible deterrence to any individual that may have the motive to cause harm. While there will not initially be an armed officer present at DCA during school hours, the changes at Damar will result in the current safety and security personnel to be more present and involved at DCA. More information will be provided to the Board as these new policies and programs are implemented.

Leadership/Personnel

Amy Thomas has been hired to fill the Teaching Assistant position for the high school girls' vocational classroom.

DCA is in the process of hiring a Title grant-funded Social Emotional Coordinator to provide social/emotional education to all students and serve as a member of a crisis intervention team when needed. The job description is currently being developed, and HR is working to finalize the details of the position.

Governance Committee

Members present

Joey Wright and Aimee Brown.

Having received no additional feedback regarding the draft of the DCA Board Resource Manual, Governance will proceed to finalizing the manual – with availability for final copy distributions to occur at the next Board meeting.

All DCA Board members are invited to attend Damar Services 2-day annual Strategic Board Retreat scheduled for May 17th and 18th at DePauw University. Dr. Sam Moya and Brittney Kalmas are currently planning to attend.

The Governance Committee and the Damar Services Board continue to recruit local/community leadership for the vacant Board seat. The process seems to be taking longer than usual due to the desire/preference to have increased Hispanic community engagement for DCA and for Damar. As usual, Board members are encouraged to provide recommendations or introductions to DCA Board leadership.

Julie Pitts will join the Governance Committee for future meetings.

Finance Committee

Members present

Octavius Molton, Jim Dalton, Lyle Coleman

The Financials continue to be ahead of budget. Total assets for DCA a months end is \$3,086,689.30

DCA Community/Advocacy Committee Report

Members present

Julie Fenton, Amber Fields, Brittney Kalmas and Karen Snyder

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There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 pm.