

DCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes December 20, 2023

Date and Location

Wednesday December 20, 2023

5:30 PM

5125 Decatur Blvd

Indianapolis, IN 46241

Board Members Present

Lyle Coleman

Amber Fields

Brittney Kalmas

Sam Moya

Allyson Strother

Bernice Torres

Joey Wright

Others Present (Staff, Public)

Aimee Brown, DCA, School Leader

Julie Fenton, Director of Student Services

Cora Collier, DCA

Octavius Molton, CFO Damar Services

Katie McCoy, Chief Executive Assistant

Approval of Minutes

A quorum is present and Minutes from the October 2023 Meeting were approved with a date change and a correction on name.

Operation Highlights

Damar Charter Academy will conclude the first semester on Thursday, December 21st.

Students will observe Winter Break from December 22nd-January 8th, returning to class on January 9th. Teachers will have a work day on December 22nd and a training day on January 8th for Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI) recertification.

The first special education funding count of the year occurred on December 1st. DCA will receive funding for the special education students who were actively enrolled on that date. Of the total 181 enrolled, 166 students had eligibilities that qualified. Of those 15 students who did not qualify, some are siblings to students who did, some have not yet been identified, and others have been evaluated but did not qualify. It is anticipated that DCA will receive just over \$1.4 million in funding from this count. The breakdown is as follows:

- 114 Level I funded students @ \$11,104/student

- 52 Level II funded students @\$2,790/student
- 110 Level III (secondary) funded students @\$525/student

School Safety

The School Safety Committee has resumed meetings to discuss any outstanding areas of concern and review safety policies and procedures in need of updates. Discussions with Damar’s Executive Vice President of Operations, Donnie McCoy, have been held to identify potential gaps in the current safety plan and to see about the possibility of having an onsite risk assessment completed. Crisis management plans from both ABA and the residential campus have been shared, and DCA administration will be working with Damar’s communications team to create an updated version for the school. Given recent changes in Safety Specialist availability at DCA, the school will return to having a full time School Resource Officer in early 2024.

Grants/Fundraising

DCA Admin and Damar’s CFO, Octavius Molton, continue to meet monthly. During this time, the budget and financials are reviewed, and all federal and state grants are discussed to ensure deadlines for applications, expenditures, and reimbursements are met. DCA has been awarded multiple grants, including the Title I, Title II, Title IV, IDEA 611 and 619, and COVID relief grants (ESSER I, II, and III). These funds, which target specific areas of improvement and are required to be spent on supplemental activities and resources beyond normal operating costs, have been used to enhance DCA’s program offerings, to provide staff training, and to fund the Social-Emotional Learning Specialist position.

Governance

The Governance Committee met December 2023, 2023, Members include Joey Wright and Aimee Brown.

At the Damar Services Board of Directors Annual Meeting held on November 15, 2023, appointment actions were reviewed and motioned. Damar Services Board appoints annually 4 Damar appointed seats on the DCA Board. The following were re-appointed DCA Board members (In the middle of terms but requiring appointment for another year by the Damar Services Board – Bernice Torrence, Amber Fields, and Dr. Sam Moya. Also note that the 4th appointed seat is now open as, after nearly 25 years of service, Karen Snyder has elected not to continue her term with the Services or DCA Boards.

The Governance Committee acknowledges that beginning 1-1-24, there will be an open, Damar Services appointed board seat on the DCA Board. Diligence and discussions with the Board will occur for plans to recruit and vet for the opening.

DCA Community/Advocacy Committee

The Community Advocacy Committee met December 20, 2023, Members include Julie Fenton, Amber Fields, Brittney Kalmas and Bernice Torres

Members attended the DCA Winter Fest held Wednesday, December 20th

Donations of the Polar Bear Express Hard Cover Books were donated from Insperity, thanks to Amber Fields and Julie Pitts for the hard work in making sure that 200 books were ready for the students and families.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met December 20, 2023, members include Lyle Coleman and Octavius Molton.

Financials continue to meet the budget set for the year. Staff and CFO Octavius Molton continue to meet and monitor the state of the financials.