

DCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes April 23, 2025

Date and Location

Wednesday April 23, 2025

11:30 AM

6067 Decatur Blvd, Indianapolis, IN 46241

Board Members Present

Lyle Coleman

Monique Johnson

Brittney Kalmas

Sam Moya

Allyson Strother

Joey Wright

Others Present (Staff, Public)

Aimee Brown, DCA, School Leader

Jim Dalton, Superintendent

Julie Fenton, Director of Student Services

Cora Collier, Instruction and Accountability Director

Octavius Molton, CFO Damar Services

Katie McCoy, Chief Executive Associate

Kristen Blake, Chief Executive Assistant

Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 AM.

A quorum was present, and minutes from the February 2025 meeting were approved, motioned by Lyle Coleman and seconded by Sam Moya.

Enrollment

DCA's annual enrollment lottery will be conducted virtually on Wednesday, May 7th. All existing waitlist entries will be assigned a random number using an Excel formula and reordered accordingly. After applying sibling preference adjustments, the new waitlist for the 2025–2026 school year will be finalized. Selected families will begin receiving notifications shortly after the drawing, with placements continuing through the summer until all available openings are filled. The remaining students will stay on the waitlist for the duration of the school year.

Parent Engagement

The annual Title I Math Day and Parent Engagement Meeting will take place on Wednesday, May 28th, alongside the school's student field day. Families will be invited to attend an afternoon session focused on reviewing the school's goals and providing input on the School Improvement Plan (SIP). Academic resources to support students over the summer will also be distributed to participating families. Additional event details will be shared as they are finalized.

Curriculum and Programming

For the first time, all students in grades 2 and 3 are required to take the spring IREAD-3 assessment. As part of Senate Enrolled Act 1 (2024), schools must offer summer programming for students in grade 2 who score “At Risk” and grade 3 students who receive a “Did Not Pass.” Schools with an IREAD-3 passing rate below 70% must also employ a literacy coach trained in the Science of Reading. Cora Collier has completed this training and will soon be certified upon passing the PRAXIS exam.

DCA has completed IREAD testing for third graders, as well as SAT testing for 11th grade diploma-track students and WIDA for English Learners. Students in grades 3–8 are currently participating in ILEARN or IAM assessments focused on math and language arts. Results are expected over the summer and will be used to assess school performance.

Ms. Collier has been actively working with academic teams to support curriculum implementation and foster collaboration. Core instruction is now broken into smaller academic groups based on student needs. Vocational training initiatives have resumed, including operating the school print shop, seasonal lawncare, and managing the Dragon’s Den and Dragon Boutique. Three Core 40 diploma-track students who have met graduation requirements are currently completing Work-Based Learning (WBL) experiences, including paid roles at the Indianapolis International Airport and Meijer.

DCA continues to utilize a range of instructional resources, including:

- Into Math/Reading (elementary)
- Imagine Learning (high school diploma-track)
- Life-Centered Education (vocational high school)
- Unique Learning System (life skills)
- Moby Max and Learning A-Z (elementary)
- Google Classroom (various levels)
- Community-Based Instruction (CBI)
- Onsite Job Skills training

School Safety

Monthly School Safety Committee meetings have resumed under the leadership of School Resource Officer and Safety Specialist Jon Komorek. Updates have been made to the school safety plan, and training on new procedures is underway. All state-required safety drills are being conducted as scheduled.

Leadership and Personnel

DCA welcomed Kyle Wolfe to the staff. A former Resource Specialist with Damar Services, Mr. Wolfe has made a strong impact as a classroom assistant, providing academic and social-emotional support to individual students while offering help across multiple areas of need.

Grants and Fundraising

DCA successfully completed fiscal monitoring on several grants. Adjustments were recommended for certain documentation processes, and follow-up tasks are being addressed.

- **ESSER III (\$408,108.36):** Funded wages for nine TAs, the intervention specialist (Kevin Collier), and the Director of Instruction and Accountability (Cora Collier), as well as the purchase of 60 Chromebooks.
- **FY24 Title I (\$45,101.76 + \$6,696.96 carryover):** Covered wages for SEL Specialist Bella Williams.
- **FY23 Sped Part B 619 (\$622):** Funded wages for a Special Education TA.
- **FY23 Sped Part B 611 (\$102,227.72):** Funded wages for three Special Education TAs.

DCA continues to work closely with Damar Services to ensure that all grant deadlines, guidelines for spending, and reimbursements are properly managed. These funds support supplemental activities and services beyond regular operations, such as additional staffing, training, and the SEL Specialist role.

Cora Collier and Julie Fenton recently attended the IDOE Title Con Conference, a three-day professional development event. Information gained will inform upcoming grant proposals, programming decisions, and financial planning.

Governance

Superintendent Dalton and School Leader Brown continue efforts to schedule a meeting with Lindsay Omlor, the new Executive Director of Indiana's Charter School Board. The visit is expected to take place later this month and will include discussions about DCA's potential expansion and a possible change in authorizer.

DCA also remains engaged with the Lilly Endowment's Marion County Public and Private Schools Initiative. A request has been submitted for \$200,000, the maximum allowable based on DCA's size, to support the expansion of its school-to-work pathway. A similar request was submitted by Damar for the on-campus private academy. Both schools have also submitted a concept paper for Phase 3 of the initiative, which offers significantly larger grants for collaborative, comprehensive programming. The intent is to combine grant-funded programs for greater student impact.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 PM, motioned by Brittney Kalmas and seconded by Monique Johnson.