

DCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes October 22, 2025

Date and Location

Wednesday December 17, 2025

5PM

5125 Decatur Blvd, Indianapolis, IN 46241

Board Members Present

Allyson Strother

Lyle Coleman

Dr. Sam Moya

Amber Fields

Bernice Garcia

Brittney Kalmas

Monique Johnson

Joey Wright

Others Present (Staff, Public)

Aimee Brown, DCA, School Leader

Julie Fenton, Director of Student Services

Cora Collier, Instruction and Accountability Director

Dr. Jim Dalton, Superintendent

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 5:00 PM.

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

Operational Highlights

Damar Charter Academy will conclude the first semester on December 18, with Winter Break observed from December 19 through January 2. Students will return to class on January 5. The first special education funding count occurred on December 1. Of 179 students enrolled at that time, 170 qualified for special education funding, with an estimated total allocation of approximately \$1.4 million. Students who did not qualify include siblings of eligible students, students not yet identified for services, and students who were evaluated but found ineligible. DCA will host its annual Title I Family Engagement Evening on December 17 from 6:00–7:30 p.m., featuring family activities and refreshments. Through a generous donation from board member Julie Pitts, each attending family will receive a copy of *The Wish*. Additional gift card donations were also provided by board members, and DCA staff and students expressed their appreciation for the board's continued support.

Curriculum and Programming

Following the close of the 2025 legislative session, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) released ongoing legislative guidance outlining newly enacted education laws, with additional requirements continuing to be issued as further clarification becomes available. These updates align with IDOE's 2025 legislative priorities, which focus on improving foundational math skills, preparing students for post high school success, expanding flexible licensure options for educators and administrators, addressing absenteeism, attendance, and discipline, and prioritizing school safety.

Additionally, Cora Collier, Director of Accountability and Instruction, has been meeting with each of DCA's academic teams to promote cross-team collaboration and ensure curriculum resources are implemented with fidelity.

DCA continues to utilize the following curriculum resources:

- **Edgenuity** (high school diploma-track)
- **Life-Centered Education** (high school vocational-track)
- **Unique Learning System** (essential skills)
- **McGraw Hill Open Court ELA** (elementary/middle school)
- **HMH Into Math** (elementary/middle school)
- **Moby Max** (elementary/middle school)
- **Learning A-Z** (elementary)
- **Community-Based Instruction (CBI)**
- **Makerspace and STEM Lab** (STEM for all levels)
- **Onsite Job Skills**

DCA students will take part in Red Ribbon Week from October 27-31, featuring a drug and alcohol awareness presentation by school nurse Ms. Mackenzie and spirit week activities such as themed dress-up days, classroom events, and raffle prizes.

School Safety

The School Safety Committee convened to address ongoing safety concerns, coordinate upcoming drills, and consider implementation of a new student and visitor sign-in system. Officer Komorek has also arranged a second fire drill in collaboration with the Decatur Township Fire Department to ensure first responders are familiar with the DCA campus and prepared to aid as needed.

Leadership and Personnel

At this time, all positions are currently filled. No changes to the teaching staff (including assistants) or administration have occurred.

Grants and Fundraising

As DCA closes out another grant cycle, the administrative team continues to work closely with Damar Services to ensure all application, expenditure, and reimbursement deadlines are met. DCA has been awarded several grants, including Title I, Title II, Title IV, and IDEA 611 and 619. These funds, which are designated for supplemental programs and resources beyond standard operating costs, have been used to strengthen program offerings, support staff professional development, and fund the Social-Emotional Learning Specialist position.

Additionally, the next round of grant budget applications has been submitted to the Indiana Department of Education, along with a revised School Improvement Plan. The updated plan focuses on literacy instruction, social-emotional learning, and work-based learning, aligning with both school needs and IDOE priorities. Upcoming grant funds will be allocated to support these focus areas.

Governance

The Governance Committee continues to stand ready to guide and support strategic expansion efforts for DCA, which remains the Board's primary strategic priority. With the support of the Endowment's investment and the expansion of innovative programming, the Board anticipated taking action following the Authorizing Committee's decision regarding DCA's potential acquisition of the former IPS #65 building under the dollar charter law.

While DCA was not selected to acquire the IPS #65 building, the Lilly Endowment grant still allows for flexibility and may be applied toward the acquisition of an alternative facility and program expansion. As a result, a recommendation was made to establish a strategic committee dedicated to identifying and advancing next steps related to DCA's future expansion efforts.

Finance

The year-to-date financial results continue to reflect strong fiscal performance. Revenue is currently approximately \$120,000 favorable compared to projections due to an unexpected grant DCA received. Expenses are also tracking favorably, coming in approximately \$11,000 under budget. Overall, these results point to another positive year financially, demonstrating continued sound financial management and stable operations.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM, motioned by Lyle Coleman and seconded by Monique Johnson.