

## **DCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes October 22, 2025**

### **Date and Location**

Wednesday October 22, 2025

11:30 AM

6067 Decatur Blvd, Indianapolis, IN 46241

### **Board Members Present**

Allyson Strother

Lyle Coleman

Dr. Sam Moya

Amber Fields

Bernice Garcia

### **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

Matthew Derringer, General Counsel

### **Approval of Minutes**

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

A quorum was present, and minutes from the August 2025 meeting were approved, motioned by Amber Fields and seconded by Allyson Strother.

### **Curriculum and Programming**

After the close of last spring's legislative session, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) released a guidance document on newly enacted laws, which is still being updated. The 2025 legislative priorities focus on improving foundational math, preparing students for life after high school, creating flexible licensure options, addressing attendance and discipline, and prioritizing school safety.

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 is actively addressing safety concerns. Officer Komorek is overseeing required safety drills and will collaborate with the Decatur Township Fire Department during the next fire drill to enhance emergency preparedness.

### **Leadership and Personnel**

At this time, all personnel returned to DCA after the summer break, and all openings are currently filled. No Changes to the teaching staff (including assistants) or administration have occurred.

### **Grants and Fundraising**

DCA has successfully secured and managed several state and federal grants including Title I, II, IV, and IDEA 611/619 to are used to enhance programs, fund staff training, and support the Social-Emotional Learning Specialist. The next round of grant applications and a revised School Improvement Plan have been submitted to the IDOE, focusing on literacy, social-emotional learning, and work-based education aligned with state priorities.

Additionally, through a joint proposal with Damar's private academy, the Damar Foundation received \$6.96 million from the Lilly Endowment to expand programming for students with disabilities, increase DCA enrollment, develop a new school site, expand vocational training, and grow community work-site partnerships across Marion and nearby counties.

A Board Resolution was presented to the Board Members for approval regarding Damar's schools' interest in acquiring the IPS #65 building. A motion was made by Dr. Sam Moya, and seconded by Bernice Garcia.

### **Governance**

Governance efforts are currently centered on DCA's strategic goal of school expansion, which is moving forward thanks to funding from the Lilly Endowment. The first step involves exploring the potential purchase or acquisition of IPS School 65.

However, currently there is one other Indianapolis-based charter school that has also expressed interest in the same property. If multiple charter schools submit letters of interest, the Indiana

Department of Education (IDOE) will form an authorizer committee to review the proposals and decide whether one school will acquire the building or if multiple schools will co-locate.

Two main factors will influence the committee's decision:

1. Preference for charter schools with proven academic performance, and
2. Priority for schools already operating in the same county

If both parties proceed, the decision process could be lengthy, involving presentations, evaluations, and possible appeals. Damar's legal counsel, Matt Derringer, will attend the upcoming Board meeting to discuss next steps and provide further guidance.

### **Finance**

A financial update was presented to the board members along with a detailed report. It was noted that our current revenue stands at \$171,000, which includes an unexpected grant that was awarded earlier in the year.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM, motioned by Amber Fields and seconded by Bernie Garcia.