

DCA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes April 22nd, 2026

Date and Location

Wednesday April 22, 2026

11:30 AM

6067 Decatur Blvd.

Indianapolis, IN 46241

Board Members Present

Lyle Coleman

Monique Johnson

Dr. Sam Moya

Julie Pitts

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 11:30 AM.

A quorum was present, and minutes from the January 2026 meeting were approved, motioned by Monique Johnson and seconded by Dr. Sam Moya.

Operational Highlights

Damar Charter Academy began the fourth quarter on March 30 following spring break, with the last day of school scheduled for May 29. Graduation for the 15th class will take place that evening at 6:00 PM in the Damar Services gymnasium, followed by a reception for students and families. Prom is scheduled for May 14 at the Damar Villages Activity Center, with transportation provided for students.

The second special education count was completed on April 1 for informational purposes only. The annual lottery will be held virtually on May 6, where waitlisted students will be randomly ranked, with sibling preference applied, to determine enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year. Families will be notified on a rolling basis as openings become available.

The Title I Math Day and Parent Engagement Meeting will be held on May 27, offering families an opportunity to review school goals, provide feedback on the School Improvement Plan, and receive academic resources for summer use.

Additionally, Indiana has introduced a new “Future-Focused” accountability model, which emphasizes key areas such as academic achievement, career readiness, communication, work ethic, and civic and financial literacy. A chart within the board packet outlines high school requirements and introduces a framework in which all students contribute. Leadership explained that this model supports individualized student pathways with unique criteria and may positively impact school rankings.

The Board reviewed recent legislative changes regarding wireless communication device policies in schools. Two options were presented: prohibiting devices entirely or allowing them with secure storage during the school day. The Board reached a consensus that permitting students to bring devices, provided they are securely stored, would be the preferred approach.

Curriculum and Programming

Students in grades 2 and 3 are completing the IREAD-3 assessment, with state requirements for summer school based on results. Schools below a 70% passing rate must employ a certified literacy coach, and Cora Collier has met this requirement.

DCA students are currently in testing season, with IREAD, SAT, and WIDA completed and ILEARN/IAM still underway. Some challenges occurred due to the new IEP system, but the school plans to maintain its current math curriculum.

Academic teams continue focusing on differentiated instruction and consistent curriculum use. Students are also participating in vocational and work-based learning opportunities, including programs with Community East, internships at the Indianapolis International Airport, and paid employment at Lowe’s.

Community partnerships continue to expand, with ongoing collaboration to strengthen employment pathways and support student independence.

- 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)**
 - **Onsite Job Skills**

School Safety

The School Safety Committee has resumed monthly meetings under the direction of the SRO, with updates made to the safety plan and training underway on revised procedures. Required drills are ongoing, and the plan will be updated to include the Behavioral Threat Assessment Team in alignment with recent legislation.

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

Administration continues to partner with Damar Services to manage grant deadlines and funding requirements. These funds support program enhancements, staff training, and the Social-Emotional Learning Specialist role.

Governance

Following the recent board retreat, leadership shared that a consultant will be engaged to evaluate the feasibility of expanding DCA across the state and to explore authorizer options. The organization is considering working with two authorizers, including the Marion County Mayor's Office and the Indiana Charter School Board.

Expansion discussions include identifying a new school facility for DCA, exploring opportunities to integrate an alternative school on the Damar East Chicago campus in Lake County, and considering a community-based school model on the Damar Richmond location in Wayne County. Leadership noted that expansion into other counties outside of Marion County would require increased engagement with the Indiana Charter School Board.

A motion to approve continued discussion and exploration of expansion efforts with the Indiana Charter School Board was made by Lyle Coleman and seconded by Dr. Sam Moya.

Finance

The FY27 budget draft was included in the board packet, with the first column reflecting FY26 as a reference and the second column showing actual expenditures through March. Year-to-date, the school has a \$22,000 loss compared to a budgeted loss of \$50,000, with projections estimating the final loss will be closer to \$30,000. The proposed FY27 budget is similar to the prior year, with revenue projected at approximately \$3 million based on average per-student funding, and expenses increasing by 5%. Overall, the budget is considered conservative.

The budget was presented to the Board and a motion to approve was made by Dr. Sam Moya and seconded by Lyle Coleman.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:48 PM, motioned by Lyle Coleman and seconded by Dr. Sam Moya.