

DCA Board of Directors Meeting/Retreat Minutes February 16, 2026

Date and Location

Monday February 16, 2026

9:00 AM

10201 N. Illinois Street

Suite 600

Carmel, IN 46290

Board Members Present

Amber Fields

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

Kristin McCoy, Executive Vice President of Intensive ID/DD Services

Erin Crick, Director of Admissions/Education Services

Jessica Hartman, Vice President of Clinical Operations-ABA

Kimberly Hollabaugh, Chief Administrator and Vice President of Health Services

Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

A quorum was present, and minutes from the December 2025 meeting were approved, motioned by Brittney Kalmas and seconded by Allyson Strother

Members were welcomed to the retreat with the focus on planning for the future of DCA and the services that will be offered by Damar Charter Academy.

School Expansion

DCA serves 180 students, DCA does have a long wait list that cannot be utilized until a bigger space or more space is available. Staff will continue to look at opportunities to expand.

The board would like to see school services offered in not only Marion County but also East Chicago and the Richmond area.

The Lilly Grant offers the opportunity to purchase a new building, and the leaders of the school raise concerns that the resources available in the current school location will be hard to replace. Leaders also realize the travel from Damar where most students reside could be some safety concerns. Sites that may offer smaller settings were discussed with the main concern being the DCA in Marion County staying the leader in academics.

Review of Lilly Grant Proposal and Expectations

Lilly Grant dollars will lead the way in finding a property that suits DCA students and staff. Program expansion, staff and student expansion will be a priority. Staff will focus on goals for the future.

Facility Acquisition and Real Estate Strategies

Damar is actively looking for space that works for student growth. Areas close to the main campus are mainly in the Ameriplex area. An ideal setting would include resources close to the academy, green space, space for dietary and recreation needs. Student needs on Campus (Freeway), East Chicago and Richmond.

Statewide Expansion Strategy

Staff will continue to meet with partners and authorizers in other areas of the state. Requests continue to come in from schools with special demands for students that do not fit into their curriculums.

Health Services will be a priority in the settings. Building sites will be looked at that can add space for the needs of families and students in the area.

ABA programs will also be part of the plan.

Strategic Considerations

Staff will continue to focus on financial sustainability.

Staff and board realize that with growth will come needs for more leadership and more staffing. With schools in the states closing Damar may have some opportunities to recruit.

Transportation planning, site proposals and staff growth/needs will be presented to the board in the future meetings. The Board has requested visuals at the next board meeting scheduled for April 22, 2026.

Next steps will include the securing of a consultant to assist in vetting school expansion opportunities available to DCA and Damar near Damar's existing campuses and to further vet authorizing options for expansion activities.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm.