

DREAM CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 19, 2024
8:00 AM
DREAM | 1162 River Ave | 1st Floor Conference Room
MINUTES OF MEETING

Trustees Present:

Ashish Doshi (Board Chair), Michele Joerg, Adam Miller, Don Sawyer II (Zoom)

Trustees Absent:

Zainab Ali, Vicki Zubovic

DREAM Staff Present:

Rich Berlin, Eve Colavito, James DiCosmo, Katie Doctor, Crystal Lane, Ali Tan, Danny Auerbach

Guests:

Charlie Howe (Zoom), Liz Rich

Members of the Public Present:

None

Welcome

Eve Colavito, Co-Chief Executive Officer and Ashish Doshi, Board Chair, welcomed everyone. Ashish called the meeting to order at 8:07 AM.

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2024 meeting was made by Michele Joerg, duly seconded by Adam Miller, and passed.

Eve shared an overview of DREAM Big Institute and the DREAM Highbridge Ribbon Cutting. The feedback was extremely positive. Discussion ensued.

Governance

Ashish asked prospective trustee Liz Rich to leave the boardroom, and Charlie Howe was placed in a separate breakout room. A motion to approve Liz Rich and Charlie Howe as new trustees was made by Adam Miller, duly seconded by Michele Joerg, and passed.

A motion to elect Charlie Howe as the treasurer of DREAM Charter School was made by Adam Miller, seconded by Don Sawyer II, and passed.

Ashish shared that SUNY Charter School Institute, Dream Charter Schools' authorizer, requested a small update to the DREAM Charter School bylaws to clarify when video conference participation counts toward quorum during board meetings. A copy of the bylaws with the proposed language highlighted was circulated to the board in advance of the meeting. A motion to approve the amendment to the bylaws was made by Michele Joerg, seconded by Adam Miller, and passed.

Finance & Real Estate

James DiCosmo, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the DREAM Charter School Statement of Activities and FY24 Balance Sheet (as of June 30, 2024). Discussion ensued.

Summer Highlights

Crystal Lane, Chief Education Officer, presented an update on summer 2024, highlighting Real Kids, DREAM University, DREAM Charter High School, and Legends. Conversation focused on new summer programs, including excitement around golf and swimming. The team also discussed the success of high-touch case management support for Legends; this ensures students have a successful transition from DREAM to college.

SY23-24 Student Achievement Results

Crystal and Katie Doctor, Chief Strategy Officer, shared an overview of K-8 and HS achievement data by grade level. Overall, the team is very happy with the results but also discussed areas of growth. Discussion followed, with a particular focus on continuing to excel in translating network-wide structures to teachers' classrooms to achieve results.

SY24-25 School Year Launch

Crystal reviewed the school-year priorities: school leader and teacher development as well as elevating the high school. Eve gave an update on student enrollment; it exceeds budgeted and target numbers. Discussion ensued regarding teacher retention and growing demand at DREAM Charter High School.

Upcoming Dates

Eve noted December 5 at 8:00AM as the date of the next DCS board meeting and shared some upcoming events.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 am.