

APPROVED



# Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School

## Minutes

### SOA VOTE/ED Goals VOTE/Board Training Session

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#### **Date and Time**

Saturday January 23, 2021 at 9:30 AM

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#### **Trustees Present**

Benjamin Hammel (remote), Jessica Bowen (remote), Jill Schafer (remote), Kristin Carney (remote), Liz Saul (remote), Maura Webster (remote), Nicholas Poirier (remote), Raul Porras (remote), Roger Jarrett (remote), Sheila Kelly (remote), Sowmini Sampath (remote)

#### **Trustees Absent**

*None*

#### **Guests Present**

Dr. Darnis Amante-Jackson (remote), Ellen Linzey (remote), Mike Nawrocki (remote), Rick Kamal (remote), Sara Snow (remote)

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### **I. Opening Items**

#### **A. Record Attendance and Guests**

Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson joined the meeting at 10:00am.

#### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

Roger Jarrett called a meeting of the board of trustees of Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School to order on Saturday Jan 23, 2021 @ 9:33 AM. Roger Jarrett reviewed the agenda. The meeting will have two sessions. The first part is an Open Session and is being recorded. The second part will be a training session, that will not be recorded, but live public phone access will still be available.

Also attending the meeting is Rick Kamal, former Board Chair who served on board for five years. and currently serves on Board's Advisory Council.

## II. Education Committee: Recommendation to Approve SOA

### A. Vote to Approve SOA

Ellen Linzey reported on the Student Opportunity Act (SOA). (See attached SOA) The SOA was signed by Governor Baker in November 2019. Each school district was required to create a plan to demonstrate how they would use the funds to support students. AMSA's SOA Plan has already been activated. We are using grant money to support the program since the SOA funding has not yet been distributed.

AMSA's SOA Plan was reviewed by the Education Committee. The Education Committee will recommend that the Board approve the SOA Plan today as presented. Progress on the SOA Plan will be reported in the Annual Report, just as we report our progress with AMSA's Accountability Plan.

AMSA will be offering in-person, on campus learning to a selected group of students who are struggling with the at-home remote learning model. Supervisors will be hired to monitor students as they continue with remote learning but on campus. The school has rolled out a Math intervention Program led by Dave Peters and Tran Trang. Also, AMSA will offer summer school on our own campus, with an AMSA specific curriculum. AMSA has not implemented its own summer school program in the past because in a typical year there is not a big need for credit recovery.

Kristin Carney said they would like to offer these programs more broadly, but they don't know how much money will be available. Ellen Linzey added that they hope to expand the extra support in ELA as well. Once they know the amount of money they will be receiving, they can build the program around that amount.

Liz Saul said the Education Committee will keep track of the SOA annual progress.

Raul Porras made a motion to approve SOA Plan.

Sheila Kelly seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

#### Roll Call

Kristin Carney	Aye
Maura Webster	Aye
Nicholas Poirier	Aye
Benjamin Hammel	Aye
Sheila Kelly	Aye
Jill Schafer	Aye
Roger Jarrett	Aye
Raul Porras	Aye
Jessica Bowen	Aye
Liz Saul	Aye
Sowmini Sampath	Aye

## III. Governance Committee: Recommend to Approve Executive Director's Goals

### A. Vote to Approve Executive Director's Goals

The Executive Director Goals for 2020-2021 have been reviewed by the Governance Committee and are recommending a vote to approve. (See attached ED Goals 2020-2021)

Sheila Kelly made a motion to ED Goals for 2020-2021.  
Kristin Carney seconded the motion.  
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Raul Porras	Aye
Jessica Bowen	Aye
Jill Schafer	Aye
Maura Webster	Aye
Kristin Carney	Aye
Nicholas Poirier	Aye
Benjamin Hammel	Aye
Liz Saul	Aye
Sheila Kelly	Aye
Sowmini Sampath	Aye
Roger Jarrett	Aye

#### **IV. Break**

##### **A. Board Members will Break for Ten Minutes**

Chair called for a 10 minute break and for the board to reconvene at 10:00 for Diversity training with Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson.

#### **V. Training Session**

##### **A. Presenter Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson**

Ellen Linzey introduced and welcomed Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson.  
(See attached slides.)

The goal of the presentation is to support the Board in conversations about what is equity, and what is the path to get there?

What is the road map to get to equity?

What are these forms of oppressions and how are they impacting our families?

Belonging...what is in a name?

Taking time to carve out time to get to know each other is how to get to equity.

A group is a compilation of what we believe, as a group and our own personal beliefs.

DBEI (Diversity, Belonging, Equity, and Inclusion)

Inequity is deeper than race, it is cognitive, social, economic, class, access, ELL, and the oppression of all groups, and it often happens in silence.

The first skill is seeing the inequity and call it by its name.

Can we see it together?

DBIE Roadmap

Belonging is important The biggest skill needed is communication

Diversity is making space for people to show themselves, building a space for them to talk about themselves and tell us who they are. This builds empathy and an understanding of why we have to go on the journey.

Adults who do not feel "belonging" are unable to create it for others.

The Board would like to know how to handle issues related to diversity. There was a strong reaction to the staff training and the Board did not know what to do. The lack of reaction created another reaction.

Some people may not understand the "why" behind the work. They may think the "why" is that AMSA is about checklist...a mandate...or it was the hot thing to do.

Do people actually know why this work is important? Multiple things can exist at

the same time. It is ok to disagree if they agree on the greater good. What does AMSA look like as a school community? Where are you trying to go? Some people will create a narrative of speculation, especially if people do not feel heard. Communication about the "why" should be out there. The journey is about belonging.

Raul Porras said there is a perception that this is a zero sum game. We have to reframe what equity is. The ability to sit in multiple truths. authentically seen, and to be in the absence of bias. The board needs to communicate this. Equity triggers the biggest loss of all, which is asking people to negotiate privilege. Maura Webster said it can be difficult even speaking to others one on one. How do we have those conversations and stay rational?

The agenda is to listen. The work is to hear all perspectives. We have not been taught how to do this well.

All communities experience: Ideology, Institutional, Internalized, Interpersonal  
Ideology is the systemic beliefs that we do not even know that we are swimming in bias all the time.

Every generation is often taught positions that some groups as better than others. Institutional and Institutionalized are policies based in these beliefs. Internalized is when people swallow the unconscious beliefs that come in and out of them...like osmosis...without them even knowing it. Interpersonal is when you spill these beliefs onto others.

Race is fake, but Racism is real. Racism is privilege plus bias. Some policies are made to prevent people from being authentic...culturally. Race is the child of racism. When you understand race, you can understand what is happening. Privilege is not money, it is not having to worry about it everyday. about other cultures.

Board Homework:

"Why" is dismantling inequity. The Board needs to be motivated by whys and be committed to every story being valued. Ellen Linzey concluded with saying she met Dr. Darnisa Amante-Jackson through the Charter School Association. Ellen Linzey said she did not provide the WHY clearly to the community during the early work..

Roger Jarrett thanked Dr. Amante-Jackson for her presentation and asked for suggestions. Dr. Amante-Jackson said she will follow up with Ellen Linzey and send the presentation slides for distribution to the Board and posting with the minutes.

## VI. Closing Items

### A. Adjourn Meeting

Maura Webster made a motion to to adjourn.

Raul Porras seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

#### Roll Call

Kristin Carney	Aye
Sheila Kelly	Aye
Liz Saul	Aye
Benjamin Hammel	Aye

**Roll Call**

Jessica Bowen Aye  
Sowmini Sampath Aye  
Jill Schafer Aye  
Roger Jarrett Aye  
Maura Webster Aye  
Nicholas Poirier Aye  
Raul Porras Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 12:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sara Snow

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**Documents used during the meeting**

- 1-23-21 AMSA SOA Plan 2021-2023 .docx
- 1-23-21 Proposed - Executive Director Goals 2020-21!.docx
- 1-23-21 DBEI Development Presentation.pdf