

APPROVED



# Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School

## Minutes

### Strategic Planning Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Saturday January 27, 2024 at 9:00 AM

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#### Trustees Present

Darren Rose, Dwayne Stanley, Evan Przyborowski, Gregory Theos, Jill Schafer, Maura Webster, Raul Porras, Roger Jarrett, Sheila Kelly

#### Trustees Absent

Bela Gorman, Sowmini Sampath

#### Ex Officio Members Present

Lisa Mobley

#### Non Voting Members Present

Lisa Mobley

#### Guests Present

Christine Crocker, Mike Nawrocki, Padmaja Bandaru, Sara Snow, Tom Azeredo

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### I. Opening Items

#### A. Record Attendance

#### B.

### **Call the Meeting to Order**

Raul Porras called a meeting of the board of trustees of Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School to order on Saturday Jan 27, 2024 at 9:11 AM.

### **C. Welcome and Continental Breakfast**

The Chair welcomed all members, administrators, and teachers.

## **II. Introduction and Reflection**

### **A. Compass Activity**

All attendees participated in a group activity called The Personality Compass, designed to help people better understand each other. The focus of the activity is to choose personality characteristics that define how one leads and/or works with others. Everyone enjoyed the "Do Now" and learned a bit more about themselves and their colleagues.

### **B. Review Accomplishments**

The Board engaged in a review of their past accomplishments

The work done to buy the buildings and finally begin work on the new building is a major accomplishment. The school now owns the buildings and has control over the environment, allowing us to create more academic space and options. The facilities had been one of the biggest challenges.

Another important accomplishment is the work to secure union agreements that allow teachers to keep their autonomy, which is a big key ingredient to AMSA's secret sauce.

Ensuring strength of school leadership was a crucial accomplishment.

Putting a focus on Development was, and is, an important accomplishment and will continue to be a focus of future board goals. It is also important to highlight some of the gains; the Cummings Grant, the Mathworks Grant, and all the internship opportunities that are offered to our students.

The school has done a great job with work balancing academics with students' emotional wellbeing. Initiatives include programs that connect trusted adults at AMSA with students, providing another level of support.

### **C. BREAK**

## **III. Vote**

### **A. Proposed 2024-2025 School Calendar**

Roger Jarrett made a motion to approve calendar.

Sheila Kelly seconded the motion.

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

#### **IV. Strategic Planning**

##### **A. ED Mid-Cycle Review**

See attached presentation.

Dr. Mobley's said her first year would be about listening and learning what AMSA is about.

She has pivoted in some of her original entry plan due to what she has learned from her observations. She has attended school events, met with teachers individually, and has attended most of the events and webinars offered by the Massachusetts Charter Public School Association (MCPSA).

Mike and Amanda are discussing how to manage DEI, moving in the direction of budget neutral.

Goal 1. Director of School Culture, combining the DEI position with responsibilities of the Dean and Homeless Coordinator, expanding on the expectations of the position. The Lower and Middle school will focus on culture for younger kids, introducing the AMSA Way to them sooner.

Goal 2. AMSA is embracing the PLC model (Professional Learning Community) for professional development. The work is being done by individual teachers who then are sharing out with their colleagues.. The plan is to send a few teachers to a PD that focuses on Universal Design for Learning and have them bring these skills to our teachers. Since AMSA is not a one size fits all place, the plan is to work with Department Chairs on specific needs for each department. Can the Department Chairs decide what is best, keeping in mind the needs of the school and the teacher?

This will need another follow up year. the last step will be for each department to pick out those teaching skills that are universal.

Lisa hopes this will result in the creation of a catalogue of in-house professional development that is offered at AMSA by their own, where every teacher has something to offer.

Next year, the January/February PD will be focused on creating the 2025-2030 Accountability Plan.

Celebrating Knowledge is one of AMSA's key charter tenants. The school is creating a new senior recognition opportunity that will recognize those students who excel in their academics consistently throughout their high school years. Discussions with alumni provided input regarding how former students felt they were not recognized for their academic achievements.

Lisa added that she believes in leadership from within and looks forward to assisting and supersizing teachers and administrations in their desire to grow professionally. An example would be a Fellowship experience, where staff can stay within their own district and complete their 500 hours. There would be \$10K stipend per year. Currently there are 5 interested in the program. They have to apply and be accepted before they can start the program.

The administration is looking to find ways to honor teachers. As part of this focus, they have nominated an AMSA teacher for the Mass Teacher of the Year.

Lisa works closely with Liana McLaren to manage the building project, which is under budget now.

They met with Bob Baldwin, who has said if the project costs go as planned, we may be able to roll the 199 roof cost into the project!

AMSA has welcomed Mayoral candidates, and partnered with corporations such as Park Place Tech and CloudWave. Some of our students are working with Dupont. We are looking at our corporate partners as potential Board member candidates.

Lisa attended the Marlborough Rotary and was able to explain how charter schools are funded.

Lisa believes AMSA's secret sauce is our commitment to rigor while providing emotional support.

Alumni reported they were appreciative of the support and connections they received from their teachers at AMSA. She believes that work life balance is one of the reasons why our staff are avoiding burnout.

A big priority is focusing on ways to improve communication. The staff want to know what is going on with the building project. We have made some strides in sharing information.

DESE is offering a pilot program service that is a parent tool that manages aspects of college readiness. Kate Driver is on top of this.

Lisa was excited to share that she has a friend who is opening up a charter school in Rhode Island. and he would like to use AMSA as his model. There would be no financial obligation. This is a great opportunity for public relations and dissemination.

Tuition is our biggest source of income. What we receive is based on how much sending districts spend on their students, referred to as *Above Foundation Money*. Our sending districts are currently spending federal money, which does not count toward district money that is available to AMSA.

Lisa is looking forward to working closely with the MCPSA as they continue their Advocacy work focused on achieving financial equity for charter schools.

**B. Strategy on a Page Update**

See attached Strategy on a Page document.

See attached Strategic Planning Meeting document.

**C. LUNCH BREAK**

**D. Strategic Planning Wrap Up**

The board continued to review the Strategic Planning documents.

**V. Closing Items**

**A. Adjourn Meeting**

Darren Rose made a motion to adjourn.

Maura Webster seconded the motion.

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 1:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sara Snow

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**Documents used during the meeting**

- 2024-2025 AMSA School Calendar 1-04-24.pdf
- 1-27-24 ED Goals-Initial Entry Plan Findings.pdf
- 1-27-24 AMSA Strategy on a Page.pdf
- 1-27-24 BOT Strategic Planning Meeting.pdf
- 1-27-24 BOT Governance vs Management.pdf