



Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday January 9, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

This meeting will be held via remote participation.

The Board plans to go into executive session at the end of open session to discuss strategies regarding negotiations with represented personnel, as doing so in open session would be detrimental to the process. The Board will not reconvene in open session.

Trustees Present

Bela Gorman (remote), Christine Tridente Fahey (remote), Darren Rose (remote), Dwayne Stanley (remote), Evan Przyborowski (remote), Gregory Theos (remote), James Carter (remote), Maura Webster (remote), Stephan Richter (remote)

Trustees Absent

None

Ex Officio Members Present

Lisa Mobley (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

Lisa Mobley (remote)

Guests Present

Liana McLaren (remote), Mike Nawrocki (remote), Padmaja Bandaru (remote), Sara Snow (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

Maura Webster called a meeting of the board of trustees of Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School to order on Thursday Jan 9, 2025 at 6:07 PM.

The Chair announced that the board will go into executive session at the end of open meeting to discuss strategies regarding negotiations with represented personnel, as doing so in open session would be detrimental to the process. The Board will not reconvene in open session.

Board member attendance was called.

The Chair announced that on December 16, Stephan Richter was approved by the Commissioner to serve as a voting member of the AMSA Board of Trustees.

B. Record Attendance

II. Public Comment

A. Public Comment

No public comment.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Financial Statements and Construction Budget Tracking

No further discussion needed.

IV. Votes

A. Approve BOT Meeting Minutes from November 21, 2024

Darren Rose made a motion to approve the minutes with clarifying language added as an addendum to the Capital Improvement Plan as recorded in the Executive Director's Report in the Board of Trustees Meeting on 11-21-24.

Christine Tridente Fahey seconded the motion.

Capital Improvement Plan (Clarifying Language)

The Finance Committee reviewed the draft capital improvement plan which shows an annual investment in capital (i.e. infrastructure, buildings, IT, etc.) of \$200K to \$300K for the next 10 years. The Committee is currently reviewing the plan in detail and will be

modifying the plan as needed. The school has reserves which has multiple purposes: DESE requires the school to hold 2 to 3 months of operating expenses in their reserves, the school's loan covenant also requires the school to hold a minimum amount in reserves, and moneys in reserves can be used for capital improvements and unforeseen expenses. The Capital Improvement Plan allows the Board and the greater AMSA community to have transparency on the school's needs in the short term and long term and will assist with budget projections each year.

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

Roll Call

James Carter	Aye
Darren Rose	Aye
Christine Tridente Fahey	Aye
Maura Webster	Aye
Stephan Richter	Aye
Gregory Theos	Aye
Evan Przyborowski	Abstain
Dwayne Stanley	Abstain
Bela Gorman	Aye

V. Updates

A. Fundraising Update

Evan reported on Fundraising and Development.

1- Reminder: Ribbon Cutting is Thursday, January 23, 2025 at 4 pm. RSVP to Marcy if you haven't yet.

2- We received a \$7500 grant from Moderna toward financial support for uniforms, books, buses, and activities.

3- We have 12 business partners totaling over \$16,000.

4- We had over \$2000 come in for the Annual Giving support in December.

5- We will be rolling out a monthly giving program (\$20 a month) and an alumni giving program (graduating year gifts like \$20.11, \$20.17, \$20.24) over the next month as part of our anniversary planning.?

B. Faculty Representative Update

Grag reported that teachers are wondering what AMSA's response will be to the new law that makes passing MCAS no longer a state requirement for graduation.

Is it still legal for AMSA to require passing MCAS locally as a graduation requirement or should we be looking at another assessment to demonstrate mastery?

Lisa responded that she will be taking about this later in her report.

C. Parent Representative Update

The PTO will be looking for a new Lower School representative to hold the Parent Rep position on the Board. Dwayne will join the next PTO meeting to speak to possible Parent Rep candidates.

D. Executive Director Report

Lisa reported that passing MCAS can be a local graduation requirement and is a district decision.

She will be working on this with the Department Chairs to determine what we would like to propose to the Education Committee and the Board regarding what we want the graduation requirement to be. Also, they will be deciding on what local systems will be in place to get a student up to mastery when a student is unable to pass MACS. There are multiple ways to demonstrate mastery other than MCAS. MCAS Re-tests will only occur to determine eligibility for Adams Scholarships.

Lisa was happy to announce that Brianna Murphy (Dept Chair History) exemplified excellence in her field when she represented AMSA at the National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference.

AMSA new Dean of Students James Fortier is collaborating with the Administrative Team on the monthly Core Values Award. This program spotlights students when they do well. EAch student was nominated by an AMSA faculty member.

Integrated Monitoring Review Special Education and Civil Rights
DESE found AMSA to be in compliance with all Group B Universal Standards monitored during the PSM Review, and no corrective action is required. Special thanks to Special Education Director Lynn Jarvis and Dean of Students Anthony Montesion.

See attached Executive Directors Report for Attendance Rates by grade, Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, Academics On Track by Grade, Behavior, and PSAT scores.

Data-Driven Dialogue

Phase 1: Predict

Phase 2: Go Visual

Phase 3: Observe

Phase 3: Infer/Question

We need to track data and ask "WHY?"

We are not changing curriculum, and we will keep the rigor.

We need to look at what we can do to make sure all our students are on track.

Mike Nawrocki noted that the charts shared with the board are snapshots in time. It is important to keep in mind that some classes did not have all assignments and is the data is not necessarily accurate. When we look at end of year data, the percentages are much better.

Our teachers are good at getting student to where they need to be. The Staff is fantastic at getting it done.

How often does staff review the data? Mike said next year we will be looking closer at the Panorama data and more often. We will be providing the staff with more formal training on how to use this product. Training staff on to gather and read the data. This will help us to determine the root causes of issues. This is a scientific process. Lisa is working on getting data on PSAT.

Due to confidentiality issues, the board will not have full access to panorama, but Lisa can prepare data upon request. The education committee especially.

Board Members' Homework

Review the data individually and in your committees.

Make suggestions about data or submit questions you would like answered by February 3, 2025.

We will dive deeper during our Strategic Planning meetings.

VI. Chair Business

A. Move the Strategic Planning Meeting Date

The Strategic Planning meetings will be held on Saturday, March 1 and Saturday, March 8.

The meetings will be held at AMSA, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Lunch will be provided at the end of each meeting.

Maura mentioned that the SOR (Summary of Review) reported issues with Open Meeting Law. Some of our meeting minutes did not meet OML because they did not specify the location of the meeting. In addition, some committee minutes did not include all the documents/exhibits. The Secretary and Committee members who take minutes are welcome to reach out to Sara Snow for further details regarding the SOR.

Chamber of Commerce 100 year event will have a Roaring Twenties theme.

Please RSVP. It will be held on January 24 at the Hilton Garden Inn.

B.

Discuss Possible Changes to the Bylaws

This discussion will be tabled to the strategic planning meetings.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Development

Evan said the Development Committee is looking to finalize their policies. Also they are working on some outreach to organizations with AMSA engagement and support.

They met in December and discussed Committee recruitment.

If anyone is interested in joining the Development Committee or knows of someone, please ask them to reach out to Evan.

B. Finance

Bela reported that the Finance Committee has been focusing on the capital investment in detail, their Finance goals, and their normal reports that examine the building project expenditures and spending account.

Committee Membership

Dawn Capello and Darren Rose have joined the Finance Committee.

C. Governance

Darren announced that Stephan Richter will be joining Governance Committee. The Governance Committee met in December and discussed membership expansion and board recruiting activities. The Committee intends to do a deep dive on a bylaws review, making sure the content of the bylaws is set up to support and maximize the school's goals and the board's goals. This will be the focus of the Strategic Planning meetings in March.

Let Darren know how you would like the board to look at the bylaws and consider how do we best structure the bylaws to support our goals.

We will have a curated discussion with the board. Send thoughts along to Darren. Sessions will be dedicated to these issues.

D. Education

Christine reminded the Board that Trustees Day will be held on February 7, 2025.

Greg will send out a poll and sign up sheet to teachers. The first four blocks for class visits.

Christine will send out a sign up sheet to board members.

Members can sign up for the classes portion or lunch portion, or both.

She will update the signup so we know who is coming and do not have a problem with quorum.

Greg will work on it. He plans to ask teachers to provide a brief explanation of what they are doing in class.

VIII. Review Action Items

A. Previous Meetings

Previous Action Items Completed:

Discuss the results of the meeting dates poll and solidify the dates for Strategic Planning in the spring.

B. New Action Items

The Board will review the data provided by Lisa.

Let's start thinking about what we want on the strategic planning agenda and reviewing the bylaws and policies in preparation.

We will hear back from DESE for renewal in February, which will help direct the agenda.

If anyone has questions regarding taking minutes and/or OML compliance, please contact Sara Snow.

IX. Motion to go into Executive Session

A. Vote to go into Executive Session

Dwayne Stanley made a motion to go into executive session at the end of open session to discuss strategies regarding negotiations with represented personnel, as doing so in open session would be detrimental to the process. The Board will not reconvene in open session.

Gregory Theos seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Darren Rose	Aye
Maura Webster	Aye
Evan Przyborowski	Aye
Stephan Richter	Aye
James Carter	Aye
Dwayne Stanley	Aye
Christine Tridente Fahey	Aye
Gregory Theos	Aye
Bela Gorman	Aye

The moved into executive session at 7:06 pm.

Greg Theos recused himself.

Invited guests included Dr. Lisa Mobley, Mike Nawrocki, and Liana McLaren.

X. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Dwayne Stanley made a motion to adjourn executive session.
Bela Gorman seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Evan Przyborowski	Aye
Dwayne Stanley	Aye
James Carter	Aye
Stephan Richter	Aye
Christine Tridente Fahey	Aye
Maura Webster	Aye
Bela Gorman	Aye
Gregory Theos	Absent
Darren Rose	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
James Carter

Documents used during the meeting

- 24_1127 Contingency Draw Down Tracking.pdf
- AMSA Tracking budget 12-5-24 Req.pdf
- January 2025 ED Report (1).pdf