

APPROVED



# Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School

## Minutes

### Board of Trustees Strategic Planning Meeting

Session 2

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#### Date and Time

Saturday March 8, 2025 at 8:30 AM

#### Location

AMSA In-Person

201 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752

Upper School Cafeteria

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#### Trustees Present

Bela Gorman, Darren Rose, Dwayne Stanley, Evan Przyborowski, Gregory Theos, James Carter, Maura Webster, Stephan Richter

#### Trustees Absent

*None*

#### Ex Officio Members Present

Lisa Mobley

#### Non Voting Members Present

Lisa Mobley

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#### Guests Present

Amy Griffis, Brianna Murphy, Christine Jagielski, Kate Scott Facilitator, Liana McLaren, Luba Shmidt, Martha Richardson, Mike Nawrocki, Padmaja Bandaru, Raquel Marotta, Sara Snow, Sarah Preston

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## I. Opening Items

### A. Record Attendance

### B. 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 Saturday Mar 8, 2025 at 8:30 AM.

## II. Vote

### A. Retaining Wall Change Order

Dr. Mobley presented the proposal for the Retaining Wall Project. (see attached slides)  
The retaining wall project costs have expanded dramatically. The retaining wall has been discussed at Finance and Board meetings over the past several months. However, the scope of the work and materials necessary to actually fix the wall, preventing further damage and liability, has increased to \$820K.

Dr. Mobley and the Finance Committes are recommending a vote to approve the retaining wall project that will be funded with the balance of the loan contingency money. The contingency monety is due back by October if not used. It is imiportant to note that this money is earmarked for the building project exclusively. If there is any money left over it can be used for other building repairs. The company said it is reasonable to expect 20+ years of viable longevity. There is no warranty per se, but AMSA is paying \$69,670 for supervision by the project manager, which will guarantee that the work has proper oversight.

Maura thanked all involved to get this done and called for a motion.

Bela Gorman made a motion to approve using the contingency money, up to 900K, to repair the Retaining Wall.

Darren Rose seconded the motion.

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

#### Roll Call

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Evan Przyborowski | Aye |
| James Carter      | Aye |
| Maura Webster     | Aye |
| Stephan Richter   | Aye |
| Gregory Theos     | Aye |
| Dwayne Stanley    | Aye |

**Roll Call**

|             |     |
|-------------|-----|
| Darren Rose | Aye |
| Bela Gorman | Aye |

**III. Welcome and Connection**

**A. Welcome & Connection**

The meeting was facilitated by Kate Scott from Prospect Leadership Group.  
Kate Scott and Julia Bowen have been doing Board retreats focused on governance.

Kate introduced herself and then asked all attendees to provide their own introductions adding something that people may not know about them:

Maura worked for the State Dept.

James once worked for the Connecticut State Police.

Evan is an alumni 2016 and worked on an alpaca farm.

Bela was the parent rep, then trustee and now treasurer. She has 2 AMSA kids. she is a Health actuary and was a caterer.

Lisa lost her best student at KP to AMSA.

Greg alum teacher. and faculty rep for two years. He officiated a wedding recently.

Dwayne parent rep had hopes to continue working on the board. He has 2 students at AMSA. He just bought a 70 acre farm last week. His wife is a farmer and does commercial and interior design. Dwayne has a carpenters license! He is exhausted and inspired.

Mike Nawrocki is the Principal and came to AMSA in 2010 as a special education teacher, then Dean, then Vice Principal, and then Principal. in 2019. When he was 19 he wanted to be a college professor and a traveling tutor who would travel with college sports teams. He feels good at AMSA, focused and positive.

Stephan Richter is an AMSA parent of two. He has served on the Education Committee for 3 years and is the newest board member. Moved to CA and was a start up creator of spreadsheets and has returned to same house in Massachusetts. He is exhausted from coding all week!

Darren Rose has two AMSA kids and is the Board Vice Chair. He is a member of the Development, Finance, and Governance committees. He has been on the Board for 2 years and is the Governance Committee Chair. He is feeling committed and determined. He has experience in Board efficiency and hopes to make a positive impact.

Raquel Marotta is an AMSA parent and organizing our SEPAC chapter.

Amy Griffis is an AMSA parent and is also working to energize our SEPAC

Padmaja Bandaru is AMSA's CS Dept Chair

Luba Shmidt is AMSA's Math Dept Chair

Christie Jagileski is AMSA's Science Dept Chair

Brianna Murphy is AMSA's History Dept Chair.

Sarah Preston is AMSA's World Language and Arts Dept Chair

## B. Review and Reflect on Previous Week's Discussion

Kate provided an overview of the agenda.

She asked people to use the "parking lot" to write down ideas as they come to anyone during the meeting. She reminded people to be present and share the air.

In small groups use NOSTUESO, which means No One Speaks Twice until Everyone Speaks Once

Seek first to understand

Assume the best

Accept and expect

Generate and discuss key takeaways from last week

1. School reputation: various stakeholder have different perspectives...locally and statewide.

2. Overall support for teachers. Resources, tools, support for special needs students.

3. Use data to inform strategies to advance student success. Lower school, special needs, MCAS scores

4. **Need to tell our story better. (relates to #1)**

5. Parents want to be better partners- **communication** channels and tools. Using old tools better and initiating new ones.

6. More support for teachers. who are hard working. Need ways to help teachers navigate (related to #2) How do we support faculty so they can support our kids?

Systems of communication and support for educators.

Understanding Mission and rigor and expectations

How will we share what we have learned at these meetings?

Charter schools get autonomy in exchange for more accountability. Charter schools have to stay true to mission and their accountability plan. A charter school's **primary function is accountability**. Charter schools are tasked with making an effecting accounting of progress and share out to the public what has happened. The Accountability Plan is specific to each charter school, with agreed upon goals/objectives and measures to demonstrate progress.

The work of the board is to empower the Executive Director to do their work.

To make sure they have the resources needed to do their work.

The school leader must communicate regularly and seek guidance when needed. It is a partnership that is essential to the success of the school.

Committee work is important in making the work of the board more reasonable, but the full board is responsible for all outcomes.

What Stakeholders are the Board accountable to (relates to #1)

Teachers  
Students  
Admin  
Staff  
Parents/families  
Core towns  
state  
tax payers  
Community Organizations (SEPAC, churches)  
Other charter schools  
Board of Education

How do charter schools report:

DESE Inspections  
Accountability Plan  
annual audit  
MCAS scores (other data)  
graduation rate  
enrollment  
reputation

#### **IV. Review and Discussion of Board Roles & Responsibilities, Self-Assessment Data**

##### **A. Review and Discuss**

Effective Boards talk with stakeholders and learn about things to help them understand context or how to fundraise.... not to be an expert.

Kate presented several scenarios for the Board to determine responsibility and actions to address them. The Board was successful in discerning the difference between school management and board oversight/governance. Understanding partnership was the key component of the exercise.

#### **V. Working Session: Board Goal Development**

##### **A. Board Goal Development**

Three goals

SMART Goals are put into concrete action plans. Taking language and articulating goals and objectives..

What are the actions required to accomplish the goal?

Who is responsible for the work, a Committee or full board?

*Group: Darren Rose, Greg Theos, Stephan Richter, Sara Snow*

Step 1:

Create Strategic Accountability Plan Task Force

The ED and the Chair will identify possible members and the composition will be decided by the board. Suggested composition includes:

2 BOT members

2 Administrators

1 Upper School Teacher

1 Lower School Teachers

1 Parent

1 Student

2 Discretionary

Step 2.

ED will set the timeline and determine resources.

Step 3.

Establish components of plan. Decide/vote on the 3-4 priorities, create an outline and a deadline. Will this go to a Committee or full board?

Step 4.

Report to Board with First and Second draft

Step 5. Revise

Step 6.

Finalize plan by September 1, 2025.

(This aligns with the development of the school's 2025-2030 Accountability Plan.)

## **B. Action Planning**

How do you come back to the work that has been done today?

Information and ideas will need refinement

## **VI. Working Lunch**

### **A. Action Plans and Assignments**

Next steps will be discussed by Maura and Lisa and then with the Governance Committee.

## VII. Closing Items

### A. Wrap Up

The meeting went longer than anticipated and the discussion will be continued at a later time.

### B. Adjourn Meeting

Darren Rose made a motion to adjourn.

Gregory Theos 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 1:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sara Snow

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## Documents used during the meeting

- 3-08-25 CE #059 Added Concrete Retaining Wall Repair Work Proposal (3) (1).pdf
- AMSA Capital Plan - Google Sheets.pdf
- 202201-AMSA\_Charter\_School-65-Weekly\_OAC\_Meeting-2025-03-03.pdf
- ED Report 3-8-2025.pdf
- Links for Worksheets for Meeting.docx
- 3-08-25 MSA Board Retreat .pdf