



Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday February 27, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

This meeting will be held via remote participation.

TEAMS Link:

[Join the meeting now](#)

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), Darren Rose (remote), Dwayne Stanley (remote), Evan Przyborowski (remote), Gregory Theos (remote), James Carter (remote), Maura Webster (remote), Stephan Richter (remote)

Trustees Absent

Christine Tridente Fahey

Ex Officio Members Present

Lisa Mobley (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

Lisa Mobley (remote)

Guests Present

Liana McLaren (remote), Marcy Eckel (remote), Mike Nawrocki (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 Feb 27, 2025 at 6:01 PM.

B. Record Attendance

II. Public Comment

A. Public Comment

There was no public comment

III. Consent Agenda

A. Construction Budget Tracking

There was no further discussion required .

IV. Votes

A. Approve BOT Meeting Minutes from January 9, 2025, 2024

Bela Gorman made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 01-09-25.

Darren Rose seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar

Dr. Mobley presented the proposed 2025-2026 School Calendar. (See attached)
Gregory Theos made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 School Calendar.
Evan Przyborowski seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

C. Chair Announcement and Committee Chair Nomination

The Chair announced that Christine will be stepping down from the board. Open invitation to return when she can. Vacancy on Ed committee. REcommend Stephan for Chair. Has served 3 plys years on the committee. Well served.
Maura Webster made a motion to approve.
Dwayne Stanley seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

D. Retaining Wall Project Update and Possible Vote to Move Forward

Liana presented slides on Retaining Wall project. (Helical Drilling...see slides)

Using the contingency money balance of 900K to repair the entire wall.
We will save 200K by doing the work now. It is currently a safety hazard. The repairs alignswith the sinkhole in parking lot. We spent 17K to repair sinkhole and the sinkhole repair must be redone.

The air conditioners...paving ...and other work is getting done. The HVAC and water sealing can wait. Repairing the retaining wall is urgent. They put out bids but there is no

other company that does this work. There were ideas for patching or repair but this company but this company can repair the entire wall.

Dwayne offered to review the contract. There is no room for delay because we need to get on their calendar for the summer. SMOC cannot be closed but they will close that section of the road. The Finance Committee recommends the board approve and make the decision now.

Greg wants to know about the HVAC project. HVAC was to get ahead of the game. They are looking for Capital from Soaring Eagles to cover the HVAC. This has been an issue for a long time. The key point is the \$820,853 estimate means that some smaller project will no longer be done with the contingency money. The quote was received just yesterday. However, this expense has been talked about in Finance for months. We could schedule an emergency Finance meeting to go over the new quote but we need to move quickly.

Is there other damage from the Sinkhole? Site work has to be done. Paving must be ripped up. Part of the 820K includes this work. We haven't seen the contract yet but they are looking for language that will protect us. Issues that could arise as experienced with the loop road. We need to prepare for overages.

What are our guarantees? It is considered a change order and that is why the bank is allowing us to use the money. We would have to go through the whole process again.

They have lined it up for us in July. If we don't move forward, the schedule will go away. There is a sense of urgency. The company is already booked through the end of April and its getting later.

The Board will set up a meeting later to give time to review. If the Board could approve on Saturday, March 8 at the Strategic Planning meeting, would they still be able to keep the project on the schedule for summer? They will reach out to W.T. Rich, but they believe it would be in time. If necessary, the Board will meet next week, after the Finance committee votes to recommend moving forward.

Maura announced executive session at end of open session.

V. Updates

A. Fundraising Update

The AMSA Annual giving is still open.

They are working on 20th Anniversary planning, which includes events, the rolling out monthly of a donation (example \$20 per month), and alumni gifts equivalent to their graduation year. \$20 plus the graduation year in dollars....\$20.16.

They are pleased to announce they have 14 business partners.

Marci is meeting with Mary Jo Nawrocki and Cindy Zomar tomorrow.

Lisa is working on a Boston Scientific grant opportunity due March 15, among other grants

They have received \$250 from Hudson Civics Council and \$750 from Marlborough Cultural Council for the Civics field trip.

B. Parent Representative Update

Dwayne did not have anything to report from parents and he doesn't know if they have found a new candidate to take his place as the Parent Representative. He does want to say that the PTO is looking for senior sponsors. The PTO is posting on FaceBook. They need 16 more sponsors.

C. Faculty Representative Update

Greg said that he had only two responses to his survey, so there was little to report. However, he did want to mention that a teacher who was trying to get the meeting link to make public comment. The link is posted on the school website but it would be helpful to add the link in the weekly/daily announcements.

D. Executive Director Report

Lisa began her report by thanking Maura and Stephan for helping out at the Board on Education on Tuesday on behalf of AMSA. AMSA's request for expansion was denied. There was confusion about what is net cap. Hudson is at cap. Marlborough is not at cap since they are at the lowest performing. Other towns could have benefited from the 34 increase. Lisa was surprised that it was denied. Lisa now has a better understanding of the process and intends to apply again next year. If we care about kids, and we want to share our expertise with other students then we need to get members of the BESE to visit AMSA. We will be more prepared. Our current Governor made it clear the BESE were to vote no for charter expansion. We will pursue it harder if the board is interested in continuing with the amendment.

Does it look bad to apply again? NO. We just need to do a better job of knowing what they are thinking. The charter association did not indicate that this would be difficult. We were going to ask for 30 and charter school encouraged us to ask for 34. The secretary voted no and the student member voted in line with the secretary. Feedback from the Charter School Office was that AMSA did everything right. We need to build relationships with the Board and Secretary. Perhaps invite them to Science Night. It is a difficult climate for charters right now. We should solidify relationships with the core towns so they would support expansion. Pete Jones is a finalist to meet with superintendent at Marlborough and they want to know how he will keep students from applying to AMSA. She is happy to work on building relationships with the core towns, but they have not responded well to her attempts.

VI. Chair Business

A. Strategic Planning Meeting Agenda

Maura explained that the strategic planning meetings on March 1 and 8 will be focused on a high level look priorities. There will be three panels (faculty, student, and parent). The goal is to encourage discussion about what people are feeling and thinking.

She will begin with a welcoming activity and then listen to the three panels. We will review and reflect on what we hear at the first strategic planning session. Then they will focus on the board self assessment and build goals based on the information collected to do some action planning.

They will have a facilitator on the March 8th meeting, Kate Scott.

Documents are in agenda for March 1.

Maura recommended that everyone review the documents before Saturday, March 1.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Development

Evan...working toward more partnerships
bolster partnerships.

B. Finance

Bela reported that the Finance Committee spent most of their time discussing the retaining wall project and contingency funds. They are also Finalizing the budget and capital plan for next year.

C. Governance

Darren reported that the Governance Committee did not meet in February. They will meet on March 12 and Governance will have a more detailed update at the next meeting.

D. Education

Newly appointed Education Chair, Stephan Richter reported that they discussed the updated graduation requirement policy as a result of MCAS no longer being a state requirement for graduation. Each district is now responsible for developing their own local competency determination for graduation. The timeline for approval: Education Committee review, Governance Committee Review, recommendation to the Board for approval on March 27.

The Education Committee is also working on the Staff and Parent Survey questions.

VIII. Review Action Items

A. Previous Meetings

Board reviewing data from Lisa.
Strategic Planning Meeting Agenda
DESE has renewed AMSA's Charter, unconditionally. Great news!
Members with BoardOnTrack questions can contact Sara (maybe put together a training/refreshers)

B. New Action Items

The Charter School Association Board Survey is due by Monday, please take the time to complete it!

Schedule a Special Finance Committee Meeting this week to allow time for the committee to discuss the retaining wall project, understanding the limit on the contingency money, and going forward with work.

Add vote to approve moving forward with the retaining wall project to the March 8th Strategic Planning meeting.

IX. Vote to Move Into Executive Session

A. Roll Call Vote

Darren Rose made a motion to go into executive session to discuss strategies regarding negotiations with represented personnel, as doing so in open session would be detrimental to the process.

Dwayne Stanley seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

At 7:20 p, The board moved into executive session. Invited guests included, Dr. Lisa Mobley, Mike Nawrocki, and Liana McLaren. The Board will not reconvene in open session.

X. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Darren Rose made a motion to adjourn.
Dwayne Stanley seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

Roll Call

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

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
James Carter

Documents used during the meeting

- 24_1230 Contingency Draw Down Tracking.pdf
- AMSA Tracking budget 1-8-25 req.pdf
- 2025-2026 AMSA School Calendar Revised Draft 1-30-25.pdf
- Retaining Wall BOT 2.27.25.pptx