



Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday March 27, 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 strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body. 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

None

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 Mar 27, 2025 at 6:03 PM.

B. Record Attendance

II. Public Comment

A. Public Comment

There were no requests for public comment.

III. Consent Agenda

A. Construction Budget Tracking

There are no changes to construction budget schedule so there is nothing to discuss. However. It will change next month.

IV. Votes

A. Approve BOT Meeting Minutes from February 27, 2025, 2024

Darren Rose made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 02-27-25.

Stephan Richter seconded the motion.

Approved with corrections from page 4 regarding the retaining wall. This was the first time Finance Committee had heard of the final quote. remove that sentence. They voted on the following week.

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

Roll Call

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

B. Approve Minutes from the Strategic Planning Session One

Dwayne Stanley made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Strategic Planning Meeting Session One on 03-01-25.

Gregory Theos seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

C. Approve Minutes from the Strategic Planning Session Two

Darren Rose made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Strategic Planning Meeting on 03-08-25.

Dwayne Stanley seconded the motion.

Approved with corrections regarding Dwayne and Darren background.

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

Roll Call

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

D. Approve the Graduation Requirement Policy and Non Discrimination/Harrassment Policy Updates

Darren Rose made a motion to approve graduation requirement and harassment.

Stephan Richter seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Maura Webster	Aye
James Carter	Aye
Gregory Theos	Aye
Stephan Richter	Aye
Darren Rose	Aye

Roll Call

Evan Przyborowski Aye
Bela Gorman Aye
Dwayne Stanley Aye

E. Appointment of Darren Rose to the STEM Soaring Eagles Foundation

Maura Webster made a motion to approve Darren Rose as a member of STEM Eagles Foundation.

Stephan Richter seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

V. Updates

A. Fundraising Update

Marcy Eckel provided the update. The Committee has decided on a save the date of August 12 for the Annual Golf Tournament. AMSA hosted a breakfast with 20-25 members from the Marlborough Chamber of Commerce. There were lots of folks asking questions. It was truly a nice event. We will do it again in the fall.

The 20th anniversary is rolling out, however slowly. They have scheduled many events; the March Kindness, Prize drawings, Alumni vs Staff kickball game, Drone photo of school, and the creation of a new logo, to name a few. Marci was sad to announce that one of her parent committee members had to leave the committee, which was a big loss.

May 22 is the Arts and Science night. They are considering a Vendors Night and will approach Fore Kicks and other vendors soon.

Bela asked if there were common questions during the Chamber event. Yes, they were interested in the difference between charter funding vs traditional funding. There is a lot of misperception about funding. Traditional schools are reimbursed when students go to charters. They now understand the inability to access building money. They would like to partner with AMSA!

Do we have any traction with the alumni? Yes, we have an active alumni board and a large contact list. The Committee will be meeting with them next week. Cindy and Mary Jo were at that meeting too. Communication is open. In order to keep in contact with alumni, they will try to get senior emails through a drawing. Maddy and Evan spoke about meeting in the fall. Evan said he will attend that meeting. They want to build the alumni community.

They want to include staff members who have kids who went to AMSA. Do we have numbers on how far back we are researching? They want to get physical addresses and try not to miss anyone in order to build a broad network.

B. Faculty Representative Update

Greg provided the Faculty update. The only comments he has heard are about the lack of seeing the contract. Teachers would like to read the contract. Lisa said it is being prepared. There have been delays on union side and now on the admin side. However, Liana is always happy to go over it with any teacher. Lisa will see where they are with getting the contract available to the faculty. The last contract was very downloadable.

C. Parent Representative Update

Dwayne said that the parent community and PTO have noticed there seems to be less posting of pictures and celebration PR. The parents also mentioned that Lisa was doing a great job with announcements but they want to know if there will be someone to take Mike Finkle's place. Lisa agrees that there is much less traffic on facebook and instgram, as Mike's are big shoes to fill. The school took those funds and put it towards a teaching position with a graphic design class. PR will happen as the students are learning. They think the students will enjoy it. She has high hopes.

Are you concerned about misuse? The individual who will be teaching the class is on the AMSA staff and has a background in graphic design and marketing. The class will fall under the Art Chair in collaboration with the CS Chair and Mike Ward. Safeguards and ethics training is part of our CS classes. The salary savings is about 20K.

D. Executive Director Report

See attached ED Goals.

The Board had no questions on the proposed ED Goals.

The Capital Plan is complete but they added the IT element. They will meet with Erica tomorrow to finalize it. Then it will be complete as living breathing document.

Report highlights (See attached ED Report)

Attrition and Waitlist - No students with an IEP withdrew. Only 3 had 504 services.

19 to Public School

6 to Assabet

1 homeschooled
1 moved in state
2 moved out of state

Lottery Results

The majority of students were from Marlborough.

Due to the Net Cap Spending, we had to skip Marlborough last year. This year we had to skip Hudson. However, all the 56 siblings will be able to enroll.

There were no seats available for students in grade 7 or grade 8

There is 1 sibling on the wait list for grade 7 and for grade 8.

Tuition

Lisa shared the quarterly reports for every charter school.

It is difficult to plan financially because schools never know until the end of the year what the tuition number will be. Conservative planning in the past has kept us in good standing.

Libertas Charter School from Springfield visited AMSA specifically to see our AP program. They brought a consultant with them. They said it was the best run program they have ever seen!

There are three bills pending with legislation that may impact charter education in Massachusetts. There is a lot of misinformation. "Misinformation breeds Mistrust"
Lisa plans to send out the presentation in her newsletter.

The bills mention corrective action and improvement plans as things that need to happen. However, all of these things Charters already do. They clearly do not know the level of accountability charter schools are held to. The bills are meant to be anti charter. The bills want to lower the net school spending cap from 9% to 7%. This could close charters with low waitlists. This is not good for charter education.

Next steps will be in her Sunday email. She wants to share what AMSA can do for advocacy. The Charter Association wants her to get 500 families from AMSA and our waitlist to send emails. They are concerned that the Governor will bring on anti charter board members.

Lisa wants to make sure AMSA is viable for a long time and believes in school choice. Stephan would like an update in the ED Report at least twice a year to include a brief on legislative changes.

VI. Chair Business

A. Strategic Planning Sessions Review and Next Steps

Maura thanked all who participated in the strategic planning sessions.

Next Steps: She will follow up May 1 with a summary of the action planning documents.

ACTION: before April vacation members should send their planning documents

ACTION: Maura will put it all together and send it out.

They want stakeholders taking part in the strategic planning. They want their input more often.

Maura mentioned the Mayors event on April 12. If members are interested in representing AMSA, please contact Lisa.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Development

Evan provided the Development update. The Committee is doing market research into tech companies and bio start ups looking for connection opportunities for our students.

B. Finance

Bela... WE reviewed budget for next year , first pass. refined budget based on new tuition numbers. Bring it to the board at next meeting.

C. Governance

Darren provided the Governance Committee update. The Committee met in March. They are committed to creating tools to develop a high functioning board. They recognize the need to expand board membership while adding a diversity of skills. They hope to refine the recruiting process.

Governance will be sending out a board member skills survey to take stock of skills and talent within the existing board and look for new folks to fill any holes.

They intend to review of the bylaws and come up with better ideas of what the board wants to do and how. They will make a comprehensive review of bylaws, continue with a focus on education and training for board members, while developing an understanding of high priority areas. Please send ideas to Darren and he will prioritize.

Action: Board Education will become a standing agenda item.

D. Education

Stephan provided the Education Committee update. They finalized the timeline for the faculty and family surveys. The surveys will be open in April and May. The Committee will report the summary out to the Board in May and June.

They are pleased to report that SEPAC is getting involved in Education Committee.

VIII. Review Action Items

A. Previous Meetings

B. New Action Items

Send Strategic Planning Documents to Maura.

Maura will combine and distill notes and send them out to the Board.

Have Board Education as a standing agenda item.

IX. Vote to Move Into Executive Session

A. Roll Call Vote

The Chair called for a motion to move into executive session at 7:23pm. Invited guests included Lisa Mobley, Mike Nawrocki, Liana McLaren and Erica Piotrowski. The chair announced the board will not reconvene.

Dwayne Stanley made a motion to move into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body.

Gregory Theos seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

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

X. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Dwayne Stanley made a motion to adjourn.

Bela Gorman seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call

Bela Gorman	Aye
Stephan Richter	Aye
Dwayne Stanley	Aye
Maura Webster	Aye

Roll Call

James Carter	Aye
Darren Rose	Aye
Gregory Theos	Absent
Evan Przyborowski	Aye

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
James Carter

Documents used during the meeting

- 25_0131 Contingency Draw Down Tracking (2).pdf
- AMSA Tracking Budget 2-5-25 Req.pdf
- 3-27-25 AMSA Graduation Requirement Policy.pdf
- 3-27-25 AMSA Policy AC Non-Discrimination and a Harrassment Updated 2025.pdf
- Executive Director Goals Update.pdf
- March 27, 2025 Report (2).pdf