

APPROVED



Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School

Minutes

Board of Trustees Annual Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday June 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

This meeting will be held in-person at AMSA, in the Upper School Cafeteria, 199 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA 01752

The Annual BOT Meeting is being held in person at AMSA, in the Upper School Cafeteria, 199 Forest Street, Marlborough, MA.

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

Guests Present

Erica Piotrowski, Jessica Bowen, Liana McLaren, Marcy Eckel, Mike Nawrocki, Sara Snow

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 Tuesday Jun 10, 2025 at 6:07 PM.

Attendance was called by the Chair.

Time keeper: Dwayne Stanley

The Chair announced that the meeting is being recorded by an audience member.

B. Record Attendance

C. Public Comment

The Chair welcomed members of the audience who registered for public comment. She explained that the board does not respond to comments but uses the comments to guide and inform board discussions and decisions.

1. Head of Science Dept spoke on behalf of her team and her students. She stated her concern with class sizes for next school year and she feels 26 students per session in the lower school for Chemistry is a problem. The lab rooms were not designed for overcrowding. There is a disparity in class sizes.

2. CS Teacher commented that next year's scheduling is making it difficult for students to take the advanced classes and electives they want, as there is overlapping that interrupts the pipeline and sequence. He believes the schedule can be fixed and it is not too late to remedy the situation.

3. Anonymous letter was read that focused on the loss of the general reading teachers. They are concerned about lost reading time for students and feels the general reading teacher position should not have been eliminated.

4. Reading Teacher reported her distress with losing her position as Reading Teacher. She was surprised to hear in February when it was announced that AMSA needs a Reading Specialist. She was told she would need training that focused on IEPs and dyslexia and that she would need to assess students and make recommendations. However, in May she was told that Reading would come under special education and she would be expected to return to the classroom as an English teacher. She said the reason

for this was not made clear. She feels the lack of communication was upsetting and she is concerned because she was not included in any planning decisions for her students.

5. The English Dept Chair feels there is a transparency issue with personnel decision making. The situation with the Reading Program has been confusing and she believes it will impact student learning. She feels this is a departure from the usual community based decision making and this kind of top down decision causes problem. She understands that finances must be taken into account but AMSA should not settle for less.

6. A parent said she is planning to withdraw her son who has dyslexia from AMSA because he is not receiving the support he requires. She cited several accounts of unresponsive and dismissive responses from teachers. She had been encouraged by her involvement with SEPAC and the expectation of being able to help support families and collaborate with school. She was happy with the implementation of the OG* program. However, she said the lack of communication was extreme in her experience. Providing OG support and a Reading Teacher is important but having just one or the other is not adequate.

7. A parent reported that she is withdrawing her 6th grade student. She was hoping that AMSA would provide a nurturing and challenging environment. Instead, his emotional wellbeing was damaged. He was placed in an advanced math class and reported that he was critized on many occassions. She made a point to say that his CS and Science teachers were caring and compassionate.

8. The SEPAC Chair made comments about the importance of offering a robust reading program that supports all students...students of all backgrounds and all abilities. We need resources for all students. 70% of students are below reading level everywhere. AMSA needs the right specialists. She has personally seen the success of the OG program.

*Orton-Gillingham (OG) is **a structured, multi-sensory approach to teaching reading, writing, and spelling, particularly effective for individuals with dyslexia or other language-based learning differences.**

II. Votes

A. Approve Minutes from May 1, 2025

Darren Rose made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting - In Person at AMSA on 05-01-25.

Stephan Richter seconded the motion.

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

B.

Approve Minutes from May 15, 2025 Special Meeting

Darren Rose made a motion to approve the minutes from Special Board of Trustees Meeting on 05-15-25.

Stephan Richter seconded the motion.

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

C. AMSA Accountability Plan 2025-2030

Dr. Mobley presented the Accountability Plan. (see attachment)

The proposed Accountability Plan has rigorous goals and measures.

The goals and measures were selected through collaboration between our Department Chairs, thier teachers, and the Administrative Team and then submitted to DESE for approval. These goals and measures will be used to demonstrate AMSA's educational progress and dissemination efforts in our annual reporting to the state.

Stephan Richter made a motion to approve the 2025-2030 Accountability Plan.

Gregory Theos seconded the motion.

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

D. Appointment of Stephan Richter to STEM Soaring Eagles

Maura Webster made a motion to approve Stephan Richter as a member of the STEM Soaraing Eagles Foundation.

Darren Rose seconded the motion.

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

E. 2024-2025 Surplus

Dr. Mobley reported that AMSA appears to be on favorable finacial footing due to a turiton surplus, largely as a result of enrolling significantly more students from Hudson, as Marlborough was at its enrollment cap.

In recognition of the hard work and dedication demonstrated by the faculty and staff throught the school year, she is proposing that the Board consider a one-time flat bonus for all staff. She believes this proposal also reinforces the message that, while AMSA cannot depned on suplus funds each year, AMSA is committed to sharing available rsources with staff when circumstances allow.

The surplus (up to 150K) will be shared as a flat bonus for all staff.

The Board will vote today to approve this proposal. However, the Finance Committee will meet on June 17 to decide the total amount of money and dispersment that will be available for sharing, up to \$150K.

Stephan Richter made a motion to approve an expenditure of up to \$150K to be used for employee bonuses, contingent upon the Finance Committee's confirmation that the school's year-end financial standing supports such an allocation.

Evan Przyborowski seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

F. Approve Dwayne Stanley as Trustee

Darren Rose made a motion to approve Dwayne Stanley, former parent representative, to serve as a Trustee; term July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028.
Maura Webster seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

G. Approve Jess Bowen as the 2025-2026 Faculty Representative

Darren Rose made a motion to approve Jessica Bowen as the faculty's elected candidate to represent them on the Board of Trustees for the 2025-2026 school year.
Gregory Theos seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Updates

A. Fundraising Update

Marcy Eckel reported that the Fundraising Committee has raised over \$22,000 from 15 Business Partners this year and they hope to grow the program next year.
They had a \$10,000 annual fund gift from an anonymous donor.
The Fundraising Committee is focused on growing grant funds and will apply to new sources over the summer. They have raised \$10,000 from grants this year.

AMSA's 6th Annual Golf Tournament is August 11 and they are looking for sponsors, raffle prizes, and players: <https://www.amsacs.org/community/amsa-golf-tournam>

B. IT Security

Due to concerns about IT security with the Board, Darren Rose put together an Ad Hoc Task Force. The Task Force met once and recommendations were discussed during the last Governance Committee Meeting.

BOT members will be required to use their AMSA emails exclusively for all AMSA and Board business. They will use Google for sending and holding private documents.
BoardOnTrack does not offer PII.

AMSA's IT Director will turn off the forwarding feature that forwards AMSA emails to Board members' personal emails. MFA is required for BOT members and they will be included in the phishing testing and annual training. It is best practice to NOT download board documents on personal computers. If any PII is included, that information would not be secure so they will use Google Docs instead. It is best practice is to manipulate documents in the Cloud.

The IT Security Task Force will continue to meet to work on the IT policy. This will become another official BOT policy.

ACTION: Add this policy to the next Governance Committee meeting and BOT meeting agenda.

C. Faculty Representative Update

Greg Theos reported that his update was covered during the public comment segment. Greg served two one-year terms, He was happy to be on the board and leaves the board in very good hands with Jess Bowen.

D. Parent Representative Update

Dwayne had nothing to report as he received no emails from parents. However, he did want to report on a great graduation ceremony last week.

He is still waiting to hear from the PTO about a successor to serve as the parent representative. He will continue to serve as a means of communication for parents with the board during this gap of representation. Dwayne will keep his email out there.

E. Executive Director Update

For details, see attached ED report.

Mike Nawrocki said during the current school year, 47 teachers teach in one room, 30 teach in two rooms and 12 teachers teach in three rooms. There have been improvements for the 2025-2026 school year:

61 Teachers will instruct in one classroom.

29 Teachers will instruct in two classrooms. (12 are next door moves, 12 are due to research labs or teaching US/LS and 5 are in the same building).

Course Sections for 2025-2026

Course	Number of Sections	Primary Requests	Percentage filled
AP Biology	1	21	66%
AP Calculus AB	1	16	100%
AP Calculus BC	1	20	100%
AP Chemistry	1	26	65%
AP Comp Sci	1	36	72%
AP Language	2	29	86%
AP Latin	1	5	100%
AP Literature	1	9	88%
AP Macroeconomics	4	104	93%
AP Physics C	1	23	96%
AP Psychology	2	48	100%
AP Spanish	1	19	94%

AP Statistics	2	27	100%
AP Studio Art	1	6	83%
AP Government	1	23	100%
Graphic Media	2	33	100%

ACTION Add a scheduling update to the July BOT meeting agenda.

Reading Update:

This year AMSA had one reading teacher who served all students. Next year one reading teacher will again serve all students, but reading will be taught by a special education teacher who is receiving ongoing training in Orton-Gillingham (OG) Methodology. This teacher has strong experience in developing student goals and conducting progress monitoring. All general education and students on plans will be serviced by this teacher.

OG Level 1 - One section will meet every day

OG Level 2 - One Section will meet every day

OG Level 3 - One Section will meet every day.

Tier 2 Reading - Four Sections that will meet every other day.

Current numbers of students:

OG 1 = 7

OG 2 = 4

OG 3 = 7

T2 Reading = 9

New Incoming = 6

5 needing OG spread out by level

12 needing T2

We have grown our special ed program to serve neuro diverse kids and AMSA must grow the reading program. We are developing a combined team teaching model for rising 9th grade for students with reading issues.

Student Highlights

Kaitlyn Deptula and Molly McCaffrey were celebrated with Gold Key Awards for their amazing artwork.

32 AMSA Juniors were presented with Prestigious Books Awards.

AMSA Seniors were awarded in total \$945,000 in potential scholarships!

IV. Committee Reports

A. Development

Evan Przyborowski reported that Education Committee is discussing internship opportunities. They will continue to discuss their first wave of communication with companies and possible site visits.

B. Finance

ACTION Send Finance Committee meeting link to all board members so they may attend the meeting on the surplus discussion.

C. Governance

Darren reported that work on the the Security and IT policy is ongoing.
All Board members are to have CORI checks done periodically.
This is the expectation for board members and for committee members.
Governance is also working on reviewing and updating the bylaws.

D. Education

Stephan Richter said they were unable last month to meet and will postpone the Educaiton update to the next BOT meeting.

The Education Committee plans to take a different approach. They want to do more with data and measures.

He encourages SEPAC and members of the faculty/staff to join and participate in the Education Committee.

V. Chair Business

A. Set BOT meeting Date for July

Maura Webster announced that the next BOT meeting will be held on July 29.
The meeting will be held via remote particiaption at 6:00pm.
Work with Erica about making this a webinar format so parents can see the documents and the meetiiing online.

VI. Review Action Items

A. Previous Meetings

B. New Action Items

Move IT Policy to July meeting.
The Board will review the Family and Staff Survey responces at July meeting.
Offer public attendance to virtual meeting in a Webinar format.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Dwayne Stanley made a motion to adjourn.

James Carter 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 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Snow

Documents used during the meeting

- 2025-2030 AMSA Accountability Plan FINAL. Provisionally Approved. 06.02.25 (1).docx
- ED Report June 10, 2025 (3).pdf