



Advanced Math & Science Academy Charter School

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday May 7, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location

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

Trustees Present

Andrea Grych, Bela Gorman, Darren Rose, Dwayne Stanley, Evan Przyborowski, James Carter, Jessica Bowen, Maura Webster, Stephan Richter

Trustees Absent

None

Ex Officio Members Present

Lisa Mobley

Non Voting Members Present

Lisa Mobley

Guests Present

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 Thursday May 7, 2026 at 6:06 PM.

B. Record Attendance

The Chair asked if anyone wanted to pull out anything from the consent agenda to discuss.

Bela Gorman wanted to correct the finance report to reflect that the boilers they had approved to be replaced were being replaced in the Lower School, 201 Forrer Street and not the Upper School, 199 Forrest Street.

II. Consent Agenda

A. Action Items

Darren Rose made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 03-26-26.

Stephan Richter seconded the motion.

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

B. Informational Items

Darren Rose made a motion to approve the informational consent agenda items.

Stephan Richter seconded the motion.

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

III. Public Comment

A. Public Comment

No public comment requested.

IV. Board Votes

A. Approve the FY27 Budget

Executive Director Lisa Mobley presented the FY27 Budget.

The Finance committee unanimously approved a motion to recommend the FY27 budget to the board on May 4, 2026.

Tuition calculation was reviewed noting that we again chose a conservative approach to projecting tuition using a rate of increase of 3.2% for above foundation and a rate of 3.5% for foundation increase.

It was also noted that no increase to facilities funding was included in this budget as it has not passed the senate yet for the governor to sign. Should it pass, AMSA would receive an increase of \$100 per pupil.

The current net income projected using the tuition projection numbers is \$103,000

Bela Gorman made the motion to approve the FY27 budget

Andrea Grych seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously

Bela Gorman made a motion to approve the FY27 Budget.

Andrea Grych seconded the motion.

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

V. Updates

A. Fundraising Update

The fundraising report was presented by Dr. Mobley. In addition to the report she discussed the visit with Representatives Kate Hogan and Megan Kilcoyne. She spoke of taking a collaborative approach to legislative tasks and presented the board with talking points. She explained that if we target not only facility funding but we also target funding sources for our traditional public schools per pupil spending will increase resulting in charter tuition increases.

Bela Gorman reminded the Board that they wanted to be more pro-active with legislative involvement.

Dr. Mobley noted that the legislative session is slowing due to summer, but she will keep board members involved in the fall.

Maura Webster has been tracking information from DESE and will bring resources from DESE's lunch and learn when appropriate.

B. Parent Representative Update (Dwayne Stanley representing parents until PTO nomination of parent rep)

C. Faculty Representative Update

Jessica Bowen presented the faculty rep report. (See attached)

She highlighted what was in her report. She stated that only a few people filled out the google form but others did approach her in person. She also reported that after she sent out the report several people thanked her and noted she captured what they were thinking.

Jess wanted the board to know that she is impressed by the staff as the reason they are raising concerns is because they are very passionate about AMSA.

The report highlighted staff disappointment around no longer being directly responsible for scheduling. She explained that the Faculty would welcome a review of how scheduling is staffed and whether reintroducing structured teacher involvement—or providing additional support—could improve both efficiency and outcomes.

Jess reported that it is Teacher Appreciation Week and that the staff received Towels from the PTO and enjoyed a lemonade stand. She recognized her colleague Anna Makovoz for becoming a semi-finalist in the Massachusetts Teacher of the year contest.

Jess reported that one person is concerned with student attendance and how that is being handled. Faculty may benefit from clearer communication about how truancy issues are being addressed, without compromising privacy, so they can better understand how their reporting fits into the broader intervention process.

She reported that there were continued struggles with the new academic eligibility process and that faculty are frustrated and want more clarity, such as whose job is it to tell the student they are ineligible, the club advisor or the teacher.

Lisa reminded the Board of Trustees that the new eligibility policy was driven by teacher requests to hold students accountable for focusing on academics over clubs and sports, but we just haven't nailed the correct procedure/balance yet.

Jess reported that an issue that she thought the Board could fix is the area of stipends not being in the collective bargaining agreement. She shared that the teachers who teach directed study are not being compensated at the same rate as a teacher who substitutes thus creating a shortage of teachers who agree to take on directed study.

She reported that teachers are frustrated with academic rigor and feel some teachers give all A's and some all F's. Evan asked if there were any notable trends in the academic performance from class to class. Jess responded I think it was scattered. Lisa responded that we did find trends and we presented those trends to the board back in March.

Stephan reported that he read the teacher report and he was extremely concerned/alarmed. He reached out to Mike Nawrocki and asked to come to campus to try to understand the faculty concerns better. He stated that he walked around and made himself available to staff and none of them expressed the concerns he is seeing in the faculty representative report. . He stated that if one person makes a report then it is not a board issue, it is operational and should be addressed at the school leadership level. He stated that he also spent time with the Deans and that their day was ruined, because they had not been approached with the concerns first.

Lisa shared that she is very frustrated as the leadership at AMSA is very available. She reported she has an open door policy and that she has never reacted in a way to make staff afraid or worried about their job and she has now been at AMSA for three years.

Darren stated that he feels this is a structural challenge. He stated he agrees with Stephan's point but with some ambiguity. He acknowledged it must be hard to be in the shoes of the faculty representative. He acknowledged that she (Jess) wants to honor her colleagues opinions/perceptions and the pressure that comes along with that. He then stated that this may not be the place to collect the comments in the comment box and share them out. Jess responded that if someone comes to her it is because they feel they are not being heard. She stated she tried not to make this a crisis.

Darren stated that this matter should be referred to governance to discuss roles and responsibilities.

Bela stated that she feels something is missing. The missing link is the communication with the leadership team and the faculty representative. What is contained in the report is operational and not matters to be addressed by the Board of Trustees.

Maura responded that there is a pathway for when it is necessary to bypass administration. I think we need to take this up in governance.

Jess stated that faculty wants the Board to know what is going on at AMSA, to keep them in touch. Darren stated that the Board is aware they are asking you to do a job that is not well defined.

D. Executive Director Report

Lisa reviewed the written report which has been submitted then introduced Amanda Cence to present on student life at AMSA. (presentation attached)

Amanda emphasized that changes to the student life program have been a result of staff feedback. She presented a detailed report of the communication flow and decision making. The biggest highlight was the dividing of the field day into a lower school field day event and a second upper school balance day.

VI. Chair Business

A. Board Gifts - Final Reminder

Darren recognized Evan for his work to make the 100% Board giving happen.

Maura thanked the Board because they reached their 100% giving goal. She explained the importance of Board giving.

She also invited the larger AMSA community to also support AMSA.

B. Committee Changes

Maura tabled the committee changes to the June meeting. She let everyone know that Evan would be exiting the Board after the June meeting and that Mary had resigned her position on the Board.

C. Bylaws RE Amendment Review

Darren provided a high level overview of the bylaws changes. He asked that the Board read the Bylaws Change document attached to this meeting and be ready to vote on the Bylaws at the June 11th meeting. He then discussed the chair organizing the slate of officers for that meeting as well.

D. BoT Committee Calendar 2026-2027

Maura presented the Board Committee's Calendars to the Board and asked for them to review the calendar in committee and report any changes to Sara Snow as this is a draft.

E. Executive Director Evaluation

Maura let the Board know that they have received the ED self evaluation and they should take some time to complete the ED evaluation which goes straight to her. Maura will then compile the data and write the ED evaluation. She asked that this be completed by May 21, 2026

VII. Committee Reports - Most committee updates were covered in the consent agenda

A. Governance

Marua created another action item for Governance to define the role of the Faculty Representative.

Jim asked when the new slate would go into effect. Darren reported that he hopes to craft the motion to be conditional based on the commissioner's approval.

Darren informed the Board that he would be asking about dates to meet prospective new board members in the near future.

VIII. Review Action Items

A. New Action Items

Handbook Vote of Approval–June Meeting Agenda Item

Complete ED evaluation

Committee Changes–June Meeting Agenda Item

IX. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Dwayne Stanley made a motion to adjourn.

Darren Rose 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 8:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Mobley

Documents used during the meeting

- 5-07-26 Fundraising Summary.pdf
- 5-07-26 Finance Committee Summary 4-28-26.pdf
- 5-07-26 AMSA BoT Gov Comm Report for 20260507.pdf
- 5-07-26 Faculty Rep report May 2026.pdf
- 5-07-26 AMSA Bylaws 2025-2026 Revisions DRAFT.pdf
- 5-07-26 AMSA Bylaws 2025-2026 Revisions DRAFT ChangesAccepted.pdf
- FY27 budget BOD.pdf
- 5-07-26_Fundraising_Summary.pdf
- Faculty Rep report May 2026 (1).pdf
- BoT presentation 5.7.26.pdf
- Executive Director's Report May 2026 (1).pdf
- Legislative Handout.pdf
- BOT Meeting Calendar DRAFT 2026-2027 4-16-26.pdf
- AMSA BoT Meeting 20260507 - Bylaws Changes Highlights.pptx