**CESAR CHAVEZ PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** October 28, 2026
**Location:** Virtual Meeting via Zoom
**Call to Order:** 5:35pm
**Adjournment:** 6:45pm
**Meeting Duration:** 1 hour and 10 minutes

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

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## I. Call to Order

The Cesar Chavez Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees convened virtually via Zoom at 5:35pm.

## II. Approval of Agenda

Upon motion and second, all board members present voted to approve the Agenda.

**Consent Agenda**: The Board reviewed the following consent agenda items: (1) Approve meeting minutes for September 2026. (2) Financial Dashboard & Report.

Upon motion and second, all board members present voted to approve the Consent Agenda

## III. Attendance

The following **Eleven** Board members were in attendance:

Amina Brown, Dana Krein, Peter Anderson, Antonio Ellis, Michael Russell, Gerry Luna, Marullus Williams, Natalie Gordon, James Jordan, Lonell Johnson, and Barry Brinkly

**Total Attendance: Eleven** Board members.

## IV. Leadership Updates

### A. Enrollment Analysis & Financial Outlook

**Enrollment Update:** Ms. Tyree reviewed current enrollment and UPSFF numbers. As of 10/5, Chavez has 343 students enrolled in PowerSchool, but the official UPSFF count is 337, compared with 358 budgeted and 362 last year. The school has filed an appeal for late-enrolling students and is confident it will be approved, since it has attendance records and graded work to support it. SPED enrollment increased from 60 to 78 students, while English learners decreased from 34 to 28. Citywide, there are 2,245 more 9th grade seats and 730 more 6th grade seats than applicants, which affected new enrollment (23 new 9th graders and 8 new 6th graders). Ms. Tyree also discussed the enrollment efforts taking place (feeder school outreach, enrollment tables, home visits, late-night enrollment, re-engaging withdrawn families, etc.), along with family concerns about safety and extracurriculars and next year's plans (open houses, Scholar for a Day, interactive EdFEST events) to help families choose Chavez first. In response to

board questions, Mr. Mitchell confirmed that SPED growth brings added funding for support services, and Antonio offered to help lead a university partnership, possibly with American University, to support enrollment.

**Enrollment and Financial Outlook:** Mr. Mitchell reviewed Chavez's enrollment trends going back to SY 2014–15, noting the gradual decline since the full return from the pandemic in SY 2021–22 and the "enrollment cliff" the school is now experiencing. He highlighted changes at Mayfair, where most Chavez students live. Families are being forced to move because of closed waitlists and vouchers that are no longer approved, and this is expected to significantly affect future enrollment. Despite this, Chavez remains financially healthy. It has about $7 million, or 186 days, of cash on hand, which is 126 days above the PCSB threshold, and a DSCR of 1.31, 0.16 above the M&T Bank covenant of 1.15. To offset a $250K decrease in per-pupil revenue, the school secured about $1.56 million in competitive grants, including Learn24, CLSD ($651K), HIT ($40K), CTE ($75K), and a facilities grant ($245K) for building repairs. One of these grants was initially denied and then reinstated for $245K on appeal. Mr. Mitchell noted that fundraising efforts will continue and invited board members to share ideas for additional grant opportunities.

**School Performance Update:** Mr. Mitchell reviewed SY 2025–26 DC CAPE results and baseline data. In both middle and high school, fewer scholars scored at Level 1 and more moved to Levels 2 and 3. Math remains a critical area of focus, with Level 4+ performance falling from 4.5% to 1% in middle school and from 5% to 1.7% in high school. Bright spots included a 3.2% increase at Levels 4 and 5 for at-risk scholars, a 15% increase on the high school CAPE ELA exam for ELL scholars, steady growth for middle school ELA cohorts (13.5% to 32.4% at Level 4+ from 6th to 8th grade), and the highest high school ELA Level 4+ performance in Ward 7. Dr. Jackson then presented the instructional turnaround plan, which focuses on three school-wide priorities: grade-level access and acceleration, visible thinking and reasoning, and responsive teaching. These are supported by math and literacy acceleration (high-impact tutoring, a middle school WIN period, interim assessments, and "How Reading Works" teacher training) and a talent strategy (facilitated lesson planning, structured PLCs, and coaching).

**Goal Attainment Update:** Mr. Mitchell emphasized that the school's resources are expected to produce measurable gains in student outcomes, not just activity. He reviewed projected ASPIRE results for SY 2025–26. The high school is projected at Level 3 with 38 preliminary points and may move toward Level 2 once PCSB validates the remaining data. The middle school is projected at Level 4 or 5, likely Level 5, because about 80% of its measures are tied to CAPE performance. High school bright spots compared with SY 2024–25 include full points for college acceptance (up from 4.7 to 6), full points on the voter registration and senior thesis measures, and gains in 9th grade on-track, chronic absenteeism, re-enrollment, and PSAT college readiness. Looking ahead to SY 2026–27, Mr. Mitchell explained that DC is switching to the Smarter Balanced (SBAC) assessment, so there will be no growth measures and PCSB will not calculate ASPIRE levels for any school, though it will still review performance on each measure.

## V. Parent Trustee

One candidate was nominated by Peter, and there was a request for another parent nominee for the position of the Parent Board Member:

- Karen Hsu

**Election Results:**

- Peter motioned and seconded to approve Karen Hsu as a parent trustee, and the floor was opened for discussion. The board unanimously approved the motion.

**C. Long-term Strategic Goal**

Peter shared the board's long-term goal of growing its expertise and capacity for self-governance. That means completing the required PCSB LEA board training, expanding to 15 trustees, and aligning governance policies with best practices. The training has three modules, which trustees can take on their own or at PCSB's fall half-day session, and all three are due by April.

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**VI. Board Committee**

James reported that since the new board officers were elected, the committee has focused on setting board meeting agendas and working with Mr. Mitchell to clearly define the board's expectations of him. More details on evaluation measures and metrics will come later. Trustees interested in joining or switching committees should email James, Mr. Mitchell, and Peter. As it relates to the Academic Committee, the committee hasn't met yet, and its chair will reach out soon to schedule its first meeting. As it relates to the Finance Committee, Jerry had nothing more to report.

**VII. ED Action Plan**

Mr. Mitchell briefly referred back to the strategies and resources already in place to improve academics, including support for Dr. Jackson's instructional leadership team and the teachers.

He also referred back to his response to the enrollment shortfall, which included about $1.56 million in grants secured in the first quarter of the federal fiscal year.

How the Board Can Help:

- Mock QSR: Hold a mock review before the school's QSR window, which runs November 9 to 20. Contact Mr. Mitchell or Dr. Jackson.
- Reading specialist: Help find a specialist who can work directly with teachers.
- Teacher hiring: Help find strong teachers, especially an Algebra 1 teacher, which is a critical need.
- Fundraising: Help raise money for unbudgeted needs, additional resources, and teacher incentives.

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**VIII. Adjournment**

**Vote to end the Open Meeting and Move Into Closed Session:** Per Sections (b) (10) and (b) (12) of the DC Open Meetings Act - (b) (10) "to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, performance evaluation... of public charter school personnel, where the public body

is the board of trustees of a public charter school"; and (b) (12) to "train and develop members of a public body and staff."

The Board concluded its meeting at 6:46 p.m.