

DREAM CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
June 5, 2025
8:00 AM
DREAM | 1991 Second Avenue | 1st Floor Community Room
MINUTES OF MEETING

Trustees Present:

Ashish Doshi (Board Chair), Zainab Ali (Zoom), Charlie Howe, Michele Joerg, Adam Miller, Liz Rich (Zoom), Don Sawyer III (Zoom), Vicki Zubovic (Zoom)

Trustees Absent:

None

DREAM Staff Present:

Rich Berlin, Eve Colavito, James DiCosmo, Katie Doctor, Kalila Hoggard, Crystal Lane, Sarah Overmeyer, Adam Feiler

Guests:

Emily Stecher, Vilas Kuchinad

Members of the Public Present:

None

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 AM by Ashish Doshi, Board Chair. Eve Colavito, Co-Chief Executive Officer, welcomed all attendees.

A motion to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2025 meeting was made by Michele Joerg, duly seconded by Adam Miller, and unanimously passed.

Governance

Eve Colavito presented two prospective board members, Emily Stecher and Vilas Kuchinad. Emily and Vilas served together as Co-Chairs of the DREAM Ambassador Board from 2019-2024. A motion to elect Emily Stecher and Vilas Kuchinad to the DCS Board of Trustees was made by Michele Joerg, seconded by Charlie Howe, and unanimously passed.

Ashish shared that the board will re-elect officers and renew committee assignments. A motion to approve the election of Ashish Doshi as Chair, Michele Joerg as Vice Chair and Secretary, and Adam Miller as Treasurer was made by Vicki Zubovic, duly seconded by Michele Joerg, and passed.

A motion to renew committee assignments (Ashish Doshi, Adam Miller, and Vicki Zubovic to the Finance and Audit Committee; Ashish Doshi and Michele Joerg to the Integration Committee; and Ashish Doshi, Michele Joerg, and Don Sawyer III to the College and Career Committee) was made by Zainab Ali, duly seconded by Adam Miller, and passed.

Finance

James DiCosmo, Chief Financial Officer, presented the FY26 Budget, providing a comprehensive overview of projected revenues, expenditures, and strategic financial priorities and risk for the upcoming fiscal year. In addition, James reviewed the IPA Proposal and discussed key terms and implications. He also presented a proposed Sublease Amendment, outlining modifications to the existing agreement. The Board engaged in discussion and asked clarifying questions on all three items.

Motion to approve the FY26 budget was made by Michele Joerg, seconded by Adam Miller, and unanimously passed.

Motion to approve the Institutional Partnership Agreement and an amendment to 1991 2nd Avenue sublease was made by Zainab Ali, seconded by Michele Joerg, and unanimously passed.

Dashboard Review

Crystal Lane, Chief Education Officer, presented select components of the DCS Board Dashboard, focusing on school culture, student academic achievement, and social-emotional learning (SEL). The presentation highlighted trends in student attendance, chronic absenteeism, and suspension rates, alongside recent ELA and Math proficiency outcomes. Additionally, the Chief Education Officer reviewed SEL performance across grade bands, sharing data from the Spring DESSA and key insights related to student well-being. The Board engaged in discussion around these areas in alignment with DREAM's strategic priorities for the 2024–25 school year.

Talent

Kalila Hoggard, Chief People & Equity Officer provided an update on Strategic Initiative #5: Invest in People, highlighting progress in codifying the employee life cycle, integrating organizational maxims into talent practices, strengthening compensation, and developing internal pipelines. Key achievements included a +7 Organizational NPS, over \$130,000 invested in staff development, and the launch of a new teacher compensation system and leadership residency programs.

College Access Update

Katie Doctor, Chief Strategy Officer, provided an update on postsecondary outcomes for the Class of 2025. Commitments span CUNY, SUNY, private, and out-of-state institutions. The update underscored DREAM's continued progress in supporting diverse postsecondary trajectories.

AI Update

Katie Doctor and Adam Feiler, Managing Director of Curriculum and Instruction, provided an overview of DREAM's AI strategy, emphasizing the growing importance of AI skills in the workforce and the equity implications of current usage trends. They highlighted progress since fall 2023 including the launch of an AI Task Force, AI literacy standards, and ChatGPT Enterprise adoption. Also, they outlined SY25–26 priorities such as personalized learning tools, staff training, and student AI curriculum. The Board discussed how DREAM is positioning students to lead in AI innovation and responsible use.

Upcoming Dates

Eve Colavito noted September 18 as the date of the next DCS board meeting. She also shared details on upcoming events.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:31 AM.