

In Attendance

BOARD MEMBERS		
NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
Gail Arnall		X
Ann B. Barnet	X	
Michael D. Barnet	X	
Ronja Cala		X
Silvia Castro		X
Shawn Chakrabarti	X	
Sarah Friedman		X
Natalia Isaza Brando	X	
Oralia Puente	X	
Raj Thomas		X
Elaine Weiss	X	

- **Others Present:** Joan Barclay, Misbah Adhab, Kendall Dorman, Haley Wiggins, Laurel Kircher, Marianella Morales, Yinzu Nairouz, Thomas Selishev, Benjamin Friedlander from EdOps

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the last meeting, May 19, were approved at 6:12 pm by all present board members, who agreed to eliminate all financial numbers from the minutes.

Motions

At 6:19 pm, Michael proposed that we add Katie Davis to the board. Ann seconded, and it was unanimously approved by all other present board members: Shawn, Natalia, Oralia, and Elaine.

Meeting unanimously adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Description of Matters Discussed

1. Welcome & Board Business, *Michael & Haley*

- Michael and Haley welcomed everyone, and Michael took the time to thank Larry, Misbah, and Kendall for their support with the construction of the new building. Haley said she is grateful for their support

and presence at almost every meeting with the general contractor and architects. The roll call vote to approve the minutes then took place.

- Michael proposed adding Katie Davis to the board. She is a journalist, a long-time friend, and a DC resident who worked for many years at National Public Radio, first as a reporter and later hosting Weekend Edition. Haley explained how Katie could contribute to the Board. Haley also noted that the Board cannot have an odd number of members, so between now and the next board meeting, we need to consider adding another member or having someone rotate off.

2. Governance Updates, *Elaine*

- The governance committee presented the results of the Board self-assessment survey. Participation was close to 100%, and they thanked board members for that. Elaine described some trainings they would like all members to take, but the current priority is the three mandatory trainings required by DCPCSB, which will be released in October; all Board members will receive an email about them. She also noted that some members' terms are expiring soon, so the committee is already considering possible candidates based on the Board's needs. Next, the governance committee will reach out to board members to identify the kinds of activities they'd like to participate in. Joan also reminded the group of the three goals for the charter school under the Middle States Process: Board trainings, the survey, and compliance with the bylaws. We have checked off a couple of these and are working on compliance with the bylaws.

3. Executive Director's Report, *Haley*

Haley explained the transition underway following the departure of the Chief Compliance Officer, noting that several staff members have changed roles and assumed new or temporary responsibilities. The priority is ensuring we meet our student enrollment and comply with all required submissions. We will take time to determine the skill set needed before hiring. Haley also shared that we received the SOAR facilities grant for the first time.

4. Program Update, *Laurel, Yinzu*

- Laurel explained new staffing to fill two vacant positions, plus one additional teacher to cover the new enrollment ceiling increase.
- She also described the addition of two new Level 1 classes (one morning, one afternoon), a new Level 4 evening class, and a pilot workforce ESL class. This class was originally intended to be in person but, due to lack of space, is being run as a hybrid evening class.
- Laurel also discussed the upcoming Qualitative Site Review (QSR) by DCPCSB, expected the week after spring break, as part of the 10-year charter renewal process. Observers are expected to visit and observe 75% of classes, which we anticipate will take place in the new building.
- Yinzu reported that during the summer we registered 294 students: 172 returning and 123 new. Of these, 33 were in CDA, 34 in Foundations of Literacy, and 228 in ESL. By September 13th, we had 232 active students in Stage 5 of the eSchool Plus system, and we expect to enroll about 33 more by September 30th. Yinzu also discussed the difficulty many students face in providing sufficient proof of DC residency, which has required us to conduct home visits.

5. Finance & Facility Updates, *Ben*

Ben reported on the unaudited financials as of the end of June 2026. All KPIs are in the green and essentially on budget across all metrics. The school finished the year with a large cash surplus, which will draw down naturally as construction nears completion. Shawn asked about the cash-on-hand position. Haley explained that

DCPCSB requires schools to have a policy and rationale for their specific cash position, and we will bring more information to the next Board meeting.

6. Construction Update, *Marianella*

Pictures of the building's current status were shown. Construction is delayed, but significant progress has been made. All interior framing is complete, and the front of the building, including the ramp, is coming along. We have already purchased the furniture, technology (computers), and systems equipment for the new building. Misbah added that he visited the building and could confirm the quality of the work being done. Kendall noted that these projects never proceed in a straight line, but based on what he has seen, the general contractor and architects are on task.

Next Meeting

Date | time, Location

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm. Next meeting is planned for November 17, 2026.