

**DEMING CESAR CHAVEZ CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL  
GOVERNANCE COUNCIL REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**February 11, 2025**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**Deming Cesar Chavez Charter High School Room #14**

The Deming Cesar Chavez Charter High School Governance Council Members met in a Regular Board Meeting on February 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in Deming, New Mexico, Room #14. The following Governing Council members attended: Nick Perez (President), *Present*, Britney Valdez (Vice-President), *Absent*, Barbara Reedy (Secretary/Treasurer), *Present*, Crystal Peña (Member), *Absent*, and Kerena Vazquez Levario (Member), *Present*. Also present were Noel Nuñez (Director), Chris Masters (Business Manager) *via-zoom* and Viviana Porras (Administrative Assistant). See the sign-in sheet for others who attended.

**I. Call Meeting to Order** – Nick Perez, presiding.

- A. Nick Perez, President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was recited.
- B. Roll Call was conducted, and a quorum was established 3/5.  
Britney Valdez - Absent  
Crystal Peña - Absent
- C. Reading of the Mission Statement.
- D. \*Adoption of the Agenda:

**Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer, to ADOPT the Agenda as presented; seconded by Kerena Vasquez Levario, Member. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

- E. \*Meeting Minutes Review/Approval for January 14, 2025:

**Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer, to APPROVE the January 14, 2025, meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Kerena Vasquez Levario, Member. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

**II. Public Comment (Limited Public Forum)**

Time Limit 15 minutes total

**III. Staff/Student Spotlight**

Noel Nuñez, Director, introduced Elayna Salyers, DCCCHS Student, to the Governing Council Members for the Student Spotlight.

Eleya Salyers, DCCCHS Student, introduced herself as a tenth grader and explained why she chose to attend DCCCHS, what she enjoys about DCCCHS, and her plans for the future.

The Governing Council Members welcomed Eleya Salyers to the DCCCHS Family and encouraged her to continue her excellent work and to reach her goals.

Noel Nuñez, Director, introduced Cindy Nuñez, Teacher, to the Governing Council Members for the Staff Spotlight.

Cindy Nuñez, Science Teacher & TOP Program Coordinator, introduced herself, sharing that she is in her fourth year at the school. She reflected on how, when she first arrived, she was nervous about the change, but it was one of the best decisions she ever made. She expressed her love for the school, the staff, and the students, emphasizing how much she enjoys working with the kids.

Mrs. Nuñez also mentioned running the school's "TOP Program" and highlighted a community service project where students made Valentine's cards to deliver to a local nursing home on Friday. She noted that community service is a regular Friday activity that greatly helps with student engagement.

In a personal moment, Mrs. Nuñez shared that despite knowing the school staff is like family, the recent loss of her mother last week deeply impacted her and her father. She expressed gratitude for the staff's support during this difficult time.

The Governing Council Members thanked Mrs. Nuñez for her experience and knowledge, acknowledging her contributions to DCCCHS.

**IV. Committee Reports - Audit, Finance, School Planning/Academic, Equity Council**

- Audit Committee: The Audit Committee did not meet. There is no update at this time.
- Finance Committee: The Finance Committee and Equity Council did not meet. There is no update at this time.
- School Planning/Academic: The School Planning/Academic Committee did not meet. There is no update at this time.
- Equity Council: The Equity Council did not meet. There is no update at this time.
- Council Development: Governing Council Upcoming Conferences:
  - NMASBO Spring Budget Workshop/April 9-11, 2025/Albuquerque, NM
  - NMSBA School Law Conference /June 5-7, 2025/Albuquerque, NM
  - National Charter School Conference/June 29-July 2, 2025/Orlando, FL

**V. Discussion/Action Items**

- A. Community Schools Food Distribution Report: *(Please see the attached Food Distribution Update from Mrs. Martinez-Lopez.)*
- B. \*Follow-up regarding Election of Officers/Oath of Commitment: The Governing Council Members made a recommendation to table the Election of Officers/Oath of Commitment until the next meeting.

**Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer, to TABLE the Election of Officers/Oath of Commitment; seconded by Kerena Vasquez Leavario, Member. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

- C. Discussion with Sam Gonzales regarding the Charter Contract & Performance Framework: Noel Nuñez, Director, informed the Governing Council Members that Sam Gonzales is currently at the legislative session in Santa Fe. She works with a law firm assisting charter schools and apologizes for not being present today. However, Mr. Nuñez shared a PowerPoint provided by Sam Gonzales with the Governing Council Members.

Mr. Nuñez provided an update on the charter monitoring process. He explained that all charter schools, including DCCCHS, must be monitored annually in compliance with state law. As a district-authorized charter, DCCCHS is monitored by Deming Public Schools, which conducts a performance review each year. During this review, the charter's status is assessed, and if performance is deemed satisfactory, the school remains open. If unsatisfactory marks accumulate, the school may be at risk of closure.

Mr. Nuñez acknowledged the challenges faced in the past during the transition with superintendents, which led to a lack of monitoring. However, under the new leadership of Superintendent Ms. Vicki Chavez, the school is now aligned with the performance monitoring used by the New Mexico Public Charter Schools. Mr. Nuñez shared that Sam Gonzalez, hired by Deming Public Schools as the authorizer designate, plays a key role in preparing the school for the annual review.

The site visit is scheduled for April 8, 2025, and it will involve a comprehensive review of the school's operations, including academic data, compliance with mission-specific goals, staff training, and governance. The team will also observe the school in action and conduct interviews with staff, students, and members of the Governing Council.

Mr. Nuñez expressed confidence in the process and the preparation thus far, noting that all necessary data is being compiled and uploaded for review. He thanked the Board for ensuring that all governance training is current. Following the site visit, the school will receive a report with green, yellow, or red ratings. The goal is to achieve as many green ratings as possible, with a plan to address any areas identified in yellow or red.

Mr. Nuñez emphasized the importance of this process for the school's continued success and expressed his commitment to ensuring the school is in full compliance. He also mentioned that Sam Gonzalez, who could not attend the meeting due to being double-booked, has offered to present at the next meeting to continue supporting the school's efforts.

- D. \*Approval of Out-of-State Travel to El Paso, TX, to the Holocaust Museum & El Paso Children's Museum (Week of March 3, 2025): Violeta Bustamante, Dean of Students, informed the Governing Council Members about the upcoming out-of-state trip to El Paso, TX, planned for the week of March 3, 2025. The trip will include visits to the Holocaust Museum and the El Paso Children's Museum. The field trip aims to provide an educational experience focusing on the Holocaust and offering a hands-on science learning opportunity.

Before the trip, students will engage in lessons on the Holocaust, with literature taught by Mrs. Call and history by Mr. Guillen. Ms. Bustamante highlighted the significance of this opportunity, particularly for students from low-income backgrounds who may not have access to such experiences otherwise.

**Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer, to APPROVE the Out-of-State Travel to El Paso, TX, to the Holocaust Museum & El Paso Children's Museum the week of March 3, 2025; seconded by Kerena Vasquez Levario, Member. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

- E. Governing Council Upcoming Conferences: Noel Nuñez, Director, provided details about the upcoming conferences for the Governing Council members:

- NMASBO Spring Budget Workshop/April 9-11, 2025/Albuquerque, NM
- NMSBA School Law Conference /June 5-7, 2025/Albuquerque, NM
- National Charter School Conference/June 29-July 2, 2025/Orlando, FL

Mr. Nuñez suggested that it would be beneficial for two members of the Finance Committee to attend the Spring Budget Workshop. He also recommended attendance at the School Law Conference in the summer and mentioned the National Charter School Conference in Orlando, FL, despite the challenging weather during that time.

Chris Masters, Business Manager, emphasized the importance of attending the Spring Budget Workshop, noting the valuable information on legislative changes and the opportunity for direct discussions with the Secretary of Education.

Mr. Nuñez mentioned that attending these conferences, especially the Spring Budget Workshop and School Law Conference, provides useful refreshers and a deeper understanding of the school's compliance requirements.

**VI. Director's Report:**

Noel Nuñez presented the Director's Report and asked the Governing Council Members if they had any questions. *(Please see the attached Director's Report.)*

**VII. Time and Content for the next Governing Council Meeting:**

Regular Meeting – March 4, 2025, 6:00 P.M.

- **Election of Officers/Oath of Commitment:** Britney Valdez will be given the opportunity to accept or decline her nomination for Vice-President.

- **Presentation:** Sam Gonzales will discuss the Charter Contract & Performance Framework.
- **Presentation:** Student Report from the Legislative Session.

**VIII. Board Meeting Evaluation:** The Governing Council Members agreed that the meeting was productive and highly informative.

**IX. Next Scheduled Meeting**

Regular Meeting/March 4, 2025/DCCCHS Room #14/6:00 P.M.

**X. \*Adjournment:**

**Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer, to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:02 p.m.; seconded by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Member. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**