

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

May 13, 2025

6:05 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 May 13, 2025, at 6:05 p.m. The following Governing Council members attended: Nick Perez (President), *Present via-zoom*, Kerena Vazquez Levario (Vice-President), *Present*, Barbara Reedy (Secretary/Treasurer), *Present via-zoom*, Crystal Peña (Member), *Present via-zoom*, and Britney Valdez (Member), *Present via-zoom*. Also present were Noel Nuñez (Director) and Chris Masters (Business Manager) *via-zoom*. 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 6:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Roll Call was conducted, and a quorum was established 5/5.
Britney Valdez arrived at 6:15 p.m.

C. Reading of the Mission Statement.

D. *Adoption of the Agenda:

Motion was made by Crystal Peña, Member, to ADOPT the Agenda as presented; seconded by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

E. *Meeting Minutes Review/Approval for April 8, 2025:

Motion was made by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Member, to APPROVE the April 8, 2025, meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

II. Public Comment (Limited Public Forum)

Time Limit 15 minutes total

No Public Comment.

III. Staff/Student Spotlight

Noel Nuñez, Director, informed the Governing Council that, due to a full meeting agenda, the Staff and Student Spotlight segment was omitted from this session. He extended an invitation to the two Board Members to attend the Senior Award Ceremony on Monday to assist in presenting awards. Two students, as noted in the Director's Report, will receive special recognition for being awarded \$8,000 scholarships from New Mexico State University (NMSU).

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

- Audit Committee: The Audit Committee did not meet. There is no update at his time.

- Finance Committee: Crystal Peña, Member, mentioned that the Governing Council Members had recently held a budget Workshop on May 7th. Chris Masters, Business Manager, added that this served as the Finance Committee meeting for the month
- 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:
 - NMSBA School Law Conference /June 5-7, 2025/Albuquerque, NM
 - 2025 Charter Schools Conference/June 10-11, 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 conducted the election of DCCCHS Vice-President. Kerena Vazquez Levario was nominated for Vice-President. Ms. Vazquez Levario accepted the nomination.

Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Member, to ACCEPT the nomination for the position of Vice-President; seconded by Crystal Peña, Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

C. *Approval of Gifted Education Policy: Noel Nuñez, Director, presented the Gifted Education Policy to the Governing Council Members, explaining that the State of New Mexico is placing renewed emphasis on Gifted Education. The proposed policy was developed with input from other Charter Schools and tailored to the School's needs in collaboration with the Special Education Facilitator. *(Please see the attached Gifted Education Policy.)*

Motion was made by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President, to APPROVE the Gifted Education Policy; seconded by Crystal Peña, Member. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

D. *Approval of Policy addressing SB163 - Tribal Regalia: Noel Nuñez, Director, presented the Policy addressing SB163 regarding Tribal Regalia and explained that, although the School currently has no Indigenous Students, the Policy ensures future inclusivity and protection for all cultural backgrounds. The policy was adopted from other Schools and must be in place by August 1, 2025. *(Please see attached SB163 Policy – Tribal Regalia.)*

Motion was made by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President, to APPROVE the Policy addressing SB163 – Tribal Regalia; seconded by Britney Valdez, Member. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

- E. *Approval of Cell Phone Policy: Noel Nuñez, Director, presented and explained the Cell Phone policy, noting that it has been in place for over 12 years but was recently revised to comply with a new State Distraction Bill. *(Please see attached Cell Phone Policy.)*

Motion was made by Crystal Peña, Member, to APPROVE the Cell Phone Policy; seconded by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

- F. *Approval of Mandated Policies: Chris Masters, Business Manager, explained that approval of mandated policies is no longer needed since all policies have already been approved.

- G. *Approval of Contract with Diandra Barnwell: Noel Nuñez, Director, introduced the Contract with Diandra Barnwell, which had been included in the Meeting Packet for review. Mr. Nuñez shared that after consulting with other Charter Schools, he was impressed with Ms. Barnwell's Fundraising Connections, particularly out-of-state contacts in New York and California. He emphasized the challenge of Fundraising locally and expressed support for giving her a trial Contract with the option to discontinue if she does not deliver results.

Motion was made by Crystal Peña, Member, to APPROVE the Contract with Diandra Barnwell; seconded by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

- H. *Approval of Budget Adjustment Request – SEG Final Adjustment: Chris Masters, Business Manager, presented the Budget Adjustment Request for the SEG Final Adjustment amount of \$227,009.44, which will be reflected on the revenue side. Mr. Masters explained that minor maintenance adjustments will follow at year-end.

Motion was made by Britney Valdez, Member, to APPROVE the Budget Adjustment Request – SEG Final Adjustment; seconded by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

- I. *Approval of 2025-26 School Calendar: Chris Masters, Business Manager, presented the 2025-26 School Calendar and explained that the Calendar is similar to the Deming Public Schools Calendar with a few annotated differences, and noted the inclusion of the school "fast track" in May and June.

Motion was made by Crystal Peña, Member, to APPROVE the 2025-26 School Calendar as presented; seconded by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

J. *Approval of 2025-26 Salary Schedule: Chris Masters, Business Manager, presented the salary schedule, which was included in the Board Packet and discussed previously during the Budget Workshop. Mr. Masters explained that Adjustments have been made in accordance with Legislative Requirements:

- Minimum salaries set at \$55,000, \$65,000, and \$75,000 for Level 1, 2, and 3 teachers, respectively.
- The district will recognize up to 15 years of out-of-district experience.
- Minimum hourly wage will be adjusted so that no employee earns less than \$17 per hour. *(Please see the attached 2025-26 Salary Schedule.)*

Motion was made by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President, to APPROVE the 2025-26 School Calendar as presented; seconded by Britney Valdez, Member. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

K. *Approval of 2025-26 School Budget: Chris Masters, Business Manager, presented the 2025-26 School Budget:

- There were no changes to the Budget following the State's review—only clarifications were requested.
- The Public Education Department (PED) had no negative feedback.
- One clarification involved the doubling of field trip and student transportation costs, which Chris explained was due to increased parental demand.
- A separate budget line item was addressed in accordance with a Governing Council recommendation, and this was clarified and accepted. *(Please see the attached 2025-26 School Budget.)*

Motion was made by Crystal Peña, Member, to APPROVE the 2025-26 School Budget as presented; seconded by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

L. *Approval of MOA – Southwest Regional Education Cooperative: Noel Nuñez, Director, presented the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Southwest Regional Cooperative. Mr. Nuñez explained that the MOA is renewed annually. The Southwest Regional Education Cooperative supports the district with Student Services and Medicaid billing. There were no changes to the agreement from previous years. *(Please see the attached MOA for Southwest Regional Cooperative.)*

Motion was made by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President, to APPROVE the MOA with Southwest Regional Cooperative as presented; seconded by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

M. *Approval of Contract for Legal Services – Charter Law Office, P.C. (Susan Fox): Noel Nuñez, Director, presented the Contract for Legal Services with Charter Law Office, P.C., Susan Fox. Mr. Nuñez explained that Susan Fox will continue to provide Legal Services, and this contract is a continuation of existing services. *(Please see the attached Contract for Legal Services – Charter Law Office, P.C.)*

Motion was made by Crystal Peña, Member, to APPROVE the Contract for Legal Services – Charter Law Office, P.C. (Susan Fox); seconded by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

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 – June 10, 2025, 6:00 P.M.

- Approval of MOUs – SPED, Student Nutrition, Transportation, Maintenance
- Director's Evaluation

VIII. Board Meeting Evaluation: The Governing Council Members agreed that a significant amount was accomplished during the meeting. He expressed appreciation for the pre-meeting preparation and materials, noting that they contributed to the meeting's overall efficiency and productivity.

IX. Next Scheduled Meeting

Regular Meeting/June 10, 2025/DCCCHS Room #14/6:00 P.M.

X. *Adjournment:

Motion was made by Crystal Peña, Member, to ADJOURN the meeting at 6:56 p.m.; seconded by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.