

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

December 16, 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 December 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. The following Governing Council Members attended: Nick Perez (President), *Present*, Kerena Vazquez Levario (Vice-President), *Present*, Barbara Reedy (Secretary/Treasurer), *Present*, Britney Valdez (Member), *Present*, and AnaMaria Sandoval (Member), *Present*. 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 5/5.
AnaMaria Sandoval arrived at 6:08 p.m.
- C. Reading of the Mission Statement.
- D. *Adoption of the Agenda:

Motion was made by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President, to ADOPT the Agenda as presented; seconded by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

E. *Meeting Minutes Review/Approval for November 11, 2025 & December 8, 2025:

Motion was made by Britney Valdez, Member, to APPROVE the November 11, 2025, & December 8, 2025, meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Kerena Vazquez, Vice-President. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

II. Public Comment (Limited Public Forum)

Time Limit: 15 minutes total. No Public Comment was given.

III. Discussion/Action Items

- A. Community School Food Distribution Report: (*Please see the attached Food Distribution Update from Mrs. Martinez-Lopez.*)
- B. *Approval of Out-of-State Travel – Outbreak Escape Room, El Paso, TX: Cynthia Benting presented a request for Approval of an Out-of-State Team-Building Activity for the Student, Staff Support Group. The Activity will include an Escape Room Experience and Dinner in El Paso, Texas, and is intended to Strengthen Collaboration between Students and Staff. Approximately 12 students will participate, and all expenses have been confirmed to be within the Approved Budget.

Motion was made by Britney Valdez, Member, to APPROVE the Out of State Travel to the Outbreak Escape Room in El Paso, TX; seconded by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

C. GC Retreat Agenda Items (January 9-11, 2026): The Governing Council discussed Agenda Items for the upcoming Governing Council Retreat scheduled for January 9-11, 2026, at Hotel Encanto.

Planned Discussion Items Include:

- Review of Staff and Student Handbooks
- Review of Director Position: Evaluation, Job Description, Contract, Interview Questions.
- Review of all Employee Job Descriptions
- Review of Bylaws, including Governing Council Term Limits

D. *Appointment of Interim Director: The Governing Council made the decision to appoint Marlene Padron as Interim Director for the remainder of the 2025–2026 school year, pending the posting and selection of a permanent Director.

The Governing Council opened the floor for discussion. Members expressed appreciation for Ms. Violeta Paxton's leadership and dedication during a challenging transition period. Support was voiced for Ms. Padron, citing her experience, leadership, and readiness to continue advancing the school's operations. Governing Council Members emphasized the importance of collaboration, continuity, and a shared commitment to supporting Staff and Students.

Motion was made by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President, to APPOINT Marlene Padron as Interim Director for the remainder of the 2025-2026 school year; seconded by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

IV. *Executive Session – (To discuss pending litigation, limited personnel matters, or property pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(2).

1. Interim Director Contract

Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer, to ENTER Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. to discuss the Interim Director Contract; seconded by Britney Valdez, Member. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Roll Call into Executive Session

Nick Perez – Present

Kerena Vazquez Levario – Present

Barbara Reedy – Present

Britney Valdez – Present

AnaMaria Sandoval – Present

Motion was made by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President, to EXIT Executive Session at 7:07 p.m.; seconded by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 5-0. No action was taken.

Roll Call out of Executive Session
Nick Perez – Present
Kerena Vazquez Levario – Present
Barbara Reedy – Present
Britney Valdez – Present
AnaMaria Sandoval – Present

V. Discussion/Action Item

E. *Approval of Interim Director Contract:

Motion was made by AnaMaria Sandoval, Member, to APPROVE the Interim Director Contract; seconded by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

VI. Time and Content for the Next Governing Council Meeting:

Regular Meeting – January 13, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

- Review of PCSOC Items
- Election of Officers
- Student and Staff Handbooks

VII. Board Meeting Evaluation: The Governing Council Members agreed that the meeting was informative, productive, and effective.

VIII. Next Scheduled Meeting

Regular Meeting/January 13, 2026/DCCCHS Room #14/6:00 P.M.

IX. *Adjournment:

Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer, to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:12 p.m.; seconded by Britney Valdez, Member. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.