

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

February 10, 2026

6:01 p.m.

Regular 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 10, 2026, at 6:01 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), *Absent*, 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 6:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- B. Roll Call was conducted, and a quorum was established 4/5.
Britney Valdez - Absent
- 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 Anamaria Sandoval, Member. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

- E. *Meeting Minutes Review/Approval for January 13, 2026:

Motion was made by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President, to APPROVE the January 13, 2026, meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Anamaria Sandoval, Member. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

II. Public Comment (Limited Public Forum)

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

III. Staff/Student Spotlight

Marlene Parra-Padron, Interim Director, introduced Nathan Zamora & Rosie Armijo, DCCCHS Students, to the Governing Council Members for the Student Spotlight.

Nathan Zamora and Rosie Armijo provided an update on the current school activities. Students reported that February includes several initiatives focused on leadership development and building community. Activities based on the “Fish Philosophy” are being implemented to emphasize supporting one another and fostering kindness. As part of this effort, students will decorate cookies with positive messages to share with classmates, promoting encouragement and peer support.

In recognition of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, the school will host activities centered on healthy relationships. Students will participate in gender-separate discussion groups to encourage open dialogue about communication, consent, and characteristics of

healthy relationships. School psychologists and staff members will be present to support students. A guest speaker with experience in domestic violence counseling may also present. Prom planning is underway, with the event tentatively scheduled to be held at Adobe Deli. The proposed theme blends Western style with glamour. Additionally, staff and students discussed hosting a senior bonfire toward the end of February to provide seniors an opportunity to connect and create positive memories prior to graduation.

Students also referenced additional senior activities planned for the coming months, including a possible field trip in April and a senior sunset event in May to commemorate the end of the school year.

Rosie Armijo expressed appreciation to the Board for supporting a December senior activity at an escape room, noting that the event helped lift student morale and strengthen connections among seniors. She also thanked staff and administration for their continued support during leadership transitions.

Board members thanked the students for their presentation, commended their leadership and involvement, and encouraged their continued engagement. A brief discussion followed regarding students' experiences at the school, during which students highlighted the school's supportive environment, small size, strong relationships with teachers, and sense of community. One student shared an interest in pursuing a career in special education after graduation.

The Board congratulated the students on their achievements and thanked them for their time and contributions.

Marlene Parra-Padron, Interim Director, introduced Violeta Paxton, Dean of Students, for the Staff Spotlight and expressed appreciation for her leadership and support during the administrative transition.

Mrs. Paxton shared her professional journey at DCCCHS, beginning in 2016 as an ELA and ESL teacher. Over the years, she has served in multiple roles, including Science Teacher, Driver's Education Instructor, Assistant Principal/Dean of Students, Testing Coordinator, and School Navigator. She also participated in the State of New Mexico's administrator development program, which supported her transition into school administration.

Ms. Paxton expressed gratitude for the opportunities provided to her at DCCCHS and shared her commitment to continued professional growth and service to the school community.

The Governing Council thanked Ms. Paxton for her dedication, leadership, and ongoing contributions to the school.

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

- Audit Committee: The Audit Committee met for the Audit Exit Meeting on January 16, 2026.

- Finance Committee: The Finance Committee 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: Professional Development information is shared about upcoming trainings later in the Agenda under Discussion Items.

V. Discussion/Action Items

- A.** Community School Food Distribution Report: *(Please see the attached Food Distribution Update from Mrs. Martinez-Lopez.)*
- B.** Parent Budget Input: Chris Masters, Business Manager, presented results from the Parent Budget Input survey collected during Parent-Teacher Conferences. A total of 34 responses were received.

Survey highlights included:

- Facility ratings were largely positive, with the majority indicating “excellent” or “very good.”
- 33 parents reported that adequate supplies are provided for student success.
- Preliminary priority areas identified by parents included:
 - Technology in classrooms
 - Vocational and job skills training
 - Expansion of career readiness opportunities

Additional parent comments included requests for more uniforms, field trips, laptops for home use, college preparation resources, and increased curriculum support.

Discussion included opportunities to expand work-study placements and strengthen community partnerships to enhance career and technical education offerings.

- C.** First Review of 2026-27 School Calendar: Marlene Padron, Interim Director, presented the first review of the proposed 2026–2027 school calendar, developed in alignment with Deming Public Schools’ calendar while incorporating staff input.

Key highlights included:

- Teachers scheduled to begin July 20, 2026, with students beginning July 27, 2026
- Calendar adjustments intended to allow staff to conclude the school year concurrently with Deming Public Schools

- Flexibility in scheduling parent-teacher conferences through extended evening hours
- Designated professional development days, testing days, and a weather make-up day

Staff reviewed the calendar and expressed support. Minor corrections will be addressed prior to the next review.

- D. *Acceptance of FY25 Financial Audit Report Release:** Chris Masters, Business Manager, requested that Acceptance of the FY2025 Financial Audit Report Release be tabled because the State Auditor’s Office had not yet released the final audit.

Motion was made by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President, to TABLE the Acceptance of FY25 Financial Audit Report Release; seconded by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

- E. Governing Council Upcoming Conferences:** The following upcoming conferences were shared with the Governing Council Members.
- NMASBO 2026 Spring Budget Workshop/March 18-20, 2026/Albuquerque, NM
 - NMSBA 2026 School Law Conference /June 4-6, 2026/Albuquerque, NM
 - National Charter School Conference/June 24-26, 2026/New Orleans

VI. Director’s/Dean of Students Report:

Marlene Parra- Padron, Interim Director, presented the Director’s Report and welcomed any questions from the Governing Council Members. *(Please see the attached Director’s Report.)*

Violeta Paxton, Dean of Students, presented the Dean of Students Report and welcomed any questions from the Governing Council Members. *(Please see the attached Dean of Students Report.)*

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

Regular Meeting – March 3, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

- Acceptance of FY25 Financial Audit Report Release
- Continued MRI status updates

VIII. Board Meeting Evaluation: The Governing Council Members noted the meeting included significant information and appreciated the detailed MRI and attendance/graduation updates.

IX. Next Scheduled Meeting

Regular Meeting/March 3, 2026/DCCCHS Room #14/6:00 P.M.

X. *Adjournment:

Motion was made by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President, to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:37 p.m.; seconded by Anamaria Sandoval, Member. MOTION CARRIED 4-0.