

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

**April 14, 2026**

**6:00 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 April 14, 2026, 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** – Kerena Vazquez Levario, presiding.

- A. Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-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 6:05 p.m.*
- C. Reading of the Mission Statement.
- D. \*Adoption of the Agenda:

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

- E. \*Meeting Minutes Review/Approval for March 3, 2026 & April 8, 2026:

**Motion was made by Britney Valdez, Member, to APPROVE the March 3, 2026 & April 8, 2026, 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 was given.

**III. Staff/Student Spotlight**

**Staff Spotlight:**

Marlene Parra-Padron, Interim Director, recognized Lupe Mariscal, Attendance Clerk, for her outstanding dedication to student attendance. She was commended for actively locating and supporting students, coordinating with families, and contributing to student success through data meetings and interventions.

The Governing Council Members expressed appreciation for her commitment and impact on student attendance and overall school success.

### **Student Spotlight:**

No student representatives were present. Updates included:

- Prom scheduled with a Western theme
- Upcoming field trip to the El Paso Chihuahuas game
- Successful “Pink Night” community event
- Continued student involvement in school activities

### **IV. Committee Report – 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 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:** An update was provided on the Student Equity Council, including:
  - Review and Revision of the Student Handbook
  - Discussion on Recognizing Valedictorian and Salutatorian Honors
  - Student Input on potential School Redesign
- **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:** Angie Martinez-Lopez, Community Liaison, provided updates regarding monthly food distributions, emergency food assistance, student participation in community service activities, work-study success stories, upcoming outreach events, and graduation preparations. Additional updates included participation in the Compass Manufacturing Tour, Luna County Health Fair, and Job Skills Development Program activities. *(Please see the attached Food Distribution Update.)*
- B. \*Selection of MRI Designation Option:** Marlene Parra-Padron, Interim Director, reviewed the three options available to the school regarding MRI designation status: restart, redesign, or closure. Mrs. Padron recommended proceeding with the redesign option for the 2026–2027 school year.

Governing Council members discussed support for the redesign option and agreed that redesign was the best path forward for the school.

Mrs. Padron informed the Governing Council that she would present the redesign plan to the Deming Public Schools Board, the school's authorizer, during a May board meeting and invited Governing Council members to attend.

**Motion was made by Britney Valdez, Member, to APPROVE the Redesign Option; seconded by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

- C. \*Acceptance of FY25 Financial Audit Report Release: Chris Masters, Business Manager, presented the FY25 Financial Audit Report Release. Mr. Masters reported that the audit results were positive overall, with only minor findings, primarily related to staff training documentation.

Mr. Masters explained that there is a plan to complete all required trainings during the first week of pre-service for the upcoming school year and discussed providing incentives for staff to complete the trainings.

**Motion was made by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President, to ACCEPT the FY25 Financial Audit Report Release; seconded by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

- D. \*Approval of Budget Adjustment Request - SEG Final Adjustment: Chris Masters, Business Manager, presented the Budget Adjustment Request and reported that updated SEG calculations resulted in the school gaining approximately \$26,000 instead of the anticipated funding loss previously discussed at the Governing Council retreat.

Additional funds were allocated primarily toward contractual services for administration and facilities.

Discussion also included future plans for school facility improvements, vehicles, and a new marquee sign associated with the school redesign and potential rebranding efforts.

**Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer, to APPROVE the Budget Adjustment Request for the SEG Final Adjustment for \$26,000.00; seconded by Britney Valdez, Member. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

- E. \*Approval of 2026-2027 Salary Schedule: Chris Masters, Business Manager, presented the proposed 2026–2027 Salary Schedule and explained the transition to the Teacher Composite Index (TCI) model, which focuses on licensure levels and years of experience rather than educational attainment.

Mr. Masters reviewed salary comparisons with surrounding districts, including Deming Public Schools, Las Cruces Public Schools, Gadsden Independent School District, and Cobre Consolidated Schools, noting that the school remained competitive in teacher compensation.

Additional information presented included:

- Extension of the salary schedule through 34 years of experience.
- Transfer of up to 15 years of outside district experience.
- Minimum hourly wage increase to \$17 per hour.
- Minimum Educational Assistant salary increase to \$27,000 annually.

*(Please see the attached 2026-2027 Salary Schedule.)*

**Motion was made by Anamaria Sandoval, Member, to APPROVE the 2026-2027 Salary Schedule; seconded by Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

- F. \*Approval of 2026-2027 School Budget: Chris Masters, Business Manager, presented the proposed 2026–2027 School Budget. Mr. Masters explained that the State Equalization Guarantee (SEG) valuation had not yet been finalized by the state; however, revenue projections were developed using current enrollment data, projected student counts, and estimated funding calculations.

Mr. Masters reviewed major budget priorities, including:

- A statutory 1% salary increase for all staff.
- Implementation of the three-tier salary schedule aligned with the Teacher Composite Index (TCI).
- Maintaining operational staffing levels.
- Continued investment in intervention programs for language arts and math.
- Additional support for special education resources and facility improvements.

Mr. Masters also reviewed the overall budget breakdown, noting that the majority of funding remained focused on direct instruction and student support services while maintaining operational stability. *(Please see the attached 2026-2027 School Budget.)*

**Motion was made by Anamaria Sandoval, Member, to APPROVE the 2026-2027 School Budget as presented; seconded by Britney Valdez, Member. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

- G. \*Approval of Out-of-State Travel – Senior Trip to Chihuahuas Game in El Paso, TX on May 6, 2026: Marlene Parra-Padron, Interim Director, presented the request for approval of out-of-state travel for the senior trip to attend the El Paso Chihuahuas game in El Paso, Texas. Discussion included student participation, transportation arrangements, supervision, and itinerary details for the trip.

Governing Council members discussed the educational and student engagement opportunities associated with the senior trip and expressed support for providing students with the experience.

**Motion was made by Britney Valdez, Member, to APPROVE the Out-of-State travel request for the Senior Trip; seconded by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

- H. \*Authorization for Out-of-State Travel – NCSC26 New Orleans, LA/June 24-26, 2026: The Governing Council discussed authorization for out-of-state travel to attend the 2026 National Charter Schools Conference scheduled for June 24–26, 2026, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Discussion included conference participation, professional development opportunities, travel arrangements, and estimated costs associated with attendance.

Governing Council members discussed the value of attending the conference to gain information on charter school governance, leadership, compliance, and school improvement initiatives that could support the school’s redesign efforts and future planning.

**Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer, to APPROVE the Out-of-State travel authorization for attendance at the 2026 National Charter Schools Conference; seconded by Britney Valdez, Member. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

- I. Governing Council Upcoming Conferences: The Governing Council members reviewed upcoming conference opportunities, including the 2026 School Law Conference scheduled for June 4–6 in Albuquerque, NM, and the National Charter Schools Conference in 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. \*Executive Session – (To discuss pending litigation, limited personnel matters, or property pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 10-15-1(H)(2).**  
1. Personnel Matters

**Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer, to ENTER Executive Session at 7:04 p.m. to discuss Personnel Matters; 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 Britney Valdez, Member, to EXIT Executive Session at 7:19 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**

**VIII. Time and Content for the Next Governing Council Meeting:**

Regular Meeting – May 12, 2026, 6:00 P.M.

- Approval of 2026-2027 MOUs- Transportation, Special Student Services, Student Nutrition, Maintenance
- Approval of 2026-2027 Lease Addendum Renewal

**IX. Board Meeting Evaluation:** The Governing Council members shared that the meeting provided a significant amount of valuable information and appreciated receiving timely updates regarding school programs, student success initiatives, and ongoing redesign planning efforts.

**X. Next Scheduled Meeting**

Regular Meeting/May 12, 2026/DCCCHS Room #14/6:00 P.M.

**XI. \*Adjournment:**

**Motion was made by Britney Valdez, Member, to ADJOURN the meeting at 7:24 p.m.; seconded by Anamaria Sandoval, Member. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**