



DEMING CESAR CHAVEZ CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Governing Council Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 15, 2026
6:05 p.m.
DCCCHS Room #14

I. Call Meeting to Order

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The regular meeting of the Deming Cesar Chavez Charter High School Governing Council was called to order at approximately 6:05 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Four of the five Governing Council members were present, establishing a quorum 4/5.

Members Present:

Kerena Vazquez Levario, Vice-President

Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer

Britney Valdez, Member (via Zoom)

Anamaria Sandoval, Member

Member Absent:

Nick Perez, President

C. Reading of Mission Statement

The DCCCHS mission statement was read.

D. Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer, to ADOPT the Agenda as presented; seconded by Anamaria Sandoval, Member.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

E. Meeting Minutes Review/Approval for August 11, 2026

The August 11, 2026 Governing Council meeting minutes were presented for review. No corrections or questions were noted.

Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer, to APPROVE the August 11, 2026 meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Anamaria Sandoval, Member.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

II. Public Comment (Limited Public Forum)

There was no public comment.



DEMING CESAR CHAVEZ CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

III. Student Equity Council Report

Students Avery Montoya and Bria Robinson provided the Student Equity Council update. They reported on FISH activities, including a planned scavenger hunt, a previous movie activity, and participation in Senior Sunrise. Students are also planning Spirit Week for the last week of October, including themes and a reward system.

The Governing Council asked the students about their experience at DCCCHS. The students shared that they value the smaller class sizes, personalized learning environment, communication with teachers, team-building activities, and close-knit school community. Both students are seniors and shared postsecondary interests in elementary education and environmental science. The Council thanked the students for their participation and contributions to the school.

IV. Director/Dean of Students Report

Director Report

Staff Introductions

Marlene Parra-Padron, Director, introduced three new teachers: Lucy Trejo, Kimberly Molina, and Brianna Chavez. Each teacher shared information regarding her educational background, teaching experience, and experience at DCCCHS. The teachers spoke positively about the smaller class sizes, opportunities for one-on-one support, student engagement, and the school's focus on social-emotional support. Governing Council Members welcomed the teachers and expressed appreciation for the experience and commitment they bring to the school.

Student Enrollment

Director Parra-Padron reported that, as of September 3, enrollment totaled 137 students, including 92 day students and 45 evening students, with four additional students pending. Enrollment remained approximately 20-25 students below the prior year. The Council discussed declining enrollment as a broader district and statewide concern, including the possible impact of remote learning options. Recruitment efforts will continue before the 40th-day count.

School Redesign, Career Pathways, and Grants

Director Parra-Padron reported that the school's first state redesign visit was scheduled for September 9. The school will identify three areas of growth, and the state team will provide support and return during the year to review progress.

The school continues developing partnerships to support student internships, career pathways, industry certificates, and paid work experiences. Director Parra-Padron reported that the school received notification of a GRIP grant for students age 16 and older who are off track for graduation and need credit recovery. Eligible students may receive stipends for work experiences while earning credit, including the potential for core academic credit. The final award amount had not yet been received.



DEMING CESAR CHAVEZ CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

The school also submitted an Innovation Zone Grant application for approximately \$130,000 to further support internships and career pathway opportunities. The long-term goal is to prepare ninth- and tenth-grade students with employability and soft skills and provide eleventh- and twelfth-grade students with pathways that may include paid work experience, certifications, or college preparation.

DCCCHS Performance Framework and Mission-Specific Goals

Director Parra-Padron reviewed the school's performance information in preparation for a meeting with Deming Public Schools. The report included academic performance, mission-specific goals, graduation data, Governing Council training, compliance, and financial reporting measures. The school demonstrated growth in several areas compared with the prior year.

One mission-specific goal measures whether qualifying seniors complete college- and career-readiness activities such as workforce certificates, Accuplacer benchmarks, ASVAB participation, GRADS, or work-study experiences. The school scored approximately 66%, placing it in the working-to-meet range. Director Parra-Padron noted that evening-program students must be more consistently included in these opportunities. The ASVAB was scheduled for September 29 for sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

A second mission-specific goal requires students in grades 9-11 to successfully complete five or more credits. The school met the standard at approximately 76%; however, the evening program will require additional review because its current structure may result in some students earning fewer than five credits.

The New Mexico Science Assessment data showed approximately 19% proficiency in 2024-25 with a 1% increase in 2025-26. The Class of 2025 graduation cohort rate was discussed as approximately 62%, below the 67% target. Final 2026 graduation data had not yet been released. The Council also reviewed the state performance framework, noting progress in academic accountability, student-group outcomes, testing participation, re-enrollment, governance, legal compliance, procurement, audit, and financial transparency. Bank reconciliation, cash receipt, and reimbursement reporting were identified as areas requiring attention.

Dean of Students Report

Attendance and Benchmark Data

Violeta Paxton, Dean of Students, reported an overall attendance rate of 92.96% since the beginning of the school year and an August attendance rate of 92.74%. An emergency evacuation drill was also conducted during August.

Ms. Paxton presented beginning-of-year Progress Learning benchmark data. Testing was conducted August 17-18, with a makeup window beginning August 20. As of August 27, 103 students had completed the assessment. Students were generally performing higher in English-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) than in mathematics, with juniors demonstrating the strongest overall performance among grade levels.



DEMING CESAR CHAVEZ CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

The benchmark data identified significant academic gaps, particularly in mathematics. Ninth-grade students were approximately 60 points below the reading/writing benchmark and 110 points below the math benchmark. Tenth-grade students were approximately 80 points below in reading/writing and more than 140 points below in math. Eleventh- and twelfth-grade students had the highest scores and were closer to the reading/writing benchmark, although they remained below college-readiness targets. The beginning-of-year assessment will serve as a baseline to measure individual student growth at the middle and end of the year.

Director Parra-Padron explained that diagnostic assessments are being used to identify students requiring targeted intervention. Students performing at lower foundational levels have been placed into small groups. Rogelio Orozco is providing math intervention through a pull-out model, generally twice per week for approximately 20 minutes. A similar pull-out model will be used for reading intervention. The Council requested a future update regarding student progress and implementation.

V. Committee Reports – Audit, Finance, School Planning/Academic, Equity Council, Council Development, Marketing & Branding Committee

Audit/Finance Committee

Chris Masters, Business Manager, reported that the Finance and Audit Committee met on September 3 and also met with the school's auditors. The audit remained on track. The auditors were completing the compliance/interim portion and moving into the financial portion. At the time of the meeting, no significant compliance concerns had been identified.

Mr. Masters also reported that the school received a donation of 90 laptops valued in the six-figure range. Poweron Technology Services will inventory and prepare the laptops for use. The Governing Council expressed appreciation for the donation.

Equity Council

Director Parra-Padron reported that the Equity Student Council held its first meeting regarding the school-renaming process. She emphasized that the process should be student-led and that students should have a voice in the future name of the school. Additional meetings will include Governing Council and community participation while allowing students to begin and guide the process.



DEMING CESAR CHAVEZ CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

VI. Discussion/Action Items

A. Community School Food Distribution Report

Angie Martinez provided an update on the school's first on-site food distribution of the year. Students participated as volunteers and responded positively, with additional students expressing interest in future distributions. Students also assisted with the farmworker food distribution. The school plans to continue involving students in these community-service opportunities while minimizing disruption to instructional and testing time.

Ms. Martinez reported that Proyecto Comunidad continues to assist students and families with emergency basic needs. The next school food distribution was scheduled for September 28, with plans to encourage families to participate in the drive-through distribution so students can continue volunteering. She also discussed student participation in Rotary Club presentations, career and job-readiness activities, City and Luna County work-study placements, and coordination with America's Job Center. Efforts are also being made to include evening-program students and former DCCCHS graduates in available career and certification opportunities.

The Council discussed tracking student community-service and work-experience hours. Mr. Masters clarified that 60 hours of qualifying work or community-service experience may be used toward an elective credit. The school will continue tracking participation as career pathway and grant opportunities expand.

B. Certification of Fixed Assets

Chris Masters, Business Manager, reviewed the school's fixed assets and explained that the Audit Committee had physically verified the listed assets. The fixed-asset schedule includes items such as vehicles, air-conditioning units, a trailer, building improvements, flooring, portable-related improvements, fencing, and restroom improvements. The information is used for depreciation and financial reporting to the auditors.

Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer, to APPROVE the Certification of Fixed Assets as presented; seconded by Anamaria Sandoval, Member.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

C. Approval of Psychological Services

Director Parra-Padron reported that a provider had been identified to conduct evaluations; however, additional confirmation was needed to ensure the services met the psychological-services requirement. The Council agreed to table the item until the necessary information could be confirmed.

Motion was made by Anamaria Sandoval, Member, to TABLE the Approval of Psychological Services; seconded by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.



DEMING CESAR CHAVEZ CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

D. Approval of Budget Adjustment Request for City of Deming – Work Study Program

E. Approval of Budget Adjustment Request for Luna County – Work Study Program

Chris Masters, Business Manager, presented the City of Deming and Luna County work-study Budget Adjustment Requests together because both are funded through the same state fund. The City of Deming contract totals \$20,000, a slight decrease from the prior year, and the Luna County contract totals \$18,000, a slight increase. The funds are budgeted for student salaries and associated Social Security and Medicare costs, resulting in a minimum of \$38,000 supporting student work experiences.

Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer, to APPROVE both the City of Deming and Luna County Work Study Program Budget Adjustment Requests; seconded by Anamaria Sandoval, Member.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.

VII. Time and Content for Next Governing Council Meeting

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

- CSI/MRI Grant Budget Adjustment Request
- Spanish Language Education Grant
- Psychological Services
- Additional school updates

VIII. Board Meeting Evaluation

The Governing Council Members commented that there was a lot of good information presented in a short amount of time and that the information was presented well.

Members expressed appreciation for the reports and stated that the information helps maintain a useful running record of the school's progress. Overall, the Council felt it was a good meeting.

IX. Next Scheduled Meetings

Regular Meeting – October 13, 2026 / DCCCHS Room #14 / 6:00 p.m.

X. Adjournment

Motion was made by Barbara Reedy, Secretary/Treasurer, to ADJOURN the meeting at approximately 7:12 p.m.; seconded by Anamaria Sandoval, Member.

MOTION CARRIED 4-0.