



Governing Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 12, 2025 @ 3:30pm
Conference Room and Virtual Option via Google Meets

1. Opening Session

- Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum, and Proper Notice
 - All Board members present.
 - Thomas Chaffee called the meeting to order at 3:31 pm, seconded by Dan Kennedy. Quorum was confirmed, and proper notice was given.
- Approval of Meeting Minutes - November 20, 2024
 - Thomas Chaffee motioned to approve the meeting minutes of November 20, 2024, seconded by Dan Kennedy. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ Public Comments - None

❖ Reports

- a. Head of School's Read-Ahead report provided by Dr. Cathy Rodriguez.
 - i. YouTube Channel - We continue to grow our YouTube presence, highlighting the amazing work of our teachers, including those featured from Puerto Rico.
 - ii. Staffing Updates - We are currently in the process of interviewing teacher candidates for the upcoming school year, and the search is going exceptionally well.
 - iii. Student Enrollment - Our current enrollment stands at 536 students, and we're thrilled to share that we have reached full capacity for next year with a projected enrollment of 652—along with a growing waitlist.
 - iv. School Updates - Academic Calendar 25-26 drafted for review and board approval. On January 7, the SCS Board reviewed our charter expansion application. Our application was unanimously approved (5-0) by the Sarasota County School Board. Additionally, we officially closed on 12 acres of land on February 28, 2025, and held our first planning meeting on March 4, 2025, with Highmark, Gilbane, and Suarez Architects to begin the next steps.
 - v. Data-driven instruction remains a priority, and we have launched the *Dreamers on a Mission*, a 12-Weeks action plan to support student academic growth in reading and math.
 - 1. On February 5, we met with 3rd-5th grade parents to discuss targeted action plans, our expectations, and loving accountability.
 - 2. After my presentation, parents joined their child's homeroom teacher for personalized academic goals.
 - 3. We've implemented a school-to-home communication strategy, including Read-A-Thons, math challenges, writing prompts, and journaling.



4. Walkthroughs and PLC meetings focus on data analysis, instructional strategies, professional development to improve Tier I instruction, and student progress monitoring.
 5. We are celebrating student growth and building confidence every step of the way!
 6. We have introduced free tutoring sessions in the After-School Program who need additional support.
 7. Moreover, we have launched Saturday Academy, offering dedicated morning sessions to provide targeted interventions for identified students.
- vi. Engagement Highlights - We continue to foster a positive school culture through our *Dreamers Got Character* Assemblies.
1. On January 27, we celebrated Literacy Week Florida!
 2. On February 5, we marked the 100th Day of School.
 3. On Friday, February 14, we had our 4th Annual Fun Run and fundraised over \$37K to provide furniture and equipment to our Science Lab.
 4. On February 18, we hosted Cafecito with Dr. Rodriguez, celebrating our successful charter expansion approval in advance—officially making Dreamers Academy a K-8 school!
 5. Family Library Nights on December 6, February 7, and March 7 have been a huge success, bringing families together to foster a love for reading. We started with 8 students and families and in our recent session we had 56 students and their families.
 6. Dreamers Academy is a proud sponsor of a baseball team from the Cal Ripken league in Sarasota this season.
- vii. Preliminary Budget - We already have a first draft of the preliminary budget.
- viii. Added shade structures installations on campus will start Spring Break and will take 10-14 days to complete.
- b. School Improvement Plan (SIP) & School Advisory Council (SAC)
- i. Review and discuss our SIP infographic. The infographics are available on our website in English and Spanish.
 - ii. Our team continues to take proactive steps to address our school goals:
 1. Our teachers, school counselor, and registrar have been working diligently to combat absenteeism, reaching out to families through letters, phone calls, and parent conferences to improve attendance and punctuality.
 2. We had a productive follow-up data dive meeting with the district's Impact Review Team in January, reinforcing our strong partnership.
 3. To achieve our goals, we implemented a more rigorous action plan to improve reading and math learning gains and proficiency, which is *Dreamers on a Mission* as stated above.

❖ New Business - Board Vote

- Academic Calendar 25-26 - Thomas Chaffee motioned to approve the Academic Calendar 25-26, seconded by Deacon Humberto Alvia. Motion passed unanimously.

❖ Board Discussions/Actions



- Thomas Chaffee requested board members approval to open a checking account for the Family Center. Board members said Yes for the record.
 - Dan Kennedy brought up two matters for discussion: Head of School Salary and FRS.
- ❖ Board Comments
- Deacon Humberto Alvia stated how many families that attend his church speak highly of the “new school” in town, Dreamers Academy.
- ❖ Adjournment - Thomas Chaffee motioned to adjourn at 4:03pm. Deacon Humberto Alvia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.