

Discovery Charter School

Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 22, 2025

The Discovery Charter School Board of Directors met virtually via Zoom.

The following were in attendance:

Mario Rodriguez / Chair

Toni Shellady / Managing Director (Non-voting)

Samantha Bagbey / Treasurer

Kayley Talbert / Board Member

Justin Smith / Board Member

Cory Draughon / Charter Success Partners

Absent: Kinsey Price / Board Member

The mission of Discovery Charter School is to prepare students to be self-motivated, lifelong independent and collaborative learners through a challenging STEAM-focused curriculum in an innovative and supportive environment.

The meeting was called to order by Mario Rodriguez at 6:33 pm.

Motion: by Samantha Bagbey to approve the August board meeting minutes

Second: Kayley Talbert Unanimous Approval

Financial Update: by Cory Draughon

The Board reviewed the August financial report. Expenses and revenue are on track as planned.

The Board discussed current fundraising efforts, the yearly audit progress, and consolidated grant funding. The Board also discussed efforts to get a DACA with Pinnacle Bank and investing in a money market with Truist.

Motion: by Samantha Bagbey to open a money market with Truist and to approve Toni Shellady as the official signature on all consolidated grants documents on the school's behalf.

Second: Kayley Talbert Unanimous Approval.

Academic Update: by Toni Shellady

The Board reviewed official EOG/C testing data from the 2024-25 school year. The school moved up a letter grade from last year and returned to a "C" report card score. The school was within ¼ of a point of a "met growth" status. The largest gains were in math. African-American, White, and EC students are subgroups that met growth. The Board was presented with strategies for how the school will continue to grow in math while also regaining historic momentum in reading and science.

Policy Update: by Toni Shellady

The Board reviewed a proposed update to the attendance policy from the school attorney. The new proposed attendance policy has four levels of consequences instead of five, and removes language about automatic failure of a class if a student has a certain number of absences.

Motion: by Mario Rodriguez to update the attendance policy to reflect the proposed changes.
Second: Samantha Bagbey Unanimous Approval

Motion: by Kayley Talbert to go into closed session to discuss confidential matters pursuant to GS 143-34.11.

Second: Justin Smith Unanimous Approval

Motion: by Samantha Bagbey to come out of closed session.

Second: Justin Smith Unanimous Approval

Motion: by Mario Rodriguez to hire Pamela Criswell as an EC teacher and to approve Justin Smith as Board Vice Chair and Kayley Talbert as Board Secretary.

Second: Samantha Bagbey Unanimous Approval

General Comments: The next Board meeting is October 27th and will be virtual.

Adjournment: With no further business before the Board of Directors, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm.