



Governing Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 20, 2024 @ 3:30pm
Conference Room and Virtual Option via Google Meets

1. Opening Session

- Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum, and Proper Notice
 - Thomas Chaffee called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm, seconded by Deacon Humberto Alvia. Quorum was confirmed, and proper notice was given.

- Approval of Meeting Minutes - August 28, 2024
 - Thomas Chaffee motioned to approve the meeting minutes of August 28, 2024, seconded by Deacon Humberto Alvia. Motion passed unanimously.

- ❖ Public Comments - Geri Chaffee thanked Deacon Alvia and St. Jude Catholic Church for their invitation to speak about Dreamers Academy at three Sunday Spanish masses, and also to the women's Bible study and worship group.

- ❖ Reports
 - a. **Head of School's Read-Ahead report** provided by Dr. Cathy Rodriguez.
 - i. We are excited to showcase various aspects of our school through video content posted on our official YouTube channel. We encourage you to subscribe to stay informed on all the latest happenings at Dreamers Academy. Below are links to some of our recent videos:
 - ❖ Family Engagement Video [here](#)
 - ❖ Title I Free & Reduced Lunch Video [here](#)
 - ii. Staffing Updates: We are thrilled to announce that Ms. Yetzenia Pagán has been selected as the 2024-2025 Teacher of the Year at Dreamers Academy. Ms. Pagán's unwavering dedication, passion for teaching, and genuine love for our students have made her an inspiration to both colleagues and students alike. She will represent Dreamers Academy at the district level, and we are incredibly proud of her accomplishments.
 - iii. Enrollment & Marketing Efforts: Our current enrollment stands at 530 students, and we're excited to share that open enrollment for SY25-26 began on October 1st, 2024 and will run through January 12, 2025. Our ongoing marketing campaign, which includes targeted mailers, is already yielding strong results. In fact, we're more than 50% full for next year's kindergarten class. We are confident that the remaining seats will be filled as we continue to engage with prospective families.
 - iv. School Updates:
 - ❖ Calendar Update: Due to recent hurricanes, we've made adjustments to our SY24-25 school calendar. Please find the updated version [here](#) to view.
 - ❖ Middle School Expansion: We've officially submitted our application



to add middle school grades starting next year. Our cohort of 44 fifth graders will be promoted to 6th grade, marking an exciting new chapter for our school. You can view more details in the attached document.

- v. Professional Development: Several of us have recently attended and will be attending key conferences that offer valuable opportunities for professional growth, collaboration, and the exchange of best practices— all aimed at strengthening our programs and initiatives. These conferences allow us to stay at the forefront of educational excellence and bring back innovative ideas to benefit our students and school community.
 - ❖ Ryan Lee, Assistant Head of School, represented Dreamers Academy at the Safety & Security Conference in Texas from November 6-8, 2024, gaining critical insights to enhance our campus safety protocols.
 - ❖ We (Amanda Kane, Jessica Perez Maqueda, Ginebra Arroyo, and Dr. Rodriguez) are excited to share that our proposal was accepted, and a team from Dreamers Academy presented at the La Cosecha Dual Language Conference in Santa Fe, NM, from November 13-16, 2024. This was a great opportunity to showcase our dual-language initiatives and learn from other leaders in the field.
 - ❖ Additionally, we (Anabely Baretty-McIlvain and Dr. Rodriguez) will be attending the Florida Charter Schools Conference in Orlando from November 19-21, 2024. These sessions will provide valuable insights as we take the next steps in growing our school.
- vi. Family Engagement Highlights:
 - ❖ We had our Title I & PTC Meeting night on September 4, 2024 to discuss our school goals, agreements, Title I budget and family engagement initiatives, as well as PTC fundraising event Fall Festival.
 - ❖ Our PTC Fall Festival on Friday, October 4th was a wonderful celebration of community.
 - ❖ Our Literacy & Storybook Character Day Parade on Thursday, October 31st, students delighted us by showcasing their favorite storybook characters through imaginative costumes and sharing their creative pumpkin projects. The event was a wonderful celebration of reading and creativity, inspiring a deeper love for literature and allowing our students to express their unique artistic talents.
 - ❖ We're also incredibly proud to announce that 11 of our students auditioned for the All State Choir this year. After a competitive audition process involving thousands of students from across Florida, one of our students was selected for the prestigious All State Choir, and three others earned spots in the Regional State Choir. This is a tremendous achievement, and we owe much of this success to our talented music teacher, Mrs. Emily Miller.
 - ❖ Additionally, our Cafecito with Dr. Rodriguez provided a fantastic opportunity for parents to connect with the school leadership, receive updates, and engage in meaningful dialogue over coffee. These sessions continue to strengthen our partnership with families.
 - ❖ Our Familia Connect workshops coordinated by our Parent



Champion Andres Bonett and Family Library Night facilitated by Amanda Kane our Director of Curriculum and Instruction, provided wonderful opportunities to reconnect with our families, especially in the aftermath of the hurricanes. These events were designed to strengthen our community bonds, offer valuable resources, and support our families as they navigated the challenges last month.

- vii. **Community Involvement:** This year, we were proud to sponsor the 20th Anniversary of the Hispanic Fall Festival at St. Jude's Church, held on Saturday, November 9, 2024. The event was a tremendous success, with a fantastic turnout. We enjoyed a day filled with vibrant music, delicious food, and the privilege of supporting and celebrating our local community. It was truly an honor to be part of this long standing tradition.
 - b. **School Improvement Plan (SIP) & School Advisory Council (SAC):** Our school continues to make excellent use of Title I funds, which are supporting our Coaches, Interventionists, and Teachers as they provide targeted academic support and after-school tutoring for students in need. The SIP and SAC Roster are attached to follow discussion.
 - c. **Additionally:**
 - Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences in October were an opportunity for families to review academic progress, discuss expectations, and revisit our Charter and Home Compact agreements.
 - Our interventionists are working in tandem to improve reading and math skills.
 - Our coaches are working with teachers to improve Tier I instruction and pedagogical skills.
 - A key focus besides reading and math, is attendance. We have been proactive in reaching out to families through phone calls and letters to address absenteeism.
 - Our Dreamers team welcomed the district's Impact Review team, which provided valuable feedback on our growth and progress.
 - Our action plan is aligned with our School Improvement Plan (SIP) and school goals.
- ❖ **New Business** - None for board approval at this time.
 - ❖ **Board Discussions/Actions** - None.
 - ❖ **Board Comments**—Board member Humberto Alvia thankful for our participation as sponsors at the Hispanic Heritage Festival in St. Jude on November 9th.
 - ❖ **Adjournment** - Thomas Chaffee motioned to adjourn at 4:00pm. Deacon Humberto Alvia seconded. The motion passed unanimously.