DMA Board Meeting Minutes
Date: September 28, 2026
Start Time: 18:05 hours
Adjourn Time: 18:40 hours
Meeting Duration: 0 hour 35 minutes

In Person: Helen Barbato, Dan Newcott, Jelena Batula, Don McLamb, Ken Gatson, Brian Rostocki, CAPT Dan Bates, Cheryl Davis-Robinson, Andrea Spahr, Chris Kenny, Scott Green

Via Zoom: N/A

Absent: Nicole Krajewski, Jennifer Dempsey

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
• Call to Order	• At 18:00 hours, Chairperson Batula called the September DMA Board meeting to order, following the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.	○ None required
• Public Comments	• N/A	
• Annual Board Meeting	• The Annual Board Meeting was held before this meeting to vote and approve in the following 2026-2027 DMA Board Members: ○ Executive Board 1. Chairperson: Jelena Batula 2. Vice Chairperson: Andrea Spahr 3. Secretary: Helen Barbato 4. Treasurer: Don McLamb ○ Board Directors 1. Brian Rostocki 2. Cheryl Davis-Robinson 3. Chris Kenny 4. Nicole Krajewski	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	5. Amy Devlin 6. Jennifer Dempsy o Sub-Committee Chairs 1. Governance: Brian Rostocki 2. Finance: Don McLamb and Amy Devlin 3. Academic Excellence: Cheryl Davis-Robinson Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Board of Directors and Sub-Committee First: Rostocki Second: Batula Vote: unanimous – approved	
• Secretary's Report	• The secretary's report for June 2026 meeting distributed for approval. First: Krajewski Second: Batula Vote: unanimous – approved	None Required
• Commandant's Report	**ACADEMIC AND PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES:** • Back to school night was well attended • New schedule for this year, classed are 42 minutes o More typical A/B schedule, it evens out missed time for classes, not all classes every day o Chaotic getting used to but getting settled in o Labeled each day with military letters alphabet • Social Media (Facebook and Instagram) is up and running and highlighting evens	• None Required

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	○ Open House on October 10 ○ Spotlight different staff, started with Dan Newcott, lots of likes, no dislikes! ○ Will highlight do more of daily seen ○ Revamping the DMA page is in progress ○ One of cadet named a national merit scolar, top 1%, Academic Ribbon is being created for cadet • Sports Update ○ Football lost to Archmere, record is 2-2 ○ Volleyball record is 2-2 ○ Field hockey 4-1 so far this season, one player committed ○ Soccer team rebuilding • Admin updates ○ Charter School gala on 10/1, 30th Anniversary of Charter Schools in Delaware. Ken Gatson, Dan Newcott and Dan Bates will be in attendance. ○ New Accountability Program (DE DOE) – This program is being brought back to evaluate schools, put school in zones for review, and would offer support and interventions. If schools could not meet the criteria set forth, the state would come in and take over schools 1. The metrics had not been defined yet, still a work in progress.	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	○ $19 million Federal Grant for Charter Schools will be available to expand opportunities for Charter Schools in Delaware, details forthcoming. ○ Facilities New Director 1. New facilities director started in August and created a blueprint for the facilities needs going forward. Unfortunately, the new facilities director resigned (a position he could not turn down), and is providing recommendations for his replacement. ○ McDonald grant 1. Applying for the McDonald grant to support cosmetic updates to McDonald Hall, ie, painting, updating small classrooms, etc. • NJROTC ○ The 9/11 ceremony went very well with lots of cadet and community (police, fire, etc) participation. A crane was donated to fly the American flag. Senator Coons and Senator David Sokola were both in attendance. Senator Sokola received an Award for Achievement from DMA for his advocation of DE Charter Schools, thanking him for his committee to DE Charter Schools. ○ 9/29: Military Academy night a DMA 1. A number of organizations will be in attendance, including Naval Academy, Merchant Marines, West Point, etc.	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	○ 10/3: DMA will host and support the promotion of Navy Captain Pat Finney to Rear Admiral. Cadets will serve in color guard, bell-ringing detail and escort team with four admiral who will be in attendance. ○ End of year report for 2025-2026 is a measure of how the cadets/Naval instructors are judged each year. 1. Report was submitted in April and approved in June	
• Treasurer's Report	**Treasurer's Report: Report Provided by Don McLamb** **Financials of 6/30/2026** • The following are some Highlights regarding last Fiscal Year ending **June 30, 2026, Financial Stmts.** ○ **REVENUE:** 1. Last year we collected over $9.79M. $308K or 3% over Budgeted Revenue. While this is positive, we need to continue to review the Revenue items which were under budget to see if it's a budgeting issue or collection issue, specifically, Athletics fees, Lunch program, Admin fees & Fund raising. ○ **EXPENSES:** 1. Last Year total expenses incurred were $9.99M. $504K or 5% over Budgeted expenses. 2. As we discussed in last year Board meetings, certain expense sub totals were the main contributors to expenses being over budget: 1. Personnel: Our Biggest Expense subtotal ($6.9M) was over budget by 7%. Drivers were Health Insurance	None required

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	finishing over Budget by 15% and Salaries ($4.6M) over budget by 7% 2. Student Support: Drivers were Other Professional Services/Sub staffing over budget by 72% ($78K) 3. Operations & Maintenance: Drivers – equipment repairs and Final Sewer Project payment $88K 4. There are NO items of Revenue or Expense that have an unexplained material variance from budgeted amounts. ○ **Year End June 30, 2026, NET Surplus / (Deficit) – unaudited** **1.** Net Deficit ($196,590) Last year 6/30/2025 ($959K), significant improvement this year. **2.** In June, we knew Revenue was going to finish over budget but uncertain about additional collections and final June expenses. ○ **Audit Fieldwork** Completed in July. Draft statements received last Friday **1.** Presenting to board at October / November Meeting • **Preliminary Budget August 31, 2026** ○ The Board will review New Fiscal Budget and YTD amounts in next Board meeting. ○ Next year Budget is Break Even- Budgeted revenue is up by approx. 19% to $11.3M ○ **State and Federal Funding:** **1.** Federal funding encumbered 9/30- working to expended by 11/30 deadline	

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	○ **Local Fund (Cash) Balance:** 1. A quarterly review of the Local Fund / Cash balance. As of 6/30/2026, the balance is $4,448,829. This balance increased by $8K since June 30, 2025. Fundraising (Crystal Trust) offset the decrease from Operations deficit. First: Barbato Second: Rostocki • Vote: unanimous – approved	
• Finance Committee	**Finance Committee** • Working to set Meeting calendar for the year. • Looking to focus first on reviewing how we finished last year 6/30/2026 and the current year Preliminary Budget **Citizens Board Oversight Committee (CBOC)** • Scheduling next meeting to review April – June 2026 transactions, year-end financials and new Budget.	None required.
• Governance Committee	• Has not met yet • Each committee will meet at least 2 times year, per bylaws • Will need parent members for next year – if know anyone, send to Brian	• None required.
• Academic Excellence Committee	• Scheduled on 10/19 at 10am	• None required.
• Ad hoc Committee	• Social Media – Instagram and Facebook DMA pages are up and running	• None required.
• Old Business	• N/A	• None required.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION
• New Business	• N/A	• None required.
• Next Board Meeting	The next Board meeting will be **Monday, October 19, 2026.**	• None required.
• Adjournment	First: Batula Second: Davis-Robinson Adjourned 18:40 hours	• None required.

Respectfully Submitted */s/ Helen Barbato*