

Discovery Public School
126 - 8th Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
August 20, 2020 @ 4:30pm

We believe all children can learn.

We believe a trusting, caring, and nurturing environment must pervade the entire school.

We believe in including as many children as possible in all of the learning opportunities.

We believe all of our actions should be consistent with our purpose and vision.

We believe students should be taught “how” to think, not “what” to think.

We believe the primary purpose of education is to teach children “how” to learn.

We believe children must take responsibility for and be actively involved in their learning.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** *The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Russ Kennedy. Russ Kennedy (Chair), Jim Severson (Vice-Chair), Sharon Hansen, Cody Hanson, and Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), were present. Kari-Ann Schmidt attended by speaker phone.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Jim S. made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*
3. **Approval of the June 18, 2020 minutes:** *Jim S. made a motion to approve the June 18, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The financial statement was reviewed by the board. Cody H. made a motion to accept the [As of] July 31, 2020 Financial Statements, as submitted in the school board packet. The motion was seconded by Sam M. The motion carried (5-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** None.
6. **Reports:**

6.1 Director’s Report: Cash on Hand: \$ 129,010.05 Enrollment: 55

*Cash on Hand: \$126,372.50

*Enrollment: 55

*DPS plans to start the School Year in the Hybrid Learning Model based on MDE’s formula for Positive COVID-19 cases.

*Mask Mandate from July 22 will require all students and staff to wear masks if in person learning takes place.

*State Fire Marshall Inspection Aug. 7 (Minor Updates – all have been corrected)

*Environmental Assurances walk through – David Leake – Science Lab Inspection Report (Science Lab Inspection Audit)

David Leake will also present our Blood Borne Pathogens training during workshop week, and include training specific to COVID-19

*Summer School Session 2 – 2 students earned Credit

*10 new students have enrolled for the 2020-2021 school year this Summer

2 more have picked up paperwork

*Fareway Foods has agreed to let DPS advertise for free by handing out flyers with all groceries that are bagged, we took over 5,000 fliers to go out in early August. We have also purchase a small amount of advertising on Facebook.

*August 26 12 – 6 Open House for Parents/Students

6.2 Community: (Dan W.) Covid-19 case numbers in Rice County put us in the range to begin school in the Hybrid Learning model. Russ shared that he will be writing a fact based article for Dyslexia. October is Dyslexia Awareness Month. He will be interviewing staff at different schools in the area and offered to include us if we are interested.

6.3 Finance: (Russ K., Jim S., Dan W.) The committee did not officially meet but Dan has been in contact with Brenda Kes. We will receive two different grants to help us with Covid-19 related expenses. One of them must be used by December of this year. We plan to use that one first. The grant money will be used to purchase Edgenuity and 18 additional Chromebooks to start. We will also use the grant money to cover other unforeseen expenses yet to come.

6.4 Academic Committee: (Dan W., Jim S., Sharon H.)

Learning plans for fall have been completed. Students have been placed into two groups, with students in each group attending school in-person two days per week. Friday will be distance learning for all with office hours for teachers. Letters to families will go out tomorrow or Monday, informing them of which group they are in and what their weekly schedule will be. As of today, 10 students have opted to remain home in Distance Learning.

6.5 Environmental Education: (Alli P., Jim S., Sharon H.) Dan, Allie, and Sharon met yesterday to discuss the updates to our Environmental Literacy Plan. We will be spreading our goals across all classes. A rough outline has been developed, but we still need to develop our evaluation tools.

For Indicator 1: Awareness, 11th and 12th grade students will learn about an environmental topic in science and then write a 5-paragraph essay on the topic.

For Indicator 2: Knowledge, we will continue our food waste and composting project

For Indicator 3: Attitudes, Phy-Ed classes will pick up trash each time they go out for a walk, and we will assess the impact it has on students' attitude towards the environment and their motivation to participate in environmental stewardship.

For Indicator 4: Skills, math and science will team up on a project that has students analyzing an environmental issue.

For Indicator 5: Action, Environmental Global Studies students (6th-8th grade) will develop an action plan to improve the environment in our community.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: None

7.2 ESSR Funds: We will receive two different grants to help us with Covid-19 related expenses. One of them must be used by December of this year. We plan to use that one first. The grant money will be used to purchase Edgenuity, and 18 additional Chromebooks to start. The stipends for the Covid-19 Planning Committee will also be paid from these grants. Remaining grant money will be used to cover other unforeseen expenses yet to come.

7.3 Board Training (Individual/Group): Discussed whether we would complete our annual board training together at each board meeting or complete the required training prior to board meetings. Most agreed to complete the trainings individually. Some board members may work together if the online platform is a challenge.

7.4 Employee Handbook (FMLA): While working on our Learning Plans, Dan and Sharon encountered information about FMLA and found that we do not have any information in our handbook. Russ K. agreed to look into the requirements and report back.

7.5 Board Elections (Cody Hanson, Kay Hammer): Elections have been posted for September. Ballots were mailed out to families with the Welcome Letter and will be available in the office.

8. Action Items:

8.1 Paraprofessionals Hourly Pay: Paraprofessionals are typically awarded an annual increase in August. *Jim S. made a motion that we approve an hourly pay raise of \$0.50 per hour to our three paraprofessionals. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.2 2020-2021 Strategic Staffing Solutions Contract (Speech Therapist): We are required to provide speech therapy to students through special education. We used this company last year. *Cody H. made a motion to approve the Strategic Staffing Solutions Contract for a speech therapist for 2020-21. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.3 2020-2021 Kristen Pecha Contract (Physically Impaired): The Board reviewed the contract. *Jim S. made a motion to approve the contract with Kristen Pecha to work with physically impaired students. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.4 2020-2021 School Calendar Revision: DPS revised their school calendar to reflect the later start date (September 8th) to stay in line with Faribault High School. *Sharon H. made a motion to approve the updated 2020-21 School Calendar. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.5 COVID-19 Learning Plans: The Board reviewed the learning plans. *Cody H. made a motion to approve the COVID-19 Learning Plans. The motion was seconded by Jim S. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.6 Edgenuity Purchase: The Board reviewed the contract. *Jim S. made a motion to approve the purchase of the Edgenuity 9-12 Core Package plus the MyPath for ELA and Math. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.7 COVID-19 Paraprofessional PTO Pay: The Board tabled this item until September for further research.

9. Adjournment: Board members were reminded that our next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2020 at 4:30pm. *Russ K. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim S. The motion carried (5-0).*

Respectfully submitted: Sharon Hansen