

**Discovery Public School**  
**126 - 8th Street N.W.**  
**Faribault, MN 55021**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**December 17, 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 Jim Severson. Jim Severson (Vice-Chair), S. Sam Macklay (Secretary), Cody Hanson, and Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), were present. Sharon Hansen, Kay Hammer, Kari-Ann Schmidt and Nalani McCutcheon (Osprey Wilds liaison) attended remotely, via “Google Meet”. Russ Kennedy (Chair) arrived at 4:33 p.m.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Sam M. made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cody H. Nalani reminded us that meetings with remote attendees must have roll-call votes. The motion carried (6-0).*
3. **Approval of the November 19, 2020 minutes:** *Sharon H. made a motion to approve the November 19, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (6-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The financial statement was reviewed by the board. Dan and Sharon outlined the daily duties of the paraprofessionals. Dan forwarded two minor questions about the report to Brenda Kes. Jim S. made a motion to accept the [As of] November 30, 2020 Financial Statements, as submitted in the school board packet. The motion was seconded by Sam M. The motion carried (7-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** None.
6. **Reports:**

**6.1 Director’s Report:**                      Cash on Hand: \$217,207.78                      Enrollment: 56

\*DPS moved to our Distance Learning Model on Monday November 16th based on MDE’s formula for Positive COVID-19 cases. DPS will continue with Distance Learning until after the Holiday Break.

\*The above decision also followed the decision made by FPS. DPS did communicate with the FPS Superintendent. In recent discussions, the FPS superintendent said that the plan is still for FPS to return to In Person (Hybrid Model) classes after the Holiday Break, if numbers allow.

\*DPS may offer in-person Office Hours by appointment during Distance Learning if the cases come down to a reasonable level.

\*New Guidance came yesterday from MDE about schools not being able to move to a less restrictive model until Jan. 18 and needing Department of Health approval to move to a hybrid model. All staff will need to wear both masks and face shields with students in the building. Staff will have the option to be tested every two weeks for Covid-19.

\*Overall the Distance Learning program has been working well, most students are attending their synchronous (live) classes.

\*We have been having trouble getting (about 6 of) our seniors to check in each day. If they neglect to “attend” for 15 consecutive instructional days, they will be dropped from the roster.  
\*Update from previous meeting, DPS’s Lease Aid for FY21 was approved by MDE. They had requested additional information due to the fire.

**6.2 Community:** (Dan W.) No report.

**6.3 Finance:** (Russ K., Jim S., Dan W.) Dan met with Brenda Kes by phone several times. Maintaining enrollment in a priority for the financial health of the school. No board action is necessary at this time.

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

We submitted our Growth Data Request to Osprey Wilds showing our students’ growth on the NWEA assessments from Fall 2019 to Fall 2020. They requested this data to determine how much learning our students have lost due to the pandemic.

In math, 11 out of 31 students (35.5%) met their target growth from Fall19 to Fall 20.

In reading, 14 out of 31 students (45.2%) met their target growth from Fall19 to Fall 20.

In science, 16 out of 30 students (53.3%) met their target growth from Fall19 to Fall 20.

Overall, it is obvious that distance learning did not serve many of our students well. While administering the tests, I did notice very large growth from several students, and overall student RIT scores were up by several points.

**6.5 Environmental Education:** (Alli P., Jim S., Sharon H.)

Most of our Environmental Literacy Plan activities have been completed, and we are in the process of analyzing the data to determine our success. Below is the updated list of activities, both completed and not completed.

(Completed - initial results appear to meet goal) **Indicator 1: Awareness** - 11th and 12th graders have completed their research project. Initially it sounds like most of the students were very successful.

(Completed) **Indicator 2: Knowledge** - middle school students have completed the composting project and the life cycle unit. Pre and post tests have been completed, but data has not yet been analyzed.

(Survey to be given near the end of the year) **Indicator 3: Attitudes** - students have been picking up trash on walks, and the juniors and seniors have responded to the survey question after. The younger students will complete the survey later in the year after they have spent more time walking in nature and picking up trash.

(Scheduled) **Indicator 4: Skills** - students will complete a presentation on an environmental issue later in the year.

(Completed except for final survey - initial results meet goal) **Indicator 5: Action** - middle school students have begun learning about the environmental impact of different cultures around the world and will apply this understanding to develop an action plan to improve their own community. Of the 13 students who completed the project, 12 earned a score of 70% or greater. All students were also given the overall capacity survey for the beginning of the year. This survey will be administered at the end of the year as well to measure overall capacity.

## 7. Discussion Items:

**7.1 School Board Training: Employment Policies and Practices – Develop and Use Policies.** Every member of the Board completed the training on-line, prior to meeting. Dan is keeping the “certificates of completion” in the office. The Board discussed whether our website should post a “religious policy” and the employee health insurance policy. We are currently using the Osprey Wilds checklist for guidance.

**7.2 MDH COVID-19 GUIDANCE: Data for K-12 Schools: 14-day COVID-19 Case Rate by County.** Dan reviewed and explained this document that was included in the School Board Packet. The latest data showed Rice County at an infection rate of 102/10,000.

**7.3 DPS Background Check Policy:** The Board asked to review the policies of some other schools. Nalani reported that Osprey Wilds has no specific policy recommendations, other than background checks for board members and teachers upon election or being hired. Many schools repeat background checks every five years but that is up to the Board of Directors. Dan and Russ will present a policy proposal at the next meeting.

**7.4 Return to In-Person Learning (Hybrid) - Timeline:** Maybe 1/19/21. See Director’s Report, 6.1. The school must provide COVID-19 testing for staff, upon return.

## 8. Action Items:

**8.1 Chamber of Commerce Membership:** The bill (for the lowest tier membership) was included in the meeting packet. Dan reported that the Chamber of Commerce was very helpful to us this year and he feels that the fee is reasonable for the services provided. *Russ K. made a motion to continue membership in the Faribault Area Chamber of Commerce, Inc. The motion was seconded by Jim S. The motion carried (7-0).*

**8.2 DPS Nepotism Policy:** The policy was last reviewed in 2016. The Board reviewed the policy. *Sam M. made a motion that we keep the DPS Nepotism Policy as it is printed in the meeting packet. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (7-0).*

**8.3 DPS Whistle Blower Policy:** The policy was last reviewed in 2011. The policy printed in the meeting packet lists committees that we don’t have. Jim S. recalled that it has been revised since then. It was determined that we should table this item until more research is done and specific changes can be recommended to the Board. *Jim S. made a motion that we table Item 8.3 until the January 2021 Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Russ K. The motion carried (7-0).*

**9. Adjournment:** Board members were reminded that our next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2021 at 4:30pm. *Russ K. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (7-0).*

*Respectfully submitted: Sam Macklay, Secretary*