

Discovery Public School
126 - 8th Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
February 18, 2021 @ 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), Sharon Hansen, Cody Hanson, and Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), were present. Kay Hammer and Kari-Ann Schmidt joined via Google Meet. Jim Severson (Vice-Chair) and Steven (Sam) Macklay (Clerk/Treasurer) were absent.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Cody H. made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*
3. **Approval of the January 21, 2021 minutes:** *Sharon H. made a motion to approve the January 21, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Kay 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] January 31, 2021 Financial Statements, as submitted in the school board packet. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** None.
6. **REPORTS:**

6.1 Director’s Report: Cash on Hand: \$175,084.86 Enrollment: 53

- 1 student will be transferring to Medford because family is moving
- Gained 1 junior who is on track to graduate and who is a sibling of former students
- DPS remains in Hybrid Model at this point in time (returned 1/27)
- Safe Learning Plan Updates came out yesterday 2/17
- DPS will closely follow the Model of Faribault Public Schools, Middle School and High School in particular.
- DPS Staff have the option to be tested every two weeks for Covid-19, this started on Feb. 3rd.
- DPS has a virtual site visit scheduled with Osprey Wilds on Feb. 25th

6.2 Community: (Dan W.)

ISD 656 has lost around 150 students. Dan suggested that they are either dropping out or open enrolling to nearby schools. Many students across the country have dropped off the school’s radar as a result of the pandemic and distance learning.

The ALC may be relocating. The 656 school board will be voting on this on Monday, February 22, 2021. We may see an influx of students over the summer as a result.

6.3 Finance: (Russ K., Jim S., Dan W.) The committee did not meet with Brenda.

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

We have 4-5 students interested in taking the ACT on March 30, 2021.

Plan to administer MCA's in early April, DPS needs to attempt to get Distance Learners in to take the tests.

We have begun meeting with Juniors and Seniors individually to go over their credit situation, and making plans to graduate on time. Out of 11 seniors, only 5 are currently on track to graduate, and 4 are expected to graduate (one will require a session of summer school after graduation). Of 9 juniors, 8 are on track to graduate despite the lost credits due to distance learning.

We will also be meeting with 9th and 10th grade students. Of 12 sophomores, 10 are still on track to graduate, and of 8 freshmen, all are technically still on track to graduate, although if the first half of the year is a prediction, 3 of them will not be on track by the end of the year.

Altogether, out of 40 students in grades 9-12, 27 are on-track to graduate, which is 67.5%. Our goal (as stated below) is 70%. Now that we are back in hybrid, we are hopeful that we can nudge a few of the stragglers back on track.

Indicator 1 (Mission Related Outcomes)

Measure 1.1: From FY19 to FY21, the aggregate percentage of students in grades 9-12 who will be on-track to graduate will be equal to or greater than 70%.

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

Environmental Science has been exploring the situation in Texas. They have discussed the false claims that the cause of the power failures had to do with wind energy (frozen windmills) by comparing the sources of energy in Texas versus Minnesota. They have also explored the question of whether this kind of weather pattern is related to climate change. All in all they have had some great discussions.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

7.1 School Board Training: Employment Policies & Practices – Prevent a Conflict of Interest

All school board members completed the training and sent their certificates of completion.

7.2 MDH COVID19 GUIDANCE: Data for K-12 Schools: 14-day COVID-19 Case Rate by County.

We are currently at around 27 cases per 10,000 in Rice County. Case numbers are steadily decreasing.

7.3 Return to In-Person Learning (Hybrid) Timeline: The board discussed the possibility of returning to fully in-person classes. We will know more once the Faribault district makes their decisions known.

7.4 Insurance Policies/Non-Renewal Notices 4/21/21: We received a notice that our current insurance company will no longer be covering schools, thus have notified us that they will not be renewing our insurance at the end of the term. An application has been completed with Hartman Insurance. We should receive multiple options to choose from.

8. ACTION ITEMS:

8.1 Conflict of Interest Policy (employee): The board reviewed our current policy and other examples. Dan explained that our current policy is the result of our Special Education audit a few years ago, and that we need to be sure to take the actions listed to be compliant. *Sharon H. made a motion to keep our current Conflict of Interest Policy. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.2 Conflict of Interest Policy (Administration and School Board Members): The board *Sharon H. made a motion to accept our current Conflict of Interest Policy with updates to the School Name and Dates that were incomplete on the presented document. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.3 Loffler Copier Agreement: It was discovered that the information we were given to aid in our decision to upgrade to a new copier was misleading. The new copier was not comparable to our old one, so we brought this to the attention of our representative at Loffler. After some discussion, a new agreement was offered for a comparable copier for the same price without the option of unlimited copies. The board reviewed two options, one with and one without unlimited copies. The contract without unlimited does include 45000 black and white copies and 3000 color copies each quarter. Sharon presented calculations, based on our past copier usage, that show that the need for unlimited copies is not necessary and would probably cost more in the long run. *Sharon H. made a motion to accept the new contract with Loffler that does NOT include the unlimited copies. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

9. ADJOURNMENT: Board members were reminded that our next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2021 at 4:30pm. *Russ K. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*

Respectfully submitted: Sharon Hansen