

Discovery Public School
126 - 8th Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
January 21, 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 Jim Severson. Jim Severson (Vice-Chair), Sharon Hansen, Cody Hanson, and Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), were present. Kay Hammer, Kari-Ann Schmidt, and Steven (Sam) Macklay (Clerk/Treasurer) joined via Google Meet. Russ Kennedy (Chair) arrived at 4:53 p.m.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Sharon H. made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (6-0).*
3. **Approval of the December 17, 2020 minutes:** *Sam M. made a motion to approve the December 17, 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. Cody H. made a motion to accept the [As of] December 31, 2020 Financial Statements, as submitted in the school board packet. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (6-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** None.
6. **Reports:**

6.1 Director’s Report: Cash on Hand: \$188,350.91 Enrollment: 55

*DPS will closely follow the Model of Faribault Public Schools, Middle School and High School in particular.

*DPS set up a consult with their MDH’s Regional Coordinator. This consult was completed on Friday Jan. 15, and it was determined that DPS can safely resume classes in their Hybrid Model.

*DPS does not need to implement a rolling start because the students that attend travel in three different grade bands or cohorts (6-8, 9-10, 11-12).

*DPS will resume classes on Jan. 27 in their Hybrid Model. (1/25 and 1/26 are planning days for staff and there is no school)

*All Staff will be Strongly Recommended to wear face masks, and face shields once we return

*Staff will have the option to be tested every two weeks for Covid-19 starting on Feb. 3rd.

6.2 Community: (Dan W.) none

6.3 Finance: (Russ K., Jim S., Dan W.) Dan met with Brenda Kes. Brenda feels comfortable with where we are sitting financially. There will be more money coming from future COVID-19 grants.

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

Seniors on track to graduate: As of the end of 2nd quarter, out of 14 seniors and super-seniors currently enrolled, 6 are on track to graduate or close enough that they could do it with an 8th hour credit. (2nd quarter grades are not yet final) We had one super senior graduate at the end of first quarter, and one senior will graduate at the end of second quarter.

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

We have tallied the results for our first two goals on our ELP.

For Indicator 1: Awareness

Goal: Students and staff at Discovery Public School of Faribault have the awareness, or are increasing their awareness, of the relationship between the environment and human life.

Strategy 1.1

- Students will explore a topic of their choice that we have covered in Environmental Science, and write a five paragraph essay that demonstrates their awareness of the topic they chose. Topics must be approved by the instructor.

Evaluation method 1.1

- Students in the Environmental Science class (11th-12th grade) will write a five-paragraph essay in their English class on the environmental topic they have researched. Seventy-five percent of students will write an essay that earns a score of 70 or greater on a 100 point rubric and reflects their awareness of this subject.

Results

Out of 7 juniors and seniors who completed the essay, 5 earned a score of 70 or greater on a 100 point rubric. This is 71.4%, so we did not quite meet our goal of 75%. I suggest that we have the students who did not meet the goal revise their essay before the end of the year.

For Indicator 2: Knowledge

Goal: Students and staff at Discovery Public School of Faribault have the knowledge, or are increasing their knowledge, of human and natural systems and processes.

Strategy 2.1

- Students in middle school Life Science class will learn about the energy cycle, food waste and composting, how the food system works, and how humans affect the system by composting and reducing food waste or sending it to a landfill.

Evaluation method 2.1

- Middle school students will maintain a successful composting program for our food waste from school lunch. Students will follow a rotating schedule of documenting food waste and maintaining the compost pile, so that 100% of middle school students participate.
- Students will also complete a pretest and posttest to measure learning before and after the unit. The mean score from pretest to posttest will increase by at least 10%.

Results

- Middle school students all participated in the composting program at the beginning of the year. We collected and sorted the food waste each day at lunch, which students documented. They added the compostable waste to our compost pile and maintained the pile through the fall.
- For the 11 middle school students who completed both the pretest and posttest (all but one of our enrolled students), the mean score from pretest to posttest increased by 42.9%.

Our final three goals will be completed later in the year.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: None

7.2 MDH COVID19 GUIDANCE: Data for K-12 Schools: 14-day COVID-19 Case Rate by County. We are currently at around 60 cases per 10,000 in Rice County.

7.3 Return to In-Person Learning (Hybrid) Timeline: Monday and Tuesday (1/25 and 1/26) will be planning days for teachers. Students will return in our Hybrid Model on Wednesday (1/27) for Group A and Thursday (1/28) for Group B.

7.4 DPS Employee Handbook/Pages 11 & 25 (Whistle Blower Policy/Employee Background Check Policy): Dan pointed out that the Non Retaliation section in our Employee Handbook (page 11) addresses the same issues that a Whistleblower Policy would. He recommended that we drop the 2011 policy in favor of the wording already present in our handbook. Background checks are also addressed on page 25 of our handbook. The board discussed whether to write up separate policies or defer to the handbook. We would have to add a clause to page 25 for performing a background check every 5 years.

7.5 School Board Background Check Policy: The board discussed how we would make our policy on school board background checks known. We agreed that leaving the policy as part of our annual meeting minutes would satisfy any requirements.

8. Action Items:

8.1 DPS Employee Handbook: The following sentence should be added to our DPS Employee Handbook on page 25: Annually, each employee who has not had a background check completed within the past five years will have one completed. *Sharon H. made a motion to add the above sentence to page 25 of the DPS Employee Handbook. The motion was seconded by Jim S. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.2 Whistleblower Policy: The board discussed the wording in the DPS Employee Handbook and agreed that it describes our policy better than the 2011 version. *Sharon H. made a motion to remove the 2011 Whistleblower Policy and defer to the non-retaliation clause in the DPS Employee Handbook. The motion was seconded by Sam M. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.3 Eickhoff's Cleaning and Lawn Care Contract: The board reviewed the proposed contract with Eickhoff's Cleaning and Lawn Care and compared it to last year's contract. *Russ K. made a motion to accept the contract with Eickhoff's including the pay in advance option for all five fertilizer treatments. The motion was seconded by Jim S. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.4 Struss Financial Audit/SY 2019-2020: There were no finding in the audit; it was a clean financial audit. *Jim S. made a motion to accept the financial audit by Struss CPAs for the 2019-2020 school year. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.5 Indigo/DAPE Service: The DAPE service contract is for a single student at DPS. The cost is \$90 per hour and will be covered by Sped funds. This is a required service for a special education student. *Cody H. made a motion to accept the contract for DAPE services recommended by Indigo. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (7-0).*

9. Adjournment: Board members were reminded that our next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2021 at 4:30pm. *Jim S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Russ K. The motion carried (7-0).*

Respectfully submitted: Sharon Hansen