

**Discovery Public School**  
**126 - 8th Street N.W.**  
**Faribault, MN 55021**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**November 19, 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), S. Sam Macklay (Secretary) and Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), were present. Sharon Hansen, Cody Hanson and Kari-Ann Schmidt attended virtually, via “Google Meet”.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Jim S. made a motion to approve the agenda, with the numbering corrected. The motion was seconded by Sam M. The motion carried (6-0).*
3. **Approval of the October 22, 2020 Minutes:** *Jim S. made a motion to approve the October 22, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0), Sam M. abstained.*
4. **Approval of the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes:** *Jim S. made a motion to approve the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes, with the time of the meeting corrected (to 6 p.m.). The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0), Sam M. abstained.*
5. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The financial statement was reviewed by the board. Dan reported that the (-\$15,925) balance in State Aid Receivable was due to a hold-up in Lease Aid. This money is expected to be forthcoming. Sam M. made a motion to accept the [As of] October 31, 2020 Financial Statements, as submitted in the school board packet. The motion was seconded by Jim S. The motion carried (6-0).*
6. **Citizen Participation:** *None.*
7. **Reports:**

**7.1 Director’s Report:**                      Cash on Hand: \$ 182,046.49                      Enrollment: 55

\* DPS moved to our Distance Learning Model on Monday, November 16th based on MDE’s formula for Positive COVID-19 cases.

\* This decision also followed the decision made by FPS. DPS did communicate with FPS Superintendent.

\*The hope is that DPS will move to Distance Learning through December and resume in person (Hybrid) classes in January.

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

\*Staff will be allowed to work from the School or from Home during Distance Learning. Staff meetings will be held weekly by Google Meet at 9 AM on Thursdays.

**7.2 Community:** (Dan W.) The Faribault community will observe more (COVID-19 related) restrictions on certain businesses and organizations, beginning on Friday.

**7.3 Finance:** (Russ K., Jim S., Dan W.) Dan conferred with Brenda Kes. She reported: "...no red flags." Because our enrollment numbers are a little less than we projected, we need to revise our working budget. This was addressed later in the meeting (Item 9.2).

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

We have switched to distance learning as of this past Monday, 11/16/2020. So far it is going pretty well. Students are expected to join each of their classes virtually every week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. On Tuesdays and Thursdays staff are available to provide individual help. Students also have work to complete on Edgenuity. Many of the students have joined the virtual classes. We have had the most difficulty with the 9th-10th grade attending. We have also had some issues with juniors and seniors trying to work and using it as an excuse to not show up for virtual classes.

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

Middle school students in Global Studies have completed their project for Indicator 5: Action. Of the 12 who completed the project, 11 passed with 70% or better. We have met this part of the goal for Indicator 5.

## **8. Discussion Items:**

**8.1 School Board Training: Boards Roles & Responsibilities Courses – Create a Board Development Plan and – Evaluate Progress Towards Contract.** Every member of the Board completed (or will complete) the on-line training. Dan is keeping the "certificates of completion" in the office. The Board will discuss these courses at the next meeting.

**8.2 MDH COVID19 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. Since the Rice County rate is now over 200/10,000, DPS moved to Distance Learning on Monday, 11/15/20.

**8.3 DPS Background Check Policy:** The Board discussed establishing an official policy for ongoing background checks of employees that have student contact. The discussion included the criteria for bringing specific concerns to the board, who would make that determination, the frequency of the background checks, and communication between jurisdictions. Russ K. and Dan W. will do some research and we will revisit this discussion at the December Board Meeting.

## **9. Action Items:**

**9.1 DPS Health Care Plan Options:** Mike Konzen Jr. of Employers Benefit Group, LLC prepared a comprehensive comparison of benefits and costs of eight different employee health insurance plans. These comparisons were printed in the meeting packet and emailed to board members, prior to the meeting. After a protracted discussion, the Board decided to renew the current plan, even though the premium costs will increase 9.08%. *Jim S. made a motion to renew our current employee health insurance plan (Medica Choice Passport MN 10%-25 Platinum - Area 3 Choice Passport). The motion was seconded by Russ K. The motion carried (6-0).*

**9.2 DPS FY 20-21 Revised Budget:** In response to the letter sent by Erin Anderson (Director of Charter School Authorizing, Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center) to the Board of Directors (dated 11/6/20, printed in the meeting packet) Brenda Kes updated our working and projected budgets to address the concerns listed in the letter. The Board reviewed the revised budget. *Jim S. made a motion that adopt the DPS FY 20-21 Revised Budget. The motion was seconded by Sam M. The motion carried (6-0).*

**9.3 MACS Membership:** The Board discussed the pros and cons of MACS membership. *Sam M. made a motion that we will not join the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools, this year. The motion was seconded by Jim S. The motion carried (6-0).*

**10. Adjournment:** Board members were reminded that our next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2020 at 4:30pm. *Russ K. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim S. The motion carried (6-0).*

***Respectfully submitted: Sam Macklay, Secretary***