

Discovery Public School
924 – 1st Street N.E.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
April 16, 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 4:33 p.m. by Jim Severson. Jim Severson (Vice-Chair), S. Sam Macklay (Secretary), Cody Hanson, and Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), were present. Sharon Hansen attended by video chat. Kari-Ann Schmidt attended by speaker phone. Russ Kennedy (Chair) arrived at 4:36 p.m. Kay Hammer arrived at 4:38 p.m.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Sam M. made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*
3. **Approval of the March 19, 2020 minutes:** *Jim S. made a motion to approve the March 19, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Sam M. The motion carried (5-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The financial statement was reviewed by the board. Jim S. made a motion to accept the March 2020 Financial Statements, as submitted in the school board packet. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (7-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** None.
6. **Reports:**

6.1 Director’s Report: Cash on Hand: \$185,384.60 Enrollment: 56

*DPS began Distance Learning on Monday March 30, 2020. Seems to be going well, most students are signing in and communicating regularly. We have set up some virtual check-in meetings to try and get some feedback from students about how they are feeling about the plan.

*Many more students have checked out Chromebooks, this should make Distance Learning easier for them. We have loaned out about 20 Chromebooks.

*All staff working from home, we have staff meetings every Wednesday using Google Meet. Teachers are interacting with students by Email, Google Voice, and Virtual Meetings.

*DPS’s current building is one of seven sites that Faribault Public Schools and Community Education chose for a Meal drop-off spot. A school bus parks every day from 10-12 and there are free meals for anyone 18 and under. Parents are able to pick up for their kids.

6.2 Community: (Dan W.) Governor Walz has extended the stay-at-home order until May 4, 2020.

6.3 Finance: (Russ K., Jim S., Dan W.) Dan met with Brenda Kes by phone. She reported that we are “on track” financially and should actually see some savings in the areas of Food Service and Instructional Supplies.

6.4 Academic Committee: (Dan W., Jim S., Sharon H.) Sharon reported that the ACT testing for this year has been cancelled (due to COVID-19), but our juniors who were scheduled to take the test will have another opportunity next year. Since the MCA tests have also been cancelled, those scores will not be available for our annual report to our authorizer, ACNW. Nalani McCutcheon, our local ACNW liaison, has communicated to us that “...we will be excused from requirements we cannot achieve because of the current circumstances.”

6.5 Environmental Education: (Sam M., Jim S., Sharon H.) Sharon reported that we will be unable to implement many of the aspects of our Environmental Learning Plan because of the Governor’s order for (exclusively) distance learning. The ELP is being revised and adapted to the new situation, as much as practical.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: None.

7.2 Governor Walz Stay at Home Order (4/9/20 thru 5/4/20): The text of the order was not included in the school board packet but is available online. May 4th would be the earliest possible date for regular classes to resume at the school building. Dan feels that it is likely that the stay at home order will be extended until June.

7.3 Building Update (8th Street NW): Renovation of the (fire/water damaged) building is proceeding in a promising manner. The electrical work is completed and sheetrock contractors are at work. Mr. Lee (building owner) reports that we are still on pace to reoccupy the building on July 1, 2020.

8. Action Items:

8.1 Revised Distance Learning Plan: Dan presented the revised Distance Learning Plan (Updated April 9, 2020), a copy of which was included in the School Board Meeting Packet. There were two minimal changes in the Attendance and Truancy section on page 3. Two sentences were inserted into the first paragraph: **If there is any form of communication with the school, students will be marked present for the day. Truancy rules will not be applied as usual.** *Jim S. made a motion that we accept the revisions in the Discovery Public School Distance Learning Plan. The motion was seconded by Kay H. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.2 Insurance Renewal/Heartman Insurance: The Board discussed renewal of our insurance policies. Overall we have been pleased with their products, especially in light of the large claims they paid this year. The premium for the 2020-2021 school year will increase by \$450 (3.7%). We currently have \$20,000 coverage for property damage. If we lost our computers, we could easily exceed that amount. An additional \$238 in the premium would provide \$60,000 total coverage for property damage. *Sam M. made a motion to renew our insurance policies with Heartman Insurance Agency, including an increase to \$60,000 coverage for property damage. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.3 Indigo Education FY 20-21 Contract: Sam M. had a question about section 9A of the contract that "...requires a certificate of Liability insurance listing Indigo Education as an additional insured..." while section 7B of the contract states: "Indigo Education ...will have no contractual relationship with the School and shall not be considered an employee(s) of the school." Dan W. said he would research the answer to the question. *Jim S. made a motion that we table the approval of the contract (for the 2020-2021 school year) with Indigo Education, until the next meeting. The motion was seconded by Sam M. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.4 School Board Elections: Dan W. proposed moving the School Board elections back four months in hopes of having more voter participation. Cody H. and Kay H. agreed to extend their terms. *Jim S. made a motion that DPS postpone the May Board Elections due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Elections will be moved to the date of DPS's September Board meeting. Current Board Members will retain their positions during this time. The term of the positions elected at that time will be 4 months shorter. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (7-0).*

9. Adjournment: Board members were reminded that our next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2020 at 4:30pm. *Russ K. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (7-0).*

Respectfully submitted: Sam Macklay, Secretary