

Discovery Public School
924 – 1st Street N.E.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
February 20, 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), Sharon Hansen, Cody Hanson, and Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), were present. Kay Hammer, Kari Ann Schmidt, and S. Sam Macklay (Secretary) were excused. Guests were Brenda Kes, Scott, and Shaan of Prime Properties, LLC.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Cody Hanson made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Jim Severson. The motion carried (4-0).*
3. **Approval of the Minutes:** *Sharon Hansen made a motion to approve the January 16, 2020 minutes. The motion was seconded by Cody Hanson. The motion carried (3-0), with Jim S. abstaining.*
4. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The financial statement was reviewed by the board. Brenda Kes noted that she has been watching the expenses from the move. Jim S. made a motion to accept the January 2020 Financial Statements, as submitted in the school board packet. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (4-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** None.
6. **Reports:**

6.1 **Director’s Report:** Cash on Hand: \$186,101.11 Enrollment: 63

Russ shared that FHS will be cutting \$1.5 million from their budget, and asked if the students they are losing would come to DPS.

*2 new students starting next week, the school has maintained strong enrollment numbers during the transition due to the fire.

*Construction will start on Mr. Lee’s building as soon as school chooses their location for next year. Mr. Lee asked the Board to please make this decision as soon as possible so he can look at other options if needed.

*We will definitely be at the New Building through June 30.

*Spring Break Bussing – Faribault Transportation

*Pennies for Patients – Annual Fundraiser for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Goal is \$500, DPS should meet that. A very large donation was made by a former student.

6.2 Community: (Dan W.) There was nothing to report.

6.3 Finance: (Russ K., Jim S., Dan W.) The finance committee did not meet this month. It was noted that we budgeted for 60 students, and have maintained enrollment above that so far this year, so we should come out ahead as long as our enrollment holds.

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

- Our new schedule for Quarter 3 seems successful so far. Separating the 6th and 7th grade students from the 8th grade students has benefitted the younger students the most. Without the distractions, they are able to focus and learn much more effectively.
- Comments from our site visit were shared at our staff meeting on Monday (2/17). We specifically addressed the fact that Nalani observed a lot of free time at the end of classes. In discussing with staff, when we are writing our own lessons, we usually fill all of the time with few exceptions. Most of us are still wrapping up and students have to remind us that it is time to go. We felt, as a staff, that the primary reason this was observed is because we are using prescribed lessons that we have not taught before, so the timing of the lessons is not always spot on. At times we have run out of time, when class discussions are good, and other times we finish up a little early. For the most part, the SEL lessons are pretty accurate for our class periods. I believe they are written for 45 minute class periods, but sometimes our students take a little longer to engage at the beginning of the hour.
- We plan to address the idea of student engagement at future staff meetings. We need to have a deeper discussion as a staff about what true engagement looks like and how we can best create that engagement in our classrooms.
- ACT roster has been uploaded to ACT. We have five students interested in taking the ACT, three juniors and two seniors. A few other juniors are interested, but have decided to wait until they are seniors.

6.5 Environmental Education: (Sam M., Jim S., Sharon H.)

Our science teacher has completed the unit on the effects of farming practices on the quality of lakes and rivers in Faribault and the surrounding communities. Students have presented, but the quality of their presentations is still below what we would like to see. She plans to address the areas in which students are lacking and have them revise their presentations to meet the goal listed below.

Indicator Area 4: Skills

Students possess the skills needed to identify and critically analyze environmental issues, and to contribute to resolving the root of environmental challenges.

Goal: Students and faculty at Discovery Public School of Faribault have or are increasing their problem solving and critical thinking skills as it relates to the environment and human life.

Strategy 4.1

Chemistry students will examine the effects of farm chemicals, including fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, on the quality of the lakes and rivers in Faribault and surrounding communities.

Evaluation method 4.1

Sixty percent of chemistry students will successfully present on a minimum of two pros and two cons of specific mitigation strategies to reduce the impact of farming on waterways in a way that demonstrates an ability to analyze environmental issues.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: none

7.2 New Building - Prime Properties LLC/Shaan: Shaan was present to discuss the possibility of remaining in the new building next year. Dan presented our proposal for requirements that would allow us to stay at the new location. We hoped that the upstairs could be remodeled with classrooms and a larger gym/cafeteria area. Shaan was unwilling to make that large of an investment, but was willing to let us stay in the lower level with some access to the upstairs bathrooms, and possibly one additional classroom. He also stated that he would want to rent the vacant portion of the building to someone else, which would remove our access to the upper lot, which we use for outdoor phy-ed classes.

There was some discussion about Discovery's ability to grow, and how fast. The board concluded that our capacity for growth is there, but that it will take some time.

Shaan inquired about lease aid and grants for expansion, stating that the only way he could remodel to suit our needs is if we could provide funds. We explained that because we are not classified by the state as a High Quality Charter School, funds for expansion are not available to us.

Utilities were also discussed. Brenda shared that utilities should not be more than \$1-2 per square foot. Utilities at this building are significantly higher and the school is paying the full amount.

Concerns were raised about what would happen to the school if the owner sold the property. Shaan assured us that he would include wording in the lease to protect us. Overall he seemed unmotivated to work with us to provide the space we need to be a successful, growing school.

7.3 Old Building Information Update: Dan and Jim met with Mr. Lee prior to this meeting. Mr. Lee expressed to them that he would very much like to continue working with Discovery. He is willing to keep our rent and utility agreement the same as it has been, as well as increase his annual donation. To compete with the climate controlled location we are currently occupying, Mr. Lee agreed to put window air conditioners in each classroom. All walls, floors, and ceilings will be replaced, and electrical will be completely replaced and upgraded.

The board discussed the pros and cons of each location. We agreed to think over this decision and reconvene for a special meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

8. Action Items:

8.1 Struss CPA's 2018-19FY Audit: *Jim S. made a motion to accept the audit. The motion was seconded by Kay H. The motion carried (4-0).*

8.2 Faribault Transportation Bussing for Spring Break (3/9/2020 – 3/13/2020): Dan reported that the cost to pay Faribault Transportation to bus our students while the rest of the district is off for spring break would be approximately \$2500 for the 5 days. *Russ K. made a motion to pay Faribault Transportation to*

provide bussing for our students from 3/9/2020 through 3/13/2020. The motion was seconded by Jim S. The motion carried (4-0).

A special meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2020 to decide on DPS's location for the school year 2020-21.

- 9. Adjournment:** Board members are reminded that our next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2020 at 4:30pm. *Russ K. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (4-0).*

Respectfully submitted: Sharon Hansen