

Discovery Public School
924 – 1st Street N.E.
Faribault, MN 55021
Special Meeting
WEDNESDAY
March 4, 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), Kay Hammer, Sharon Hansen, Cody Hanson, Jim Severson (Vice-Chair), Kari Ann Schmidt (arrived 5-10 late), and Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), were present. S. Sam Macklay (Secretary) was excused.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Sharon Hansen made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cody Hanson. The motion carried (5-0).*
3. **Citizen Participation:** None.
4. **Reports:** None
5. **Discussion Items:** None
6. **Action Items:**

6.1 Location of DPS for the 2020-21 School Year: (126 8th Street, Faribault or 924 1st Street NE, Faribault)

The Board reviewed the Old and New Building Proposals from our last meeting. For DPS to remain at the old building, several conditions were discussed. The building owner at our old location offered to keep our rent and utilities agreement the same as our previous lease term. He also agreed to provide window air conditioners in each classroom, and to increase his annual donation to the equivalent of one month’s rent. All walls, ceilings, and floors will be replaced and all electrical systems will be updated as part of the reconstruction. He also agreed that if the school shows the need to expand, he will provide some type of additional space. It was suggested that we also ask Mr. Lee to improve the bathrooms at some point. We noted that we should check with the Fire Chief about the maximum capacity of the building according to fire code. The board showed some concern about whether the reconstruction could be completed in time. Russ suggested that the lease include a clause with a financial penalty in the event the building is not ready by July 1st as promised. We would like to meet with Mr. Lee about the construction soon. Dan will set up a time.

To begin discussion of the New Building Proposal, Dan gave an update regarding further communication with the owner of our current building. The owner is willing to let us use the space we are currently using at the same price we are currently paying, which is \$1000 more than our lease at the old building, plus we are responsible for all of the utilities. He also offered access to the upstairs bathrooms and enough space for a

classroom for an increase in rent to \$10,000. He was willing to do more remodeling for a long term (10 year) commitment, but Dan informed him that as a charter school, with our current authorizer, our maximum contract is 5 years, so that long of a commitment is not possible.

The board discussed the pros and cons of each location. The primary pros of returning to the old building were the lower cost and stability of working with a landlord that we have been with for many years. Members of the board shared concerns about the higher costs and the possibility of the new landlord renting out other space, which would take away our use of the upper parking lot for phy ed, or selling the building outright. There was some discussion about whether we could actually expand in the old space due to fire codes and limited flexibility for more classrooms, but overall we noted that some space could be reallocated to allow for one more classroom. We also noted that a significant increase in enrollment will take some time, and as we approach that point we can then look for different locations.

Jim S. made a motion that we return to the old location contingent on an update lease with wording regarding the building being ready by July 1st and the additional addendums as noted. The motion was seconded by Russ K. The motion carried (5-1) with Kay H. voting against.

- 7. Adjournment:** Board members are reminded that our next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for March 19th, 2020 at 4:30pm. *Jim S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Russ K. The motion carried (6-0).*

Respectfully submitted: Sharon Hansen