

Discovery Public School
924 – 1st Street N.E.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
May 21, 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), Sharon Hansen, Cody Hanson, Kay Hammer, and Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), were present. Kari-Ann Schmidt attended by speaker phone, connecting at 4:38 p.m.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Kay H. made a motion to approve the agenda with the numbering corrected. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (6-0).*
3. **Approval of the April 16, 2020 minutes:** *Sharon H. pointed out that in Sec. 6.5 Environmental Education Report (last sentence), that the words “...revised and adapted to...” should be replaced with “...evaluated in light of...”. Sam M. made a motion to approve the April 16, 2020 minutes with the revised wording. The motion was seconded by Jim S. The motion carried (6-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The financial statement was reviewed by the board. Jim S. made a motion to accept the [As of] April 30, 2020 Financial Statements, as submitted in the school board packet. The motion was seconded by Sam M. The motion carried (7-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** None.
6. **Reports:**

6.1 Director’s Report: Cash on Hand: \$140,315.37 Enrollment: 55

*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.

*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 7 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.

*Plan to move back to Old Building July 1, construction continues.

*Our six graduates will be honored at 5pm on June 4, 2020 with a virtual (online) ceremony. They will also receive their diplomas and take pictures outside the school, observing social distancing guidelines.

*2 Sessions of Summer School being offered with our Distance Learning model, online or paper work.

[Reminder to approve Dan’s Summer School Contract at the June School Board Meeting.]

6.2 Community: (Dan W.) There has been a local spike in COVID-19 infections.

6.3 Finance: (Russ K., Jim S., Dan W.) Dan, Russ, and Jim met with Brenda Kes, yesterday. She reported: “No red flags.” They also discussed fall enrollment numbers and positioning the school, financially, for either distance learning or in-person learning. We will apply for a PPL (Payroll Protection Loan).

6.4 Academic Committee: (Dan W., Jim S., Sharon H.) We have been discussing how next fall might look. There is a possibility that we could have to start the year with distance learning, or would have to go back to it if there is a second wave of COVID-19 infections. Some of the ways we have discussed as a staff to improve our Distance Learning Plan for fall are:

- Increased expectations/rigor
- Weekly class meetings or video instruction
- Larger assignments with fewer due dates (weekly or twice a week)
- Paper option for students who prefer it (with method for getting teacher help - students need some sort of instruction to learn new material)
- Flexible class schedules to group students who want to be challenged in a more rigorous class along with a more basic version for students who just need to earn the credit

6.5 Environmental Education: (Sam M., Jim S., Sharon H.) The results of our Environmental Literacy Plan will not be counted against us this year, but we will still have to complete an EE survey to share the results we were able to collect. This survey is due June 30, 2020.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: None. We will begin at the next meeting in order to get Kari Ann’s training completed in a timely manner.

7.2 Move Back to Old Building (Schedule): Dan reported that progress looks good for reoccupying the building on July 1, 2020. The Board is concerned that the bathrooms in the school need to be improved. The Board will review the updated lease at the June School Board Meeting. Mr. Lee agreed that rent won’t start until we can occupy the building.

7.3 COVID-19 Pandemic/2020-2021 School Year: Dan reported that we are planning for distance learning AND in-person learning. We are concerned that exclusively distance learning will hurt our enrollment numbers. We have to wait for direction from MDE before we can move forward with concrete plans.

7.4 Enrollment/Advertising 2020-2021: Newspaper advertising and articles will emphasize our newly renovated, safer building, and our small class sizes. Dan and Sharon have set up a Facebook page for Discovery Public School updates. Sharon is also updating the school website. We are also going to print advertising flyers for distribution throughout the community.

8. Action Items:

8.1 DPS Annual Meeting (Postponement): Dan pointed out that because we changed the date of the School Board Election we need to postpone the Annual Meeting. *Sam M. made a motion that DPS will postpone its Annual Meeting for this year only, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. DPS’s Annual meeting will take place at its October Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.2 Indigo Education SPED Director Contract: In response to last month's discussion (8.3), Indigo Education was added to the school's liability insurance policy. *Jim S. made a motion to approve the DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIGO EDUCATION AND DISCOVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL OF FARIBAULT for the 2020-2021 school year. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.3 BerganKDV Contract 2020-2023: The Board reviewed and discussed the contract. *Jim S. made a motion to approve DISCOVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL OF FARIBAULT CONTRACT FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SERVICES provided by BerganKDV. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.4 Revised 2019-2020 School Calendar: Due to the changes made in the school calendar because of the fire and the pandemic, MDE requires a final, Board approved copy. *Russ K. made a motion that we approve the revised 2019-2020 School Calendar. The motion was seconded by Jim S. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.5 DPS 2020-2021 School Calendar: The Board reviewed and discussed the calendar. It includes four snow days and five e-learning days, for a nine day cushion in case of inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances. It is also aligned with the Faribault ISD #656 calendar to accommodate bus transportation for our students. *Cody H. made a motion that we approve the 2020-2021 School Calendar. The motion was seconded by Kay H. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.6 Authorizer-DPS Contract Amendment (Clause 2, Exhibit I and Exhibit M): MDE requires board approval. *Sam M. made a motion to approve the CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT AMMENDMENT BETWEEN Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center - the AUTHORIZER AND Discovery Public School – the CHARTER SCHOOL. The motion was seconded by Jim S. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.7 DPS Revised Admissions and Enrollment Policy: MDE requires that the enrollment lottery close on a specific date. *Sharon H. made a motion that we approve the revised Student Admissions and Enrollment Policy. [Each school year during the first week of April a lottery for the following school year will be conducted from all applications received by April 1st.] The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.8 DPS-Faribault Public Schools ISD #656 Agreement for Vended Meals 2020-2021: Dan and Karen have done some research and found out that ISD #656 will provide our school breakfasts and lunches and milk from their elementary school kitchen, for a price that is less than we can get from Lancer. Contracting with ISD #656 also removes the MDE requirement for competitive bidding because the school district is an approved SFA (School Food Authority). *Sam M. made a motion that we approve the Agreement for Vended Meals Provided by a School Food Authority [between Discovery Public School Faribault and Faribault Public Schools, ISD 656]. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.9 MACS Membership 2020-2021: The Board discussed the benefits and expense of membership in the Minnesota Association of Charter Schools. We have not been members for the last five years. *Sam M. made a motion that we not pay for membership. The motion was seconded by Jim S. The motion carried (7-0).*

9. Adjournment: Board members were reminded that our next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for June 18, 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