

Discovery Public School
126 - 8th Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
December 16, 2021 @ 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.

Per MN statute 13D.021 subdivision 1.1: “The DPS Board Chair has determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic.”

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** *The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Russ Kennedy. Russ Kennedy (Chair), S. Sam Macklay (Secretary), Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), Cody Hanson, and Sharon Hansen were present. Kay Hammer attended remotely, via “Google Meet”.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Sam M. made a motion to approve the agenda, but with Action Item 8.3 moved to Discussion Item 7.4. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*
3. **Approval of the November 18, 2021 Minutes:** *Sharon H. made a motion to approve the November 18, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The financial statement was reviewed and discussed by the board. Sam M. made a motion to accept the [As of] November 30, 2021 Financial Statements, as printed in the meeting packet. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** None.
6. **Reports:**

6.1 Director’s Report: Cash on Hand: \$ 237,492.02 Enrollment: 51

- Enrollment is stable at this time.
- Pam Elzen from First United Bank informed us that our SBA PPP Loan has been forgiven. DPS will not need to pay back that loan.
- There have been a lot of kids out sick. We will use Monday and Tuesday (12/20, 12/21) as Distance Learning days to prevent any spread of illness, and give staff and students a chance to get healthy. These will count as Instructional Days because of our Provisional Online Provider status.
- DPS will be having a Holiday Party on Friday 12/17 during 6th and 7th hours.

6.2 Community: (Dan W.) No report.

6.3 Finance: (Russ K., Jim S., Dan W.) Dan and Russ met with Brenda Kes, the day before. They discussed enrollment, PPP loan forgiveness, and grant applications. Dan reported that some of the grants are very specific and he would be asking the Board for guidance on using these funds, if they are approved.

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

I have met with most of the seniors to go over credits and set goals for the year. Out of 8 seniors, 6 are currently on track to graduate. The two that are not on track have plans to complete 8th hours to earn additional credits and/or complete summer school classes to earn their diplomas before next school year.

Our mission-related goal with Osprey Wilds states that:

From FY19 to FY21, the aggregate percentage of students in grades 9-12 who will be on-track to graduate will be equal to or greater than 70%.

As of the end of first quarter, 29 out of 33 high school students are on track to graduate, which is 87.9%. If we maintain this, we will exceed our goal in this area.

We have a third student enrolled in PSEO at South Central College for spring semester. I have also helped one of our recent graduates apply to South Central. He has not yet been accepted, but has applied to the Welding and Machining Diploma program.

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

This fall we introduced a school-wide environmental project to reduce the number of plastic bottles that are recycled at Discovery. We have tracked some initial data on how many bottles are recycled in a month. Students will use this data to determine whether our actions can reduce this number. Our goal with this project is to install a water bottle refilling station and provide students with reusable water bottles with the DPS logo. Our science teacher also completed a grant application in hopes of receiving a grant to purchase the refilling station.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: None.

7.2 COVID-19 Update: Masks are mandatory in the school. The infection rate in Rice County is very high. DPS will utilize two distance learning days, just preceding the holiday break. Paras have specific times assigned to work with students with IEPs during those two days.

7.3 DPS – BA Boys' Basketball Co-op: Dan and Russ reported that the co-op is working well. They foresee this arrangement as being a good recruiting tool for the school in the future. Dan is going to the game tonight.

7.4 WBWF Survey: The "World's Best Work Force" survey has been completed and submitted to the Minnesota Department of Education. The survey is basically data and a summary gleaned from the Annual Report to our authorizer, Osprey Wilds.

8. Action Items:

8.1 DPS 2021 Financial Audit (Struss CPA): Printed copies of the audit were available to the Board members at the meeting. Electronic copies of the audit had been emailed to the Board members, a week prior to the meeting, for their review. The Board discussed the audit and Dan read an email to the members that summarized the findings. *Sam M. made a motion to accept the 2021 Financial Audit. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.2 Lotus: Special Education Professionals Contract: The contract (printed in the meeting packet) was reviewed and discussed by the Board. The service is required for a home-bound student and the expense will be 100% reimbursed by State and Federal Revenues. The provider was recommended by the Special Education Director. *Sharon H. made a motion that the school contract with West Metro Learning Connections, Inc. to provide a Special Education teacher for home-based online instruction in math, writing, and social skills. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.3 DPS 2022 SpEd Forms Invoice: The invoice (printed in the meeting packet) was reviewed and discussed by the Board. These forms are required and the expense will be 100% reimbursed by State and Federal Revenues. *Cody H. made a motion that we approve the purchase from SpEd Forms LLC. The motion was seconded by Sam M. The motion carried (5-0).*

9. Adjournment: Board members were reminded that our next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for January 20, 2022 at 4:30pm. *Russ K. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

Respectfully submitted: Sam Macklay, Secretary