

Discovery Public School
126 - 8th Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
October 14, 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), and Sharon Hansen were present. Cody Hanson and Kari-Ann Schmidt attended remotely, via “Google Meet”.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Russ K. made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of item 8.11, Co-Op with Bethlehem Academy for Boys’ Basketball. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*
3. **Approval of the September 16, 2021 Minutes:** *Sharon H. made a motion to approve the September 16, 2021 minutes. The motion was seconded by Sam M. The motion carried (5-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The financial statement was reviewed and discussed by the board. Even though pages 4 and 5 were not printed properly in the meeting packet, it was determined that the other information in the report supported the summary on pages 1 and 2. Sharon H. made a motion to accept the [As of] September 30, 2021 Financial Statements, as submitted in the meeting packet. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (4-1).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** None.
6. **Reports:**
 - 6.1 **Director’s Report:** Cash on Hand: \$ 241,029 Enrollment: 50
 - DPS was out of school for 4 days (9/30 – 10/5) due to staff being out with COVID. The school had Online Learning during 3 of those days. If possible DPS will use their provisional online provider status to code those days as Instructional Days. If not able to, they will just be considered E Learning Days.
 - DPS is short on Substitute Teachers and this is creating a staffing problem when multiple staff are not able to be at work.
 - DPS is requiring that all students and staff wear face masks following the guidance of Faribault Public Schools.

6.2 Community: (Dan W.) No report.

6.3 Finance: (Russ K., Jim S., Dan W.) Brenda Kes has concerns about enrollment, since the budget is based on 55 students and (as of Oct. 1) enrollment is 50. Grant applications are in place. Paperwork for PPP loan forgiveness is being handled by a designated person in Brenda's office. Brenda approved possibly raising the substitute teacher pay.

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

NWEA Testing is nearly complete. In all three subjects, more than half of the students have improved since last spring.

A second student has been accepted to South Central to begin PSEO classes for Spring Semester. I expect both of our PSEO students to successfully complete their college classes.

The new Freshman Seminar class has been successful so far. We have noticed an improvement in the behavior of most ninth grade students since the beginning of the year. They have been completing lessons on social-emotional skills and working on getting the yearbook started (jointly with the seniors in Career Readiness). They have also started exploring their interests and possible careers that would match their interests, and are keeping planners to organize their school responsibilities. We plan to clean the highway this fall with the seniors for Adopt-a-Highway.

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

Our Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP) for the 2021-22 school year has been approved by Osprey Wilds. Students have completed their second issue of the EE Newsletter. The topic for this issue is Animals. The latest issue can be read at <https://dpsenvironmentalsciencenewsletter.com/animals/>. The newsletter is our ELP strategy/evaluation for Indicator 1: Awareness.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: None.

7.2 COVID-19 Update: Our approval as a State-approved online provider was very fortuitous as it allowed us to use only one snow day when the school was insufficiently staffed for four days. The other three days were e-learning days. Masks are mandatory in the school. The infection rate in Rice County is near the level where schools went to on-line learning last year.

7.3 Substitute Teachers: Substitute teachers are not generally available. We do have one special education substitute who is available two days a week. The Board directed Sharon H. to advertise on our school website.

8. Action Items:

8.1 Substitute Teacher Pay: We currently pay substitute teachers \$150/day. Faribault H.S. is paying \$250/day. *Russ K. made a motion that we raise substitute teachers' pay to \$250/day. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.2 2020-2021 Annual Report: The Board reviewed the report (printed in the meeting packet). *Sam M. made a motion to approve the Annual Report and WBWF Summary 2020-21. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.3 Dress Code Policy: The Board reviewed the policy (printed in the meeting packet). *Russ K. made a motion to approve the DPS Dress Code Policy. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.4 DPS Whistleblower Policy: The Board reviewed the policy (printed in the meeting packet). *Sam M. made a motion to approve the DPS Whistleblower Policy. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.5 Lottery/Admissions Policy: The Board reviewed the policy (printed in the meeting packet). *Sharon H. made a motion to approve the Student Admissions and Enrollment Policy. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.6 Public Data Access Policy: The Board reviewed the policy (printed in the meeting packet). *Sam M. made a motion to approve the Data Practices Policy and Procedures. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.7 Religious Accommodations Policy: The Board reviewed the policy (printed in the meeting packet). *Cody H. made a motion to approve the Religion policy. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.8 Data Subject Rights and Access Policy: The Board reviewed the policy (printed in the meeting packet). *Sharon H. made a motion to approve the Data Subject Rights and Access Policy. The motion was seconded by Sam M. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.9 Equal Access Policy: This policy is required if the charter school allows religious or other activities on school property during non-instructional time. We do not currently have any outside group activities on school property. *Russ K. made a motion that Discovery Public School of Faribault not allow religious or other (outside group) activities on school property during non-instructional time. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.10 Charter School Assurance: The assurances (printed in the meeting packet) were reviewed by The Board. *Sharon H. made a motion to certify the 2020-22 Annual Charter School Assurances for the MN Department of Education. The motion was seconded by Russ K. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.11 Co-Op with Bethlehem Academy for Boys' Basketball: Board approval is needed so that our student(s) can participate in a MSHSL-sanctioned high school sports program. *Russ K. made a motion that we approve a Co-Op between DPS and Bethlehem Academy for boys' basketball, pending acceptance by the B.A. Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*

9. Adjournment: Board members were reminded that our next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for November , 2021 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