

Discovery Public School
126 - 8th Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
March 17, 2022 @ 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 Jim Severson. S. Sam Macklay (Secretary), Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), Cody Hanson, and Sharon Hansen were present. Jim Severson (Vice-Chair) and Kari-Ann Schmidt attended remotely, via “Google Meet”. Russ Kennedy (Chair) arrived at 4:32.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Russ K. asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Sharon H. made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (6-0).*
3. **Approval of the February 24, 2022 Minutes:** *Sam M. made a motion to approve the February 24, 2022 minutes. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (6-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The financial statement was reviewed and discussed by the board. Sam M. made a motion to accept the [As of] February 28, 2022 Financial Statements, as printed in the meeting packet. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (6-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** *None.*
6. **Reports:**
 - 6.1 **Director’s Report:** Cash on Hand: \$ 219,885.90 Enrollment: 51
 - 3 older students transferred to ALC, 2 others dropped off of our roster. Because it is so late in the year it should not have too much effect on our Finances, but is a situation to monitor.
 - We completed our Annual Pennies 4 Patients Fundraiser. Teachers/Staff have raised money in classes to donate to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. DPS will donate \$??? (Dan will take the money to the bank over SB)
 - DPS’s Spring Break will take place 3/21-3/25.

6.2 Community: Russ K. pointed out that enrollment in the Faribault School District has recently dropped, and wondered where the students are going. Dan W. opined that many 11th and 12th graders did not earn credit during the extended period of distance learning. It appears they are just quitting instead of putting in the effort to get back on track to graduate.

6.3 Finance: (Russ K., Jim S., Dan W.) The Finance Committee did not meet this month.

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

Spring testing will begin on April 5, 2022 with the ACT test. Three of our juniors have transferred to another school, so we now have 5 students expected to take the ACT.

MCA testing begins on April 6th. All middle school students take the math, reading, and science tests. Tenth grade students take the reading and science tests and 11th graders take the math test.

NWEA testing will begin on Monday, May 2, 2022.

Six students are currently on track to graduate.

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

The aquaponics project is growing. They have the tanks set up with fish and the plants are starting to grow. The peas have begun climbing their straw trellises. They hope to take a field trip to the indoor hydroponic gardens in Faribault later this spring, the Living Greens Farm. So far they have not heard back about touring. Another option is the Bushel Boy Tomatoes hydroponic garden in Owatonna.

After learning about the sustainability of food systems around the world, students were evaluated on their understanding of those systems and hydroponic/aquaponics systems before beginning the indoor garden. Throughout the project the students are experimenting with which types of edible plants will grow well in their aquaponics system. They are also evaluated on their contribution to the project as a whole. This is all part of our strategy/goal for Indicator 5: Action in our Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP).

Warm weather means students are getting outside more again. The teachers of our MN Natural History class have asked Sharon Hansen to talk to them about maple syrup production. They are studying how indigenous peoples used maple syrup in Minnesota. We might even tap one of the maple trees in front of the school so students can experience maple syrup production first-hand.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: None.

7.2 COVID-19 Update: Restrictions have been lifted and masks are no longer mandatory in the school. No one in the school has tested positive, recently. The (7 day) infection rate in Rice County is currently 239/100,000.

7.3 DPS – BA Boys' Basketball Co-op: Dan and Russ reported that our student had a very positive experience playing with the Bethlehem Academy (high school) team. They foresee this arrangement as being good for both schools, in the future. Dan was approached by some parents wanting to know if we could co-op with BA for middle school sports. Dan will talk to the BA athletic director but would want participation to be dependent upon students' grades.

8. Action Items:

8.1 Navigate Care Consulting 2022-2023 Agreement: A licensed school nurse consultant is utilized at DPS for health care advice and SPED student evaluations. The Board reviewed and discussed the Agreement (printed in the meeting packet). *Sharon H. made a motion to approve the Agreement for Service and Statement of Work with Kristen M Gerber, Owner/Licensed School Nurse, of Navigate Care Consulting LLC, from July 1, 2022 until June 30, 2023. Annual service totals beyond \$2000/year for general education and \$2500/year for special education will require Board approval. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (6-0).*

8.2 DPS Revised 2021-2022 School Calendar: MDE requires Board approval of any changes in the School Calendar. Circumstances caused two instructional days to be designated as non-instructional. *Sam M. made a motion that the Discovery Public School 2021-2022 Calendar be revised: September 30, 2021 was a transition (to distance learning) day and February 22, 2022 was a snow day. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (6-0).*

8.3 Filan Lawn Service 2022 Contracts: The contracts (printed in the meeting packet) were reviewed and discussed by the Board. Dan W. will monitor the quality of the work done by this new contractor. *Sam M. made a motion that we approve the 2022 Filan Lawn Service contract for lawn mowing (\$45.10/time), spring cleanup (\$64.43/time), and the "Better" lawn care maintenance package (\$307.11/season). The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (6-0).*

9. Adjournment: Board members were reminded that our next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2022 at 4:30pm. *Russ K. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (6-0).*

Respectfully submitted: Sam Macklay, Secretary