

Discovery Public School
126 - 8th Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
Special Meeting
March 2, 2023 @ 4:30pm

The mission of Discovery Public School of Faribault is to meet the current and future needs of middle and high school students by providing a stable and consistent environment in which each student builds necessary social, academic, personal, and career skills for a satisfying and productive life.

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), Jim Severson (Vice-Chair), Cody Hanson, Sharon Hansen, and Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio) were present. Sarah Hammer attended remotely, via “Google Meet”. S. Sam Macklay and KariAnn Schmidt were absent.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Russ K. asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Jim S. made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*
3. **Approval of the January 19, 2023 Minutes:** *Sharon H. made a motion to approve the January 19, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Jim S. The motion carried (5-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statements:** *The Board reviewed and discussed the financial statement. Jim S. made a motion to accept the [As of] January 31, 2023 Financial Statements, as printed in the meeting packet. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** None.
6. **Reports:**
 - 6.1 **Director’s Report:** Cash on Hand: \$120,481.27 Enrollment: 50
 - Students are raising money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society during the month of February (Pennie for Patients Competition)
 - OW New Point of Contact – Pat Hartman, Dan and Russ both met with him
 - OW Site Visit (3/14 or 3/16)
 - 6.2 **Community:** BA Basketball team going to playoffs tonight against Filmore. Most of our students have been performing well on the team.
 - 6.3 **Finance:** (Russ K., Jim S., Dan W.) Dan and Russ met with Travis this month. Compensatory Revenue has really helped us despite our low enrollment. We should be able to offer a \$1000 raise to all staff as well as another retention stipend of \$1000. We should look at Sped teacher options for next year. School lunch, which usually costs us, has been good this year. We will look at a budget revision in April.
 - 6.4 **Academic Committee:** (Dan W., Jim S., Sharon H.)

Dan and Sharon met with Jennifer from RCE (Regional Centers of Excellence) to work on our school improvement plan. RCE is a separate program that supports schools that have been flagged by MDE for improvement. They are able to offer a variety of supports for our school, and unlike past times that DPS has been flagged, they communicate directly and file reports with MDE. We shared information about the Freshman Seminar class we implemented last year to improve our students' motivation in school.

6.5 Environmental Education: (Sharon H., Garret Bitker, Jim S.)

Two students (juniors) presented a project at the U of M Ecology Science Fair on Jan 28th. Biology class will begin learning about different diversity of life. The MN Zoo Show Your Mussels challenge is in progress. The student digital media campaign is looking for votes. Vote for Discovery at <https://mnzoo.org/mussels-challenge/>

Middle school students continue to monitor their vermicomposting project. The visit from the Raptor Center on February 16 was good. Students, especially the younger ones, seemed to enjoy it.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: OW Sounding Board: Teacher and Staff Retention

The board discussed teacher and staff retention. We noted that being able to offer competitive pay is important to retain our staff. We also noted that our staff retention has been very good recently. We could work on a more comprehensive plan that includes recognition for staff.

7.2 Virtual Meeting Requirements: We read an article describing the rules for offering virtual meetings. Because the state of emergency around the Covid-19 pandemic has ended, we will no longer be conducting meetings with the option to attend virtually.

7.3 DPS Grant Discussion: Dan and Sharon met with Adam from Bergen KDV to go over grant money we still need to spend. We had a good discussion and were able to allocate almost all of the grant money to cover expenses. The only grants that we may not be able to use are for summer programming. We will give our science teacher the opportunity to create a summer option if he is interested.

Shared/Dual Enrollment: We have a student interested in coming over from the high school, but they would like to keep three classes over there and come here for four classes. They would be missing out on a core class with this plan. We discussed options and whether or not we should develop a policy for shared/dual enrollment. We decided to be very clear with student and parents in writing about the limitations of the desired schedule. We also addressed the fact that a student with a similar schedule who starts with us at the beginning of the year would be included in our accountability measures whether or not they are in attendance for the core classes.

8. Action Items:

8.1 Indigo Education Contract (Special Ed Coordinator – Due Process Focus): This position is all special ed funded. This person is contracted to support our limited staff on paperwork and due process. *Sharon H. made a motion to approve the Indigo Education Contract for a Special Ed Coordinator-Due Process Focus. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

9. Adjournment: The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2023 at 4:30pm. *Jim S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*

Respectfully submitted: Sharon Hansen