

Discovery Public School
126 - 8th Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
March 21, 2024 @ 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.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** *The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Russ Kennedy. Russ Kennedy (Chair), Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), Cody Hanson, Sharon Hansen, S. Sam Macklay (Secretary) and Pat Hartman (Osprey Wilds representative) were present. Sarah Hammer joined the meeting at 4:55pm.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Russ K. asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Cody H. made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (4-0).*
3. **Approval of the February 22, 2024 Minutes:** *Cody H. made a motion to approve the February 22, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (4-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statements:** *The Board reviewed and discussed the financial report. Sam M. made a motion to accept the [As of] February 29, 2024 Financial Statements, as printed in the meeting packet. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (4-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** None.
6. **Reports:**

6.1 Director's Report: Cash Balance: \$170,007 Enrollment: 53

- DPS has Spring Break the last week of March.
- DPS completed its Annual Pennies 4 Patients fundraiser during the month of February (the name of the fundraiser has changed to Light the Night, but we call it Pennies 4 Patients here). DPS raised a total of \$517! Excellent participation.
- Planning a possible MN Zoo Field Trip in April/May.

6.2 Community: Dan reported that he will be on the football coaching staff at Bethlehem Academy, next fall. This should be good for our sports co-op with BA.

6.3 Finance: (Russ K., Jim S., Dan W.) Russ and Dan conferred with Travis Berends yesterday. Points of discussion were staff raises, ADM trending up, the end of COVID grants, review of the working budget and finance training (at the April Board Meeting), and presentation of the 2024-2025 budget (at the May Board Meeting).

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

Testing: We will begin our spring testing after spring break. Students will take the MCA tests beginning April 8th, one week after spring break. The ACT test will be administered on April 23rd. We have 13 students interested in taking the ACT test. Spring NWEA testing will begin April 30th.

Most students have completed their five-paragraph essays. They complete the essays for one of our contractual goals for Indicator 8: Proficiency in Other Curricular Areas. Our goal in this area is : Measure 8.1 [CCR] – 6 Points: From FY19 to FY23, the aggregate percentage of students in grades 6-12 who achieve a score of at least 3.0 on a five-paragraph essay as measured by the MCA GRAD Writing Rubric will be at least 80%. Results will be shared when they are complete.

Dan and Sharon met with Emily to discuss our contractual goals for our future contract. Emily introduced an option to subdivide some of our proficiency goals in English, math, and science to track students based on engagement. One way to accomplish this would be to group students by attendance rate. We are considering some of the options she shared for our new contract.

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

DPS partnered with Excel Energy to share information on energy conservation with students. All students and staff received a box of energy saving devices including a smart power strip that turns off power to electronic devices when not in use, a solar battery charger, a low flow shower head and faucet aerator, and a couple of LED light bulbs. Students completed a survey at the end to earn a \$100 grant for Discovery.

Students are making plans for releasing the trout we have raised. One possible option is a day trip to Whitewater State Park to release the trout and also participate in some other environmental programming.

We are also planning an all-school field trip to the MN Zoo this spring.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: None.

7.2 DPS/Osprey Wilds Renewal: Presentation by Pat Hartman. The Osprey Wilds Board of Directors affirmed that they plan to renew the charter contract of DPS for a term of five years. Pat reviewed the Renewal Evaluation Report and the Contracting Process with the Board. The Board discussed the recommendations in the evaluation, and the tasks and time line for executing the contract (before June 30, 2024). The final versions of the academic goals and non-goal exhibits are due to Osprey Wilds by May 15, 2024.

8. Action Items:

8.1 Kari-Ann Schmidt School Board Resignation: Kari-Ann submitted a letter of resignation to Dan on March 7, 2024. Teacher Ally Luthe told Dan that she was willing to serve on the Board. *Russ K. made a motion that we accept the resignation of Kari-Ann Schmidt and appoint Alexandra Luthe to serve the remainder of Kari-Ann's term on the Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.2 DPS Financial Audit Options (for next year): Travis Berends solicited proposals from CPA firms interested in performing annual audits for DPS. The Board reviewed and discussed the three proposals printed in the meeting packet. *Sam M. made a motion that we contract with Abdo, LLP for audit services for the next three years. The motion was seconded by Sarah H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.3 DPS Bylaws: The meeting packet contained the BYLAWS OF DISCOVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL OF FARIBAULT RESTATED AND AMENDED AS OF March 21, 2024. The revisions are highlighted and are being made to comply with authorizer requests and Minnesota Statutes. The Board reviewed and discussed the revisions. *Sam M. made a motion that we amend the Bylaws as highlighted in the meeting packet. The motion was seconded by Sarah H. The motion carried (5-0). These changes will also have to be approved at the Annual Meeting.*

8.4 Navigate Care Consulting Agreement SY24-25: 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). *Sarah 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, 2024 until June 30, 2025. Annual service totals beyond \$2000/year for general education and \$2500/year for special education will require Board approval. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.5 A Chance to Grow - 3rd Party Billing – SY24-25: IEP 3rd party billing is required by Special Education rules. The board reviewed the contract (printed in the meeting packet). *Sharon H. made a motion that Discovery Public School of Faribault enter into agreement with A Chance To Grow, Inc., to provide third party reimbursement services to eligible students, from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.6 Filan Lawn Service 2024 Contracts: The proposals (printed in the meeting packet) were reviewed and discussed by the Board. Dan is generally pleased with the quality of the work done by this contractor. *Sam M. made a motion that we accept the 2024 Filan Lawn Service proposal for lawn mowing (\$47.00/time), spring cleanup (\$68.00/time), fall cleanup (\$85.00/time) and the “Premier” lawn care program (\$280). The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.7 DPS Insurance Renewal: The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed insurance renewal prepared by Grant Wilson, representing Heartman Insurance. *Sharon H. made a motion that we renew our Package insurance policy, Umbrella coverage, comprehensive Auto coverage, and Worker’s Compensation policy for a total cost of \$14,347. The motion was seconded by Sarah H. The motion carried (5-0).*

9. Adjournment: The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2024 at 4:30pm. Changing the date of the Annual Meeting was discussed. *Sharon H. made a motion to adjourn the meeting and to change the date of the Annual Meeting to May 16, 2024 at 6:00pm. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

Respectfully submitted: Sam Macklay, Secretary