

**Discovery Public School**  
**126 - 8th Street N.W.**  
**Faribault, MN 55021**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**October 24, 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, Ally Luthe and S. Sam Macklay (Secretary) were present. Guests Alex Trippel (Abdo Solutions) and Travis Berends (Creative Planning) attended remotely.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Russ K. asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Sam M. made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*
3. **Approval of the September 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes:** *Sharon H. made a motion to approve the September 19, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ally L. The motion carried (5-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statements:** *The September Financial Statements were reviewed and discussed by the board. Sam M. made a motion to accept the [As of] September 30, 2024 Financial Statements, as submitted in the school board 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 Balance: \$202,803              Enrollment: 48

- Dan is communicating with Rod Haenke about the possibility of coordinating some School Board Training to meet new requirements for the Board and Ex Officio moving forward.
- Adopt a Highway Cleanup took place on Friday 9/20 (9th and 12th grade students), it went well and was a success.
- DPS will be partnering with River Bend Nature Center to create a Haunted Trail event on Saturday 10/26 from 6:30 - 9, all are welcome to attend! Students and staff have been working hard to get prepared. Hoping for a successful turnout and fun event. (Students will be going over to start setup tomorrow during school.)
- Qtr. 2 ends on TH 10/31.
- DPS students (9th and 12th) will be taking a Field Trip to South Central College on Wednesday 11/13.

**6.2 Community:** Dan (assistant football coach at BA) reported that the season is over and all the players stuck it out to the end. They had a good experience; all had playing time and fun.

**6.3 Finance:** (Russ K., Jim S., Dan W.) See Item 8.1.

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

NWEA Testing is pretty much complete. There are a couple of students who were absent that still need to finish a test. Scores are pretty typical for fall in math and science. Many students did not beat their spring score, but that is normal as there is typically some learning loss over the summer. More than half of the students beat their spring score in reading. This is also expected given how many of them did poorly last spring. This provides some anecdotal evidence that the students did learn last year, but just had a poor testing experience when they completed the reading test in the spring.

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

Freshmen and seniors completed Adopt-a-Highway last month. We found very little trash, which had us wondering if this is a sign that people are littering less.

Students in 11th and 12th grade have completed their research on an environmental topic for our ELP. They will write essays in English using their research to provide support for their conclusions. They will then use the information they have gathered to write an email in American Government to take action on the environmental issue they researched. Middle school students have completed their composting pre-test also.

### **7. Discussion Items:**

**7.1 School Board Training:** The Financial Audit Presentation (Item 8.1) will be this month's training.

**7.2 Advertising and Enrollment Update:** Enrollment is currently about 8% below our budgeted goal. Dan is encouraging some potential students. The Facebook ad will restart this week since the end of the quarter is a good time to recruit.

**7.3 Director Evaluation:** The Board asked Dan to prepare a short presentation for the next meeting, addressing: "Strategies to Improve Students' Academic Performance".

### **8. Action Items:**

**8.1 DPS Financial Audit (presentation):** Alex Trippel and Travis Berends presented and explained the Annual Financial Report and Audit Result (included in the meeting packet) to the Board. *Sam M. made a motion to accept the 2023-2024 Financial Statement Audit. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

**8.2 Annual Report 2023-2024:** The Board reviewed and discussed the Annual Report (included in the meeting packet). *Ally L. made a motion to approve the Discovery Public School of Faribault Annual Report and World's Best Workforce Summary for submission to our Authorizer. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

**8.3 Filan Lawn Service 2024-25 Snow Removal Contract:** The Board reviewed and discussed the contract (printed in the meeting packet). *Cody H. made a motion to approve the contract with Filan Lawn Service LLC for snow removal from November 1, 2024 until April 1, 2025. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*

**8.4 Medica Employee Health Insurance Renewal Quote:** The Board reviewed the policy renewal information printed in the meeting packet. Travis B. reported that the 10.8% price increase is in line with other providers. The employees are happy with the current coverage. *Sam M. made a motion to renew our 2025 employee health insurance coverage [MIC PP 15%-10/40 PLATINUM] with Medica. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*

**9. Adjournment:** The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2024 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***