

Discovery Public School
126 - 8th Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
November 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, Ally Luthe and S. Sam Macklay (Secretary) were present.*
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 (5-0).*
3. **Approval of the October 24, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes:** *Sam M. made a motion to approve the October 24, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statements:** *The Financial Statements were reviewed and discussed by the board. There was a question about the column 2 headings on p. 5-7. "Revised" implies that the Board approved these changes. Dan will clear it up with Travis. Sam M. made a motion to accept the [As of] October 31, 2024 Financial Statements, as submitted in the school board packet. The motion was seconded by Ally L. The motion carried (5-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** *None.*
6. **Reports:**
 - 6.1 **Director's Report:** Cash Balance: \$199,633 Enrollment: 47
 - DPS and River Bend Nature Center put on their Haunted Trail Event on Saturday 10/26, it was a big success. Great participation and student involvement. Attendance was slightly down from last year's trail. Some good changes were made to improve the atmosphere.
 - Qtr. 2 began on 11/4.
 - DPS students (9th and 12th) took a Field Trip to South Central College on Wednesday 11/13. Trip went well, the students did a good job, and learned about some good opportunities SCC has to offer.
 - Dan and Sharon met with Southeast Service Cooperative due to being identified as a school that needs improvement. We are in year 3 of 3, and should be done this year. They do offer different types of resources for schools. We are planning for them to do a listening walk, and get feedback from students about what we do well and what we can improve on.
 - 6.2 **Community:** *Dan reported that two DPS students are participating in the Bethlehem Academy boys' basketball program this season.*
 - 6.3 **Finance:** *(Russ K., Jim S., Dan W.) Dan acknowledged that he may have to aggressively recruit to increase our enrollment.*

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

We have completed NWEA Testing. Ally and I will be meeting with all students to check credits and motivate them to continue to work hard. Our goal in this area is:

Measure 1.1 [CCR]: From FY24 to FY28, the aggregate percentage of students in grades 9-12 who will be on-track to graduate will be equal to or greater than 70%.

As of the end of first quarter, 30 of 37 high school students are on track to graduate on time (81.1%).

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

Students have set up the aquarium for our trout eggs for the Trout in the Classroom program. The tank needs time to stabilize before the eggs arrive in December. Chemistry students will be monitoring the water quality to make sure it will be ready for the eggs.

Most juniors and seniors have completed their science essays on a pollution topic of their choice. I should be able to share results at our next meeting. Next they will use what they learned to write an email to a legislator or organization to demonstrate their ability to take action on an environmental issue.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: None.

7.2 Director Evaluation:

Dan has completed the following Professional Development (offered virtually by Osprey Wilds) as Ex Officio:

- *What Boards Need to Know About Open Meeting Law (1 CEU)
- *What Boards Need to Know About the Charter School Contract (1 CEU)
- *What Boards Need to Know About Their Roles and Responsibilities (1 CEU)
- *What Boards Need to Know About Public School Funding Financial Management (1.5 CEUs)
- *OW Training - Data Practices Law (1 CEU)
- *What Boards Need to Know About Employment Policies and Practices (1 CEU)
- *OW Training - Building Your School Budget (1.5 CEUs)
- *OW Sounding Board - What Boards Need to Know About Academics (1 CEU)
- *OW Training - "Strategies to Improve Students' Academic Performance" (1 CEU)

Report to Board - "Strategies to Improve Students' Academic Performance"

- *Contractual Indicators - Exhibit G - Academic Goals
- *Most goals are related to Growth (NWEA) and Proficiency (MCA)
- *Other goals - On track to graduate / College and Career Readiness / Attendance

What are some things DPS is doing to improve student performance?

- *Freshmen Seminar Class / Career Readiness Class - The hope is that Seniors who have been at DPS for a while help to mentor younger students, as well as working together on school related projects. (Haunted Trail, parties, Adopt a Highway.)
- *Student Council - implemented last school year, giving students a voice, and getting suggestions from them about improving academics
- *Math and Reading Intervention classes - help learners behind in these areas academically, also for Title I funding
- *PSEO option for students who qualify

What am I doing to improve student academic performance in my role as Director?

- *My focus has been on building a more positive school culture. Trying to find students who are a good fit, and will have positive influences on others. Making sure negative behaviors have consequences, and removing negative influences when possible.
- *Trying to improve attendance, scheduling meetings with SARB Board to try address truancy. Communicate with parents frequently as well.

*Meetings with Southeast Regional Center for Excellence - Meeting to discuss what we are doing to improve, 5 year strategic plan, they plan to come and speak with students and get their views on going to school at DPS.

*Implementing READ ACT, as required by MDE.

*Exhibit G (Academic Goals) - Creating these goals with OW, work with staff and board to achieve these goals, make sure School Board gets reports on these goals, work with Instructional Leader (Sharon Hansen) to make sure we are on track.

*Offering Professional Development to staff, picking useful topics for our population.

7.3 Advertising and Enrollment Update: The Facebook ad will be run again in January.

8. Action Items:

8.1 DPS Open Lunch Policy: Dan and the teachers on the Board reported that many students are abusing the open lunch privilege, to the detriment of the learning atmosphere in the school. It was decided that only 12th graders will be allowed to leave the campus during lunch. *Sam M. made a motion to make the following revision of the first section of p.31 in the Discovery Public School of Faribault Student Handbook: ...off-campus lunch is allowed, with a signed permission slip (to be kept in the office), only for 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. The policy revision will be effective on December 2, 2024. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*

9. Adjournment: The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 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