

Discovery Public School
126 - 8th Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
April 17, 2025 @ 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 Sharon Hansen. Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), Cody Hanson, Sharon Hansen (Vice Chair), S. Sam Macklay (Secretary), Ally Luthe and Brook Rindahl were present. Travis Berends (Creative Planning) attended remotely.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Sharon H. asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ally L. made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*
3. **Approval of the March 20, 2025 Minutes:** *Sam M. made a motion to approve the March 20, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The Board reviewed and discussed the financial report. Sam M. made a motion to accept the [As of] March 31, 2025 Financial Report, as printed in the meeting packet. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** None.
6. **Reports:**

6.1 Director's Report: Cash Balance: \$125,854 Enrollment: 54

- DPS Student Council held a fundraiser at Fareway Foods selling hot dogs and hamburgers, along with other items. The money raised will go towards a field trip to the Community Center for gym and pool use on 5/9.
- DPS and River Bend Nature Center are planning to partner for an Earth Day event at the Nature Center (4/22). They have offered to host our students and organize some fun outdoor activities.
- Trout release is scheduled for 4/25 at Whitewater Regional Park. Students and staff will be taking a field trip there to release the trout that the school raised.
- Cannon River Stem School is officially set to close at the end of this school year. They reached out about supplies and furniture, Dan mentioned that DPS will be very interested in looking at those items. DPS has also had several families reach out about the possibility of their students attending DPS next year. Dan has started a list, and has been giving tours.

6.2 Community: No report.

6.3 Finance: (Russ K., Dan W.) [We are looking for someone to join this committee, since Jim Severson resigned from the Board.] See Discussion Item 7.1.

6.4 Academic Committee: (Dan W., Sharon H.) [We are looking for someone to join this committee, since Jim Severson resigned from the Board.]

- MCA Testing is almost complete. Results are only preliminary, but we are showing improvement over last year's proficiency levels in Reading and Mathematics. New science standards were implemented this year, and this spring is the first administration of the MCA IV Science assessment. We are not able to view results until Standard Setting for the tests has been completed.
- Nine students completed the ACT test on April 8th. Results will be shared in 5 to 8 weeks.
- NWEA Testing begins on April 29, 2025.

6.5 Environmental Education: (Sharon H., Garret Bitker) [We are looking for someone to join this committee, since Jim Severson resigned from the Board.]

Our Evaluation Method for Indicator 4 Skills is: Seventy five percent of students in English (11th-12th grade) will complete an essay and present it in front of the class or individually to the teacher. Seventy percent will earn at least 70 on a 100 point rubric.

Environmental Essay Results: 76.5% of students (13/17) earned a score of 70 or greater on a 100 point rubric.

Most students have also completed the survey for Indicator 3 Attitudes. After picking up trash throughout the year, students take a survey to assess the impact the activity had on their attitude about the environment. We still need to survey the seniors, but results are positive so far.

We have two environmental field trips happening next week. On Tuesday we will spend most of the day at River Bend Nature Center planting trees and participating in upcycling activities. Then on Friday we will spend the entire day at Whitewater State Park releasing the trout our students raised and participating in other outdoor activities.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: Finance – Budget Overview. Travis went over the 2024-2025 working budget with the Board. The working budget reflects a \$53,811 deficit, as a result of lower enrollment than originally anticipated. He then presented the 2025-2026 proposed budget, based on an enrollment of 55 students. Both budgets anticipate a fund balance of ~16%. Travis answered questions from the Board members about salaries, technology expenditures, the fund balance, and weathering a possible loss of Federal funding.

7.2 Director Evaluation: The Board and Dan discussed his ongoing professional development. The Board previously approved his using the Minnesota Charter Board Training and Development website to complete Mini Courses before July 1st. He has already completed 6 of the 25 (annually) required hours, mostly related to school board topics. He suggested also pursuing administrative subjects and charter school law, this year. At the May meeting the Board will work with Dan to begin determining which training opportunities and experiences will best support his professional goals next year.

We also discussed using an anonymous survey format this year to ensure that the staff is comfortable giving constructive and honest feedback about the administrators' performance. Sharon will draft a survey for the Board to approve at the next meeting.

7.3 Osprey Wilds Site Visit Follow-Up (Letter): The Board reviewed the letter (April 2, 2025) from Addie Mazza to the Board. The majority of the feedback was very positive. We addressed the concerns about Management Accountability (see Discussion Item 7.2) and discussed Professional Development goals for the teaching and paraprofessional staff.

7.4 Osprey Wilds School Board Meeting Observation Feedback: The Board reviewed the letter ("Overall, very good Board Observation!") and the Meeting Observation Form that were included in the

meeting packet. We will update the school website this month. Going forward, the Board will monitor progress on resolving outstanding obligations from the previous contract (Exhibit S) four times a year.

7.5 Tele Teachers Contract: Regarding the Financial Statement discussion from last month; Dan did increase the salary range on our Special Ed Teacher posting and did receive some applications. He and Russ interviewed the most promising qualified candidate. Despite a generous salary offer, our benefit package did not meet the candidate's requirements. The Tele Teacher contract is for only 9 months of the year (versus 12 for an in-person teacher) and we are not required to pay for benefits for the remote teacher. This makes the two options roughly equal, from a financial point-of-view. [Tele Teacher] Christy Rappoport also wrote a compelling letter to the Board listing her qualifications and describing her ongoing work with our students, collaboration with the staff, and diligence in submitting IEP paperwork. She is also mentoring a paraprofessional at DSP who is on the path to becoming a special education teacher. Next year will be Christy's fourth year with us. Her contract will be an action item at the May meeting.

7.6 School Board Elections: The School Board Election Notice was printed in the meeting packet, posted in the school and on the website, and sent to parents/guardians of DPS students. Voting is now open and the ballots will be counted at the regular meeting on May 15th, 2025.

8. Action Items:

8.1 Revised 24-25 Budget: *Sam M made a motion to adopt the 2024-2025 revised budget as presented in the meeting packet. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.2 DPS 25-26 Original Budget: *Cody H. made a motion to adopt the 2025-2026 original budget as presented in the meeting packet. The motion was seconded by Ally L. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.3 Consultant Contract (Physical/Health Disabilities Teacher): The consultant, Sally Poesch, currently serves one student who is expected to graduate. The Special Education director asked to have a contract in place, in case we need her services next year. The cost, if any, should be minimal. The Board reviewed the Independent Consultation Agreement (printed in the meeting packet). *Sam M. made a motion that Discovery Public School of Faribault enter into an agreement with Sally Poesch to provide physical/health disabilities teacher services, as described in the agreement, for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.4 A Chance to Grow (3rd Party Billing): IEP 3rd party billing is required by Special Education rules. The board reviewed the contract (printed in the meeting packet). *Sam M. 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, for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.5 Strategic Staffing Solutions Service Agreement (Speech Pathologist): The Board reviewed the Service Agreement (printed in the meeting packet). The estimated cost will be \$11,520 (up from \$11,232 last year). *Sam M. made a motion that Discovery Public School of Faribault enter into an agreement with Strategic Staffing Solutions to provide a Licensed Speech Language Pathologist for service to students identified, from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.6 Indigo Education/Special Education Director Agreement: Dan continues to be very satisfied with the work of our special education director, Kori Ryan. The Board reviewed the agreement (included in the meeting packet). The cost (\$21,150) is the same as last year. *Ally L. made a motion that we accept the DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN INDIGO*

EDUCATION AND DISCOVERY PUBLIC SCHOOL OF FARIBAULT, commencing on July 1, 2025 and expiring on June 30, 2026. The motion was seconded by Brooke R. The motion carried (5-0).

- 9. Adjournment:** The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 4:30pm in the school cafeteria. The Annual Meeting will be held the same day, in the cafeteria at 5:30pm. *Sharon H. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Sarah H. The motion carried (6-0).*

Respectfully submitted: Sam Macklay, Secretary