

Discovery Public School
126 - 8th Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
November 20, 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:** *Russ called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Russ Kennedy (Chair), Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), Sharon Hansen (Vice-Chair), S. Sam Macklay (Secretary), Cody Hanson, and Brooke Rindahl were present.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Russ asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Brooke made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Item 7.5, Faribault Archery Program. Sharon seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0).*
3. **Approval of the October 23, 2025 Minutes:** *Sam made a motion to approve the October 23, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes. Cody seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The Board reviewed and discussed the financial report. There were questions about the Creative Planning invoice(s) and the big drop in the Cash Balance this month. The questions were forwarded to Adam Hewitt and will be reviewed at the next Finance committee meeting. Sam made a motion to accept the [As of] October 31, 2025 Financial Reports, as printed in the meeting packet. Sharon seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** None.
6. **Reports:**

6.1 Director's Report: Cash Balance: \$116,567 Enrollment: 49

- DPS students and staff partnered with Riverbend Nature Center again for a Haunted Trail event on Thursday October 30th 7 - 8:30 PM. 9th/12th grade students specifically were involved with planning and setting up for the event. Clean up took place the following day during Career Readiness Class 1st hour. The event was a success, and the money raised will be split between DPS and RBNC.
- Sara Mickelson Zeigler (COMPASS) came to DPS on our Professional Development Day (11/14/25). She presented a 2 hour session called “Standards of Effective Practice and Culturally Responsive Instruction”.
- 10th grade biology students visited River Bend Nature Center on Wednesday afternoon 11/5. Students completed a Bird Walk, as well as other local exploration activities.

6.2 Community: No Report

6.3 Finance Committee: (Russ K., Dan W., Sam M., Adam Hewitt/Creative Planning) Notes from Dan's meeting with Adam Hewitt on 11/18/25 follow:

*Revise Budget - Adam and Travis will begin creating a new working budget based on current enrollment. We originally budgeted for 55 and will need to reduce that number.

*OW Budget Letter - This was discussed with Adam. They have been in contact with OW and got an extension to work out the formatting section of the letter. That should be good to go for the next Qtr. reporting. Other parts of the letter are more recommendations to be looking at moving forward, like fund balance and cash on hand.

*Grant Awards - Dan discussed G5 and SAMS Grants with Adam. The only concern from DPS is not missing out on deadlines or possible funding.

*Financial Packet - Most Changes to the Finance Packet should have been made at this point. Please take a close look and provide further feedback.

*Possible Deficit - Dan and Adam discussed options and planning if the school did end up finishing in a deficit at the end of the school year. It would likely result in DPS needing to dip into its fund balance (going below the OW requirement). Fundraisers and Advertising were discussed, improving attendance since this affects ADM.

*MN Employee Paid Leave - Discussed briefly, treated similar to Unemployment. Adam suggested that the school cover 50 % of expenses and that employees cover the other 50 % since we are a small business.

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

We have screened most of the students who are reading below grade level. A few of them scored low in areas that might indicate dyslexia. We used our results to determine which students would be included in the high school Reading Intervention class. We still include all of the middle school students in reading intervention. The Capti ReadBasix software we used for the screening also provides resources to support students who need extra instruction in each of the areas that are assessed in the screener.

Grades have been posted for Quarter 1. We had a record number of students on the A Honor Roll this quarter. We have also calculated the percentage of students on track to graduate as of the end of Quarter 1.

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%.

Q1 Results: As of Q1, 82.9% (29/35) of high school students are on track to graduate.

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

As part of the Trout in the Classroom program, students in biology class were given the opportunity to study the macroorganisms that are found in the Straight River. They took samples from the river and documented the organisms that were present, learning about the different types of macroorganisms that live in the river.

Biology students also took a trip to River Bend to complete some environmental activities including identifying bird species. They were given this opportunity to demonstrate to a group of government officials how River Bend Nature Center helps the community.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: OW Sounding Board article “Conflict of Interest”. Board members discussed the article (printed in the meeting packet).

7.2 Director Evaluation: None

7.3 Language Access Plan: (Must be in place this school year.) The implementation of the plan is ongoing. Dan requested this item to be on the agenda next month to keep it at the forefront.

7.4 Minnesota Paid Leave: The Board reviewed the information sheet (printed in the meeting packet). It was decided that the school will split the premium (0.88% of covered wages) with the employees, each paying 0.44%. The Employee Handbook will be revised to include this policy, effective January 1, 2026. This will be an action item at the next meeting.

7.5 Faribault Archery Program: Brooke and Dan have facilitated the inclusion of archery into our PE program. Robin Dalby (of the Faribault Falcon Archers) has volunteered to teach this five-session class with Cody Hanson (DPS PE teacher). Successful completion of the unit will qualify students to participate in NASP sanctioned events with other “Faribault School Zone” students. The Board requested that Robin submit to a background check before the class begins.

8. Action Items:

8.1 DPS Pregnancy Plan: The Board reviewed the revised (participants) plan. Dan reported that this plan has been successfully implemented in the past. *Sam made a motion to approve the revised Pregnancy and Parenting Student Plan, as printed in the meeting packet. Brooke seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.2 Medica Health Insurance Plan Renewal: The Board reviewed proposed renewal and alternatives for the 2026 employee health insurance plan (printed in the meeting packet). The renewal price will be ~15% higher than this year. The increase is comparable with other plans, and the employees are satisfied with the current benefits. *Sharon made a motion to renew the Medica Choice Passport MN 15%-10-40 Platinum employee health insurance plan, effective January 1, 2026. Cody seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0).*

9. Adjournment: The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 2025 at 4:30pm in the school cafeteria. *At 5:15pm, Russ made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sharon seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0).*

Respectfully submitted: Sam Macklay, Secretary