

**Discovery Public School**  
**126 - 8th Street N.W.**  
**Faribault, MN 55021**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**February 19, 2025 @ 4:30pm**

We believe all children can learn.

We believe a trusting, caring, and nurturing environment must pervade the entire school.

We believe in including as many children as possible in all of the learning opportunities.

We believe all of our actions should be consistent with our purpose and vision.

We believe students should be taught “how” to think, not “what” to think.

We believe the primary purpose of education is to teach children “how” to learn.

We believe children must take responsibility for and be actively involved in their learning.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** *The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Russ Kennedy. Russ Kennedy (Chair), Sharon Hansen (Vice-Chair), Cody Hanson, and Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio) were present. Ally Luthe and Steven (Sam) Macklay joined virtually.*
2. **Approval of 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 January 15, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes:** *Russ K. made a motion to approve the January 15, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The board reviewed the monthly financial statement as printed in the packet. Sam M. made a motion to accept the [As of] January 31, 2026 Financial Reports, as printed in the meeting packet. Sharon H. seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** None.
6. **Reports:**
  - 6.1 **Director’s Report:**
    - \*Enrollment: 53
    - \*DPS had one student graduate at the end of January. The student will plan on walking at graduation.
    - \*Parent Teacher Conferences were held on 2/12. It was a good turnout, DPS did have parents fill out a short parent survey at conferences, and will email the survey out for those who could not attend.
  - 6.2 **Community:** Nothing to report.
  - 6.3 **Finance:** (Russ Kennedy, Dan Weisser, Adam Hewitt – *Creative Planning*) Date: 2/17/26
    - \*Committee members present: Dan Weisser, Adam Hewitt, Sam Macklay

Discussion Notes:

\*Enrollment - 53

\*Grant Awards - Dan and Adam worked on the REAP Grant in the G5 and SAMS system. Dan has gained access and renewed the school’s UEI number (unique entity identifier). Dan and Adam also discussed finances, it was recommended at the current time, that any spending that is not required should not be approved. Dan will keep a close eye on limiting spending.

\*Office Manager position discussed. There will be savings with the new hire having a lower hourly rate of pay, and being considered Part Time.

\*Next Year's Budget and Fund Balance will continue to be monitored closely by the School Board.

\*Discussed having a budget revision possibly ready by the March meeting.

#### **6.4 Academic Committee:** (Dan Weisser, Sharon Hansen)

We have compiled our data for students on track to graduate as of Quarter 2. Our goal with Osprey Wilds is our mission goal:

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%.

*Results: As of the end of Q2, 83.8% of high school students are on track to graduate (31/37).*

We have already graduated one senior, and another should graduate soon. We expect to have four seniors walking.

Students have been registered for the ACT on April 7, 2025. We have four seniors and three juniors planning to take the test.

#### **6.5 Environmental Education:** (Sharon Hansen, Garret Bitker)

The trout are growing well. We have nothing new to report for Environmental Education at this time.

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

#### **7.1 School Board Training: OW Sounding Board – Background Checks.**

The board discussed the Sounding Board article printed in the board packet. It was noted that we have a Background Check policy in place as our last renewal with Osprey Wilds. It is printed in our Employee Handbook and in our Student Handbook.

#### **7.2 Director Evaluation:**

None

#### **7.3 DPS FY25 Academic Evaluation**

The board reviewed the FY25 Academic Evaluation that was received from Osprey Wilds. It was noted that our cumulative points percentage has increased over the past year.

#### **7.4 Office Manager Position**

Karen Natole resigned from the position of Office Manager. Her last day was 2/12/2026. Four applicants were interviewed by Dan and Russ Kennedy (board chair). Brooke Rindahl was hired to replace her.

#### **7.5 Paraprofessional Substitute**

Because paraprofessionals are frequently used to substitute, Dan hired a substitute paraprofessional to fill in when paraprofessionals are acting as substitute teachers. The para sub that was hired has experience and has passed the paraprofessional test. She is the daughter of our special education teacher. Dan thoroughly reviewed our nepotism policy and discussed the position with our Special Education Director. The new paraprofessional substitute will be directly supervised by our virtual special education teacher and by Dan to avoid nepotism.

#### **7.6 Employers Workers Comp Insurance Non-Renewal**

Notice was received that our Workers' Compensation and Employers' Liability Insurance Policy will not be renewed after the expiration date of 4/23/2026. The reason for the non-renewal is that Employers Preferred Insurance Company is no longer writing school-related risks because it is not a profitable business segment. The school's insurance agent is already seeking a replacement policy.

## **8. Action Items:**

**8.1 Brooke Rindahl School Board Resignation:** Brook Rindahl resigned from the school board to take the Office Manager position at DPS. *Sharon H. made a motion to accept Brook Rindahl's resignation from the school board and appoint Chris Whitmire as the new parent board member to finish Brooke's term. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

**8.2 DPS Fundraiser Policy:** Dan presented a DPS Fundraising Policy to have in place if the school does any fundraising in the future. We have discussed replacing our Pennies for Patients fundraiser with one that would support the school. *Sam M. made a motion to adopt the DPS Fundraising Policy as printed in the board packet. The motion was seconded by Ally L. The motion carried (5-0).*

**8.3 Filan Lawn Services Contract:** The board compared the plans to the options available in our current contract with Filan Lawn Services. The "Better" plan has the same services for a similar cost as in past years. *Sharon H. made a motion to approve the Filan Lawn Services contract for the upcoming summer months at the "Better" level. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

**9. Adjournment:** Board members were reminded that our next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 4:30pm. *Russ K. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 pm. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

***Respectfully submitted: Sharon Hansen***