

**Discovery Public School
126 - 8th Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
March 12, 2026 @ 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, Chris Whitmire, and Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio) were present. Ally Luthe joined virtually. Guest Grant Wilson from Hartman Insurance was also present.*
2. **Approval of 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 February 19, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes:** *Cody H. made a motion to approve the February 19, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The board reviewed the monthly financial statement as printed in the packet. Sharon H. made a motion to accept the [As of] February 28, 2026 Financial Reports, as printed in the meeting packet. Cody H. seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** *None.*
6. **Reports:**
 - 6.1 **Director’s Report:**
 - *Enrollment: 53
 - *Spring Break this year is 3/18 - 3/30
 - *MCA Testing will take place in April, NWEA Testing will follow
 - *Tentatively planning a DPS fundraiser to take place in April
 - 6.2 **Community:** *DPS had to initiate a lockdown on the morning of March 5, 2026. Faribault PD informed the school at about 8:00 am with reports of a person with a weapon in the neighborhood. The situation was resolved around 9:15 am. Faribault PD reported they had the suspect in custody. There was never a direct threat to the school.*
 - 6.3 **Finance:** *(Russ Kennedy, Dan Weisser, Adam Hewitt – Creative Planning)*
 - Finance Meeting (3/4/26)*
 - *Committee members present: Dan Weisser, Adam Hewitt*
 - (not an official Finance Meeting, no board members present)*

Discussion Notes

*Enrollment - 53

*Grant Awards - Dan and Adam still working on the REAP Grant in the G5 and SAMS system. Dan has gained access and renewed the school's UEI number (unique entity identifier).

*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. Dan and Adam discussed the current budget along with years moving forward. Adam created a revised budget based on 48 ADM for this school year, and 50 for next school year. We will end this year in a deficit, but are optimistic moving forward.

Budget notes

- deficit this year (roughly \$60,000)

- with steady enrollment DPS should be fine moving forward

- recommended Fund Balance (20% - 25%) OW requirement

- Current Fund Balance with revised budget - 8.2% (still better than expected)

- Budget will continue to be revisited at Board and Finance Meetings, more revisions can be made if needed

- Original Budget this year had budgeted for 55 ADM, we will likely end the year in the upper 40's. That is a big reason for the deficit, along with reduced Title I funding.

*Staff raises were discussed, and will be again at the next Finance Meeting. No final decision has been made at this time.

*The budget can be revised again at the May meeting if needed. Adam will plan on attending the May Board Meeting to go over this year's final budget revision, along with next year's budget.

6.4 Academic Committee: (Dan Weisser, Sharon Hansen)

ACT will be administered on Tuesday, April 7, 2026

MCA testing begins on Thursday, April 9, 2026.

NWEA Testing will be administered during the last week of April

6.5 Environmental Education: (Sharon Hansen, Garret Bitker)

The annual field trip to Whitewater has been scheduled for April 23, 2026. Buses are lined up and the trout will be ready to be released into the world.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: Chris Whitmire completed the required 3 trainings to be seated on the School Board (Board Roles and Responsibilities, Open Meeting Law, and Data Practices Law). He will complete the other 3 trainings within the allowed time.

7.2 Director Evaluation:

None

7.3 Office Manager Position Update

Dan gave a brief report on the office manager position. Everything is going well and Brooke is learning the role faster than expected. The transition is going very smoothly.

7.4 School Pictures

Discovery needed to find a new school picture provider because Lifetouch discontinued our school and others. We found a new provider who also will be doing school pictures for FHS. The company is Strawbridge. Dan and Brook met with a representative and locked in picture dates for the 2026-27 school

year. They also do yearbooks, so we may consider looking at those options if they are a good fit for us. Their program involves no cost to the school and includes student IDs.

7.5 School Board Elections

Sarah Hammer and Cody Hanson are up for reelection at this time. Dan communicated with both prior to the meeting. Cody is interested in serving another term. Sarah is not interested in running for reelection. Dan will reach out to families and staff to recruit candidates.

8. Action Items:

8.1 Worker's Comp Insurance: Grant Wilson spoke to the board about the new worker's comp policy through Accident Fund. His agency has worked with this company. *Sharon H. made a motion to accept the worker's comp policy through Accident Fund. The motion was seconded by Cody H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.2 Hanover Insurance Package: Grant informed the board that the rate increase is comparable to the increases seen by most other schools. *Cody H. made a motion to accept the Hanover Insurance Package renewal as printed in the packet. The motion was seconded by Sharon H. The motion carried (5-0).*

8.3 2025-26 Revised Budget: The budget was revised to reflect our current ADM. The Fund Balance is still lower than the recommended 20%-25%. We are continuing to work toward a higher fund balance. The board plans to have Adam attend the May meeting to revise the budget again and to share his thoughts and answer questions about it. *Sharon H. made a motion to approve the 2025-26 Revised Budget. 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, April 16, 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