

Discovery Public School
126 - 8th Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
May 21, 2026 @ 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 4:25 p.m. by Russ Kennedy. Russ Kennedy (Chair), Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), Sharon Hansen (Vice-Chair), Cody Hanson, Ally Luthe and Chris Whitmire were present. Sam Macklay (Clerk/Treasurer) arrived at 4:31 p.m. Adam Hewitt (Creative Planning) attended remotely.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Russ asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Cody made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ally. The motion carried (5-0).*
3. **Approval of the April 16, 2026 Minutes:** *Sharon made a motion to approve the April 16, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Cody. The motion carried (5-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The Board reviewed the financial report. Cody made a motion to accept the [As of] April 30, 2026 Financial Reports, as printed in the meeting packet. The motion was seconded by Sharon. The motion carried (5-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** *Teacher Brandon Katzung-Hokanson was present to observe the meeting.*
6. **Reports:**

6.1 Director's Report: Cash Balance: \$95,056 Enrollment: 50

- Adopt a Highway was completed today (5/21/26). 9th/12th grade students participated in the trash pickup.
- DPS's fundraiser (Discovery Donations!) raised \$1,837.25. Money raised will go towards new school Chromebooks for the students to use next school year.
- DPS staff/students took a trip to Whitewater State Park to release the trout they raised for the Trout in the Classroom program on 4/23/26. The trip went well, the weather was good, and the trout were released.
- DPS graduation is scheduled to take place at the Paradise Center for the Arts at 5 PM on June 4, 2026. We are expecting to have 5 Seniors walking.

6.2 Community: The DPS Engineering Club is sponsoring a float in the Heritage Day Parade. It will feature the high milage car that the club built and competed with this year.

6.3 Finance Committee: (Russ K., Dan W., Sam M., Adam Hewitt/Creative Planning) Dan, Sam and Adam met (video conference) on May 19th at 10:30am. Adam explained the Summer Accrual entries on page 7 of the financial reports. He also explained how to track funds from fund raising. We discussed the report formatting requirements, switching snow removal from Building Maintenance to Contracted Services, budgeting more for PTO payouts next year, projected fund balances and the Director's salary.

6.4 Academic Committee: (Dan W., Sharon H.) The committee met on May 20th at 2:00pm.

NWEA Testing is nearly complete. So far, results are not looking good. We only have one or two students left to take the test, so we don't expect these results to change significantly.

Math

Measure 4.3 [CCR]: From FY24 to FY28, the aggregate percentage of students in grades 6-12 who meet their fall to spring NWEA RIT expected growth target as measured by the NWEA MAP Math assessment will be at least 50%.

Currently we have 26.2% (11/42) of students who met their fall to spring goal.

Reading

Measure 3.3 [CCR]: From FY24 to FY28, the aggregate percentage of students in grades 6-12 who meet their fall to spring NWEA RIT expected growth target as measured by the NWEA MAP Reading assessment will be at least 50%.

Currently we have 39.0% (16/41) of students who met their fall to spring goal.

Science

Measure 7.2 [CCR]: From FY24 to FY28, the aggregate percentage of students in grades 6-12 who meet their fall to spring NWEA RIT expected growth target as measured by the NWEA MAP Science assessment will be at least 50%.

Currently we have 55% (22/40) of students who met their fall to spring goal.

ACT scores were pretty positive. Most of our students scored in the high teens. The goal number to be "college ready" is around 22, but we are proud of the scores these students earned.

6.5 Environmental Education: (Sharon H., Garret Bitker) The committee met on May 21st at 3:00pm.

Results for our ELP are coming in.

The Biology project for Indicator 1: Awareness is wrapping up soon. One student explored how color affects how frequently fish bite. Another student used Vaseline on index cards to analyze particulate matter in various classrooms. The evaluation method for this Indicator is: *During the year, students in the Biology classes (10th grade) will create a project demonstrating their awareness of the environmental impact of a topic they chose. 70% percent of students who complete a project will earn an average score of 70 or greater on a 100-point rubric that reflects their awareness of the topics studied.*

The seniors still need to take the survey for Indicator 3: Attitudes after completing Adopt-a-Highway today. The evaluation method for this Indicator is: *75% of students who participate in the trash clean-up will complete a short survey and rate a 2 or higher on question 4 (impact of actions on environment) and commit to picking up garbage in the future.* Not including the seniors, our results are around 88% of students rating a 2 or higher on question 4 (impact of action on the environment).

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: Model Board Performance Evaluation and Training Self-Assessment. The "Sounding Board" article was included in the meeting packet. Members were asked to review the Board assessment tool. We will be completing this at the next regular meeting.

7.2 Director Evaluation: A formal School Board Director Evaluation will take place at the June meeting.

7.3 OW Charter School Board Meeting Observation Form: The Board reviewed and discussed the feedback provided by Emily Edstrom Moore who observed the April meeting.

7.4 New SPED Director w/ Indigo Education: Dan was informed that Kori Ryan (our current SPED Director) has taken a different position. Kori will be involved in the transition to a new director, provided by Indigo Education.

8. Action Items:

8.1 DPS 2025-2026 Revised Budget (final): Adam Hewitt presented the Budget Projection Model that was included in the meeting packet. This included our original budget for the school year, our current Working Budget and the projected budgets for the next four years. He discussed the basis of the models including conservative enrollment projections, expected funding, ongoing costs and inflation. Building the fund balance is also a priority. He also answered questions from the Board members. *Sam made a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Working Budget, as printed in the meeting packet. The motion was seconded by Cody. The motion carried (6-0).*

8.2 DPS 2026-2027 Proposed Budget: *Sam made a motion to approve the 2026-2027 Projected Budget, as printed in the meeting packet. The motion was seconded by Sharon. The motion carried (6-0).*

8.3 DPS School Board Elections (Cody Hanson and Open Seat): Sharon and Chris counted the votes and verified the ballots submitted. Cody Hanson and Brandon Katzung-Hokanson were both elected as Directors of the Board of Discovery Public School. Both agreed to serve on the Board for a three-year term and have a background check. Cody (incumbent) ran unopposed and received 16 votes. Brandon (11 votes) defeated April Garza (3 votes). Two ballots were marked for both Brandon and April and were disregarded (for the open seat). *Sam made a motion to certify the results of the School Board Election. The motion was seconded by Sharon. The motion carried (5-0, Cody abstained).*

8.4 DPS Building Lease: The Lease Agreement (printed in the meeting packet) was reviewed by the Board. It is the same as the previous lease. *Cody made a motion to lease our current school property, owned by Hoa Nguyen, from July 1, 2026 until June 30, 2029. The motion was seconded by Ally. The motion carried (6-0).*

8.5 DPS 2026-2027 School Year Calendar: The Board reviewed the calendar (printed in the meeting packet). The first five unscheduled closing (snow) days will be e-learning days. *Cody H. made a motion to approve the Discovery Public School 2026-2027 School Calendar. The motion was seconded by Sharon. The motion carried (6-0).*

8.6 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). *Sharon 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 2026-2027 school year. The motion was seconded by Cody. The motion carried (6-0).*

8.7 The Stepping Stones Group, School Psychologist Contract: The Board reviewed the Agreement (printed in the meeting packet). This is a different contractor than last year but was recommended by Kori Ryan. The cost is \$140/hour, not to exceed \$8,400 without Board approval. *Cody made a motion that Discovery Public School of Faribault enter into agreement with The Stepping Stones Group, to provide School Psychologist services for students with a disability or suspected disability and whose IEPs contain documentation of the need for services, from August 2026 through June 30, 2027. The motion was seconded by Ally. The motion carried (6-0).*

8.8 Adopt a Highway Renewal: Dan and the teachers feel this is a worthy activity for our students and our adopted highway is low traffic, making it relatively safe. *Cody made a motion that we renew our Adopt a Highway Agreement (printed in the meeting packet) with MnDOT. The motion was seconded by Ally. The motion carried (6-0).*

8.9 Brandon Katzung-Hokanson Summer School Teacher Agreement (Session 1): The Board reviewed the agreement (printed in the meeting packet). *Shaaron made a motion that Discovery Public School of Faribault enter into an agreement with Brandon Katzung-Hokanson to teach Session One of summer school in the year 2026, contingent on enrollment of students. The motion was seconded by Cody. The motion carried (6-0).*

8.10 Dan Weisser Summer School Teacher Agreement (Session 2): The Board reviewed the agreement (printed in the meeting packet). *Sharon made a motion that Discovery Public School of Faribault enter into an agreement with Dan Weisser to teach Session Two of summer school in the year 2026, contingent on enrollment of students. The motion was seconded by Cody. The motion carried (6-0).*

8.11 READ ACT Training Stipend (Sharon Hansen and Sara Caron): Documentation of the Notice of Stipends and Completion of Trainings were in the meeting packet. *Sam made a motion to approve the payment of the stipends to Sharon and Sara. The motion was seconded by Ally. The motion carried (5-0, Sharon abstained).*

8.12 MSHSL Agreement: Our sports co-op (boys' football and basketball) with Bethlehem Academy has been beneficial to both schools. *Sam made a motion to submit our Resolution for Membership for the 2026-2027 School Year with the Minnesota State High School League. The motion was seconded by Cody. The motion carried (6-0).*

8.13 Health Insurance for Teachers with Adjusted Schedules: The Board discussed Dan's request that the two teachers who will be less than full time next year still receive the Health Insurance benefit. *Sam made a motion that the two teachers with adjusted schedules for the 2026-2027 school year be provided with the Health Insurance benefit and that will be explicit in their Teacher Agreements. The motion was seconded by Ally. The motion carried (5-0, Sharon abstained).*

8.14 MIYO Health Contract: This year Christy Rappoport has provided Special Education Services (remotely by computer). Dan says that she is an excellent teacher and has been assured that she will continue working for us. The board reviewed the statement of work and the Master Services Agreement (printed in the meeting packet). *Sharon made a motion that Discovery Public School of Faribault enter into agreement with MIYO Health, to provide from August 25, 2026 through January 31, 2027 Special Education Teacher/0.8 FTE or approximately 16 Students, and from February 1, 2027 through June 30, 2027 Special Education Teacher/0.26 FTE for mentoring and supporting the new special education teacher (approx. 10 hours per week). The motion was seconded by Cody. The motion carried (6-0).*

8.15 2026-2027 School Board Meeting Calendar: *Cody made a motion to approve the School Board Meeting Dates as printed in the packet. The motion was seconded by Ally. The motion carried (6-0).*

9. **Adjournment:** The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 4:30pm in the school cafeteria. *Russ made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Cody. The motion carried (6-0). Meeting adjourned at 5:43pm.*

Respectfully submitted: Sam Macklay, Clerk/Treasurer