

Discovery Public School
126 - 8th Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
August 20, 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 4:30 p.m. by Russ Kennedy. Russ Kennedy (Chair), Dan Weisser (Ex-Officio), Sam Macklay (Clerk/Treasurer), Sharon Hansen (Vice-Chair), Cody Hanson, Brandon Katzung Hokanson and Chris Whitmire were present.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Russ asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Sharon made a motion to approve the agenda. Brandon seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).*
3. **Approval of the July 16, 2026 Minutes:** *Cody made a motion to approve the July 16, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes. Chris seconded the motion. The motion carried (5-0, Sam abstained).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The Financial Report was prefaced with emails from Adam Hewitt informing Dan that the FY26 bottom line is \$23K better than previously reported. This will change our fund balance from 8.2% to 10.3%. The Board reviewed the financial report. Sam made a motion to accept the Preliminary June 2026 and Supplemental July 2026 Financial Reports, as printed in the meeting packet. Sharon seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** *None.*
6. **Reports:**

6.1 Director's Report: Cash Balance: \$61,038 Enrollment: 48

- * After graduating 5 students our enrollment was at 45. We have heard from 5 families that they are transferring. We have had 8 new students registered. So, our current enrollment would be 48 as of today. I expect there will be a few more added to each list.
- * We are hoping to have some new families/students attend our Open House on Thursday August 27th between 1 pm and 7 pm. We will be grilling hot dogs and have free food available. The flyer has been posted onto our Digital Billboard advertisement. I recently was at the American Legion for a meeting, and the display of our Ad looks great! It played about once every 5 minutes.
- * DPS had its 3-year Inspection from the State Fire Marshall on Tuesday August 18th. We will make any necessary corrections along with the building owner.
- * DPS staff have CPR training scheduled for Tuesday August 25th from 9 am - 12 pm. Any interested staff are welcome and encouraged to attend. This is part of our CERP (Cardiac Emergency Response Plan). Once approved this plan will go along with our Crisis Management Plan.

6.2 Community: Football practice is underway at Bethlehem Academy. Two DPS students are participating (and Assistant Coach Dan).

6.3 Finance Committee: (Russ K., Dan W., Sam M., Adam Hewitt/Creative Planning) Sam and Dan met, virtually, with Adam at 11am on 8/18.

*Budget notes:

- walked through current report and discussed coding numbers
- with steady enrollment (of 50 or above) budget models indicate DPS should be fine moving forward
- recommended Fund Balance (20% - 25%) OW requirement
- current Fund Balance is revised to 10.2% (still better than expected)
- expected savings on salaries, compared to last year
- presentation of Audit results at October board meeting

6.4 Academic Committee: (Dan W., Sharon H.) Academic Committee did not meet this month. MCA Reading data just became available on 8/18, but the results are not to be shared until September 30, 2026. We will share our data summary for 2025-26 next month.

6.5 Environmental Education: (Sharon H., Garret Bitker) The Trout in the Classroom program that we have participated in for the past three years has undergone some funding cuts. There is now a fee to participate. We will be asking families to donate via our website and through social media, hoping to cover or at least offset the cost to the school. Both raising the trout and releasing them at Whitewater State Park each year has had a positive impact on our students and our environmental program.

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: None

7.2 Director Evaluation: None

7.3 Open House (Th 8/27 1pm-7pm): See the flier included in the meeting packet.

7.4 New SPED Director w/ Indigo Education - Deanna Siekmann: Our new director has visited the building and is transitioning into her role with assistance from Brooke and Dan.

7.5 Drivers' Education (Northfield Area Driving School): Chris has arranged for 30 hours of classroom instruction for eligible students to be taught at the school, after regular class times, at a cost of \$140/student. The Board discussed logistics, eligibility rules for students (acceptable grades and attendance) and establishing a scholarship fund. Dan will contact OW about specific guidelines for the scholarship fund.'

7.6 AED Proposal: After reviewing Dan's research, the Board decided that leasing the equipment is the best option. Money to cover ~four years of the lease is already available (Healthy Student Grant). *Sam made a motion to authorize the leasing of an Automated External Defibrillator for \$51.25/month. Brandon seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).*

8. Action Items:

8.1 DPS-OW Contract Amendment (Board Chair Signature page / Exhibit L(s)): OW has been working with the school to update the charter contract to address needed revisions – both requested by the school and required by MDE. The CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT AMMENDMENT was included in the meeting materials and reviewed by the Board. *Sam made a motion to approve the CHARTER SCHOOL CONTRACT AMENDMENT between Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center and Discovery Public School, including revised Exhibits B, C, G, I, J, M, O, and P. Sharon seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).* Board members each signed the Board Assurance form (Exhibit L) and Russ signed the Board Chair Signature page.

8.2 Cardiac Emergency Response Plan: The Board reviewed the Plan (printed in the meeting packet). *Sam made a motion to adopt the CARDIAC EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN For Charter Schools. Cody seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).*

8.3 2026-2027 Student / Parent Handbook: The Board reviewed two revisions to the handbook that were requested by the Director. The vaping policy on page 12 now requires contact with law enforcement on the Third Violation, instead of the First Violation. The Lunch Procedures on page 31 now includes a section C. New for the 26-27 School Year incentive for students in grade 10 and 11 to earn the opportunity for Open Lunch. *Sam made a motion to adopt the requested revisions to the 2026-2027 Student / Parent Handbook. Brandon seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).*

8.4 General Fund transfer to Food Service Fund (\$6,963.38): Adam Hewitt informed us that in preparation for the audit, we cannot have a negative balance in our Food Service Fund (common for Charter Schools that use a catered food service). An August 12th email from Adam requested a transfer of \$6,963.38. *Sam made a motion that we transfer \$6963.38 from the general fund (Fund 01) into the food service fund (Fund 02). The motion was seconded by Chris . The motion carried (6-0).*

9. Adjournment: The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 4:30pm in the school cafeteria. *Russ made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Sharon. The motion carried (6-0). Meeting adjourned at 5:29pm.*

Respectfully submitted: Sam Macklay, Clerk/Treasurer