

Discovery Public School
126 - 8th Street N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
Regular Meeting
September 17, 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), Sam Macklay (Clerk/Treasurer), Sharon Hansen (Vice-Chair), Cody Hanson, Brandon Katzung Hokanson and Chris Whitmire were present. Ally Luthe arrived at 4:31 p.m. Adam Hewitt of Creative Planning joined the meeting (remotely) for the Audit presentation.*
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** *Russ asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Sam made a motion to approve the agenda. Cody seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).*
3. **Approval of the August 20, 2026 Minutes:** *Sharon made a motion to approve the August 20, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes. Brandon seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).*
4. **Monthly Financial Statement:** *The Board reviewed and discussed the financial report. Sam made a motion to accept the [As of] August 31, 2026 Financial Reports, as printed in the meeting packet. Cody seconded the motion. The motion carried (6-0).*
5. **Citizen Participation:** *None.*
6. **Reports:**

6.1 Director's Report: Cash Balance: \$104,059 Enrollment: 49

*Day 1 Enrollment was 48

*Open House went very well, but we did not have any new families stop by to register. Very high attendance rate from returning students/families.

*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. Fire Marshall plans to check back in September.

*DPS staff (those interested) completed CPR/AED training on Tuesday August 25th from 9 am - 12 pm. It was very good training put on by Faribault Chamber of Commerce.

*DPS Adopt a Highway is scheduled for Thursday September 24th. 9th and 12th grade students will participate (Freshmen Seminar and Career Readiness).

6.2 Community: *Because of impending rain tomorrow, (assistant coach) Dan was travelling to Wabasha tonight with the Bethlehem Academe football team.*

6.3 Finance Committee: *(Russ K., Dan W., Sam M., Adam Hewitt/Creative Planning) Sam and Dan met, virtually, with Adam at 10:30am on 9/15.*

*Budget notes:

-discussed current enrollment, recruitment, promotion and prospects

- with steady enrollment (of 50 or above) budget models indicate DPS should be fine moving forward
- current fund balance of 10.6% (OW expects 20% - 25%)
- presentation of Audit result of no findings at October board meeting (Dan found Abdo easier to work with than the previous auditors)
- OW annual meeting for school leaders (Compliance was the subject of the meeting)
- logistics of accounting for the Driver Education Scholarship

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

MCA Data is embargoed until September 30, 2026, so they cannot be shared publicly until after that date.

Indicator 1: Mission Related Outcomes

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 for 2025-26: 82.9% (29/35) high school students are on track to graduate.

Aggregate Results: 76.6% of high school students are on track to graduate.

Indicator 3: Reading Growth and Progress

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%.

Results for 2025-26: 40.5% (17/42) of students met their reading growth target.

Aggregate Results: 39.1% of students met their reading growth target.

Indicator 4: Math Growth and Progress

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%.

Results for 2025-26: 26.2% (11/42) of students met their math growth target.

Aggregate Results: 45.7% of students met their math growth target.

Indicator 7: Science Proficiency and Growth

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%.

Results for 2025-26: 55.0% (22/40) of students met their science growth target.

Aggregate Results: 50.0% of students met their science growth target.

Indicator 9: Post-Secondary Readiness

Measure 9.2 [CCR]: From FY24 to FY28, the aggregate percentage of 12th graders who score at least 70 out of 100 on the school-developed rubric for their Life Plan project will be at least 70%.

Results for 2025-26: 100.0% (5/5) of seniors earned 70% or greater on their Life Plan Project.

Measure 9.3 [CCR]: From FY24 to FY28, the aggregate percentage of 12th graders who earn a Job Skills Certificate will be at least 80%.

Results for 2025-26: 60.0% (3/5) of seniors earned a Job Skills Certificate.

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

Environmental Literacy Plan results from 2025-26 were submitted to Osprey Wilds in June.

Indicator 1: Awareness

Evaluation: 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.

Results: 100% (12/12) of students in the 10th grade Biology class who completed a project earned a 70% or greater. *We meet this standard.*

Indicator 2: Knowledge

Evaluation: Seventy percent of middle school students will complete a pretest and posttest to measure learning before and after the unit. The mean score from pretest to posttest will increase by at least 10%.

Results: Eleven out of 12 students (91.6%) completed the pretest, and 13/13 students (100%) completed the posttest. The mean score on a 10-point scale went from 5.27 to 5.54, which is an increase of 5.1%. *We are approaching this standard.*

Evaluation: Seventy percent of students in 11th-12th grade science classes who complete the research on an environmental topic of their choice will score at least 75 on a 100-point rubric.

Results: Of 10 students enrolled in the Environmental Science class (11th-12th grade), 8 students completed the research project. Fifty percent of students (4/8) scored at least a 75 on a 100-point rubric. *We are not meeting this standard.*

Indicator 3: Attitudes

Evaluation: 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.

Results: 88% (23/26) of students who participated in trash cleanup and completed the survey rated a 2 or higher on question 4. *We meet this standard.*

Indicator 4: Skills

Evaluation: Seventy percent of students in English (11th-12th grade) will complete an essay and present it in front of the class or individually to the teacher. Seventy percent will earn at least 70 on a 100-point rubric.

Results: Of 7 students enrolled in English 11-12, 71% (5/7) completed an essay and presented it. Of those students, 100% (5/5) earned a score of 70 or higher. *We meet this standard.*

Indicator 5: Action

Evaluation: Students in Social Studies (11th-12th grade) will take action by writing to at least two government officials or organizations. The letters/emails will be graded on a 100-point rubric. Seventy percent of the students who complete the written action plan will earn a score of 70% or greater.

Results: 100% (6/6) of students in 11th-12th grade social studies class who completed the action assignment earned a score of 70% or greater. *We meet this standard.*

7. Discussion Items:

7.1 School Board Training: OW Sounding Board: “Oversight of Environmental Education”. The Board members reviewed and discussed the article (included in the meeting packet).

7.2 Director Evaluation: None

7.3 Start of School Year (Soaring Eagles Club): The teachers feel like the school year has had a good start. The “Soaring Eagles Club” is incentive (open lunch privileges, for example) for good attendance and academic achievement. Attendance seems to be improving.

7.4 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. The instructor, Kristine Greisler, will meet with Dan soon.

7.5 AED Lease (Response Ready): Per the Board’s instructions (August 20, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes, Discussion Item 7.6) Dan has entered into a lease agreement, and the equipment will be installed soon.

8. Action Items:

8.1 DPS Discipline Policy: The Board reviewed the Policy (printed in the meeting packet). *Cody made a motion to approve DPS Discipline Policy. Ally seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.2 DPS Wellness Policy: The Board reviewed the Policy (printed in the meeting packet). *Cody made a motion to approve DPS Wellness Policy. Brandon seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0).*

8.3 DPS Audit (Abdo): The Board watched a recorded presentation by Justin Nelson of Abdo Solutions. He summarized the findings of the annual audit and reviewed the school's financial health and trends, compared to other similar schools and the state averages. There were no significant findings in the audit. Adam Hewitt answered a few questions from Board members. *Ally made a motion to accept the Executive Governance Summary [Annual Audit for the year ended June 30, 2026] as printed in the meeting packet. Sharon seconded the motion. The motion carried (7-0).*

- 9. Adjournment:** The next Regular Board Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 22, 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 (7-0). Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.*

Respectfully submitted: Sam Macklay, Clerk/Treasurer