

Discovery High School

Governing Board Meeting Minutes 10/13/15

The following members were present:

Carol Fulks
Charlotte Butler
Mike Jones
Linda Williams
Jill Dunbar

Executive Director/Treasurer
Chairperson/Community Member
Community Member
Community Member
Secretary

Minutes

Charlotte Butler welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Mrs. Butler asked if anyone had any additions or correction to the minutes from 4/23/15. Mike Jones made a motion to accept the minutes; Linda Williams seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

George Miarecki, CPA spoke about the possible finance institutions/options to be used for the high school construction costs. Carol Fulks stated that the enrollment figures are higher now; the high school project will now be \$15.5-16 million. She also explained how bonds would not be a viable option and the school is moving toward traditional financing with a fixed rate.

Center State Bank and Sun Trust Bank appear to be the best options at this point. George stated that Center State is speaking of the possibility of applying the equity of the land so there would not be a down payment on the first loan and a small down payment on the second loan. We might need to have the land surveyed to maximize the down payment. Carol explained that the school qualifies for USDA Loan Guarantee due to the area we are in and our student population.

Carol expressed the need for the finance proposal to be completed by December 2015 for construction to begin in January 2016. Therefore, the board may have to meet sometime in November to discuss and vote on a proposal for financing. Mike Jones stated that it seems the board meetings will have to be fluid during the construction phases of the high school so construction can keep moving forward. All members present understood this.

President's Report

Carol Fulks was happy to report the Polk County School Board voted to approve the Charter Application for Discovery High School. She explained that DALA Governing Board had chosen to hire Rodda as the Construction Management Company, and that they are already doing a great job planning and moving forward for construction.

Carol explained the construction timeline, stating that we will be following the PCSB's opening date for school in August 2016. She stated that she would like to move up the open enrollment period for the high school to have a more accurate enrollment number.

Carol handed out paperwork on the construction phases with projected dates and a schematic budget from Rodda. She explained the 3 Phases for the construction, with the first phase being the STEM Building. The STEM Building will house the dining area, admin, guidance and classrooms for the first 2 years, with each classroom having a glass garage door to allow for natural light and accessibility to the outdoor area provided for each classroom. The second phase will consist of the gym and admin/student center, and the third phase will consist of the humanities building. Carol Fulks stated that she would like to move up the construction dates for Phase 2 if we have the high 9th & 10th grade enrollment numbers to facilitate that.

Carol Fulks stated that the Rodda site work budget was higher than expected, but encompasses all the projected site work necessary for all three phases instead of just phase one. The cost was also more because dirt has to be brought in to complete the project.

Carol explained the progress on student recruitment and what has been done so far. She spoke of the plans to contact the 8th graders from 2014-2015 to make them aware of the high school construction and opening in August 2016. A newsletter for parents is being created, while Twitter and Facebook Accounts have already been created, along with a dining hall bulletin board at DALA. The school's website is up and running at www.discoveryhighschool.org. Responses from our students, parents and the community have all been positive.

Carol explained the process for contract negotiations with PCSB. PCSB has 30 days to give us a contract, and then all negotiations need to be completed within 40 days of that date.

Mike Jones asked about the additional work/time needed that the high school construction/opening will create for current employees of DALA. Carol stated that there will be either supplemental or additional pay for employees who are affected by this work, and/or additional employees will be hired.

Mrs. Fulks stated that some of DALA employees are going to visit Tampa Prep tomorrow. They will be there to review unique activities/methods at this private technical school.

Charlotte Butler expressed her thanks for all the hard work DALA has put into this new school. She really enjoyed the video that is now posted on DHS website. Mike Jones said he was very appreciative of all the hard work DALA has put forth towards another great school. Linda Williams said that she understands how much time and effort it takes to run a school, besides the work that it takes to start another school.

Linda Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Mike Jones seconded it. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: January 12, 2016
Following DALA Board Meeting,
beginning at 8:30 AM in the
Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred
Media Center

Board Approved
1/12/16
Date