## **Discovery High School**

# Governing Board Meeting Minutes 12/10/2024

The following members were present:

Kevin Warren President/Treasurer

Nancy Daley Chairperson/Community Member

Charlotte Butler Community Member
John Taylor Community Member
Doretha Tillman Community Member
Terry Gier Community Member

Tania Sims Secretary

Nancy Daley welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM.

#### **Parent Appeal**

Ms. Daley introduced a student who requested an appeal and his father.

Ms. Daley provided some back ground for the student; she said that the student had contacted the school with a concern. Ms. Daley asked them to explain.

The student shared his concerns about his AP calculus class. He stated that the instructor was absent approximately six weeks, because of this wide gap in instructions as well other circumstances, he feels it is in his best academic interests to drop the class. The student said if he continues in that class, it would jeopardize his collegiate goals. He is planning on majoring in engineering, which requires a very foundational knowledge of calculus.

An advocate stated that this matter can be resolve though the board. He said the student's education rights was violated by FL statutes 1001.02

Ms. Daley asked Mr. Jemison if the drop class policy was a Discovery high school policy, Polk County School Board policy or state policy?

Mr. Jemison said he couldn't say what is PCSB policy is at this moment. DHS has moved the drop class date to the first quarter to give students opportunity to drop a class if needed.



Ms. Daley asked if DHS has tutoring available if a student is struggling with the class. Mr. Jemison stated that DHS has tutoring available and if a student needs help, they are able to get help.

Ms. Daley asked the student Robles if he has an explanation why he hasn't made the decision before October 17th?

The student explained the teacher was out most of the time. When they came back from the hurricane, he couldn't make that decision in good faith.

Mr. Jemison stated that board members can't ground the option of incomplete. The student will have to take the grade that he has now for the semester, or if he's enrolled into another class, then he would have to have a transfer grade for the last two weeks of the semester.

Ms. Daley asked the student how soon after the 17th did, he let the school know about his decision?

The student stated he finally made his decision when his teacher came back, because she immediately adopted the attitude that the students should have been completely up to date. The student spoke to Mrs. Cruz on October 21<sup>st</sup> to let her know.

Ms. Daley asked the student what is it exactly do you want to have happen?

The student stated he would like to withdraw without penalty dated on October 17<sup>th</sup> so when a collage looks at his transcript, they see the withdrawal and they line up the hurricane dates. Because of the hurricane a lot of people were affected and colleges allowed the students to drop the class at any point after the hurricane.

Ms. Daley stated that she was not sure if the board have the authority to make that decision. She said that the board will need time to review DHS policies and let Zayden and Mr. Robles know at the end of the day the board's decision.

The board members discussed the circumstances, reviewed policies and heard suggestions; they decided to enforce DHS policies. Ms. Daley will be reaching out to the family to let the know.

#### Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Charlotte Butler to accept the 11/12/2023 minutes as written. Ms. Doretha Tillman seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

#### **President's Report**

Mr. Jemison then presented the personnel actions. The personnel actions were put to a vote and Doretha Tillman voted to accept, seconded by John Taylor. The Personnel Actions were passed with a unanimous vote.

Mr. Jemison shared enrollment for Discovery High School is at 895 students.

Mr. Jemison shared the Title One update; DHS is currently at 72.0% on free-reduce lunch applications and we are still continuing to send out applications to those students who haven't filled out one.

#### **Old Business**

Ms. Daley shared an update on the property sale; there are some people interested on the property and the new Discovery Finance team is working on a plan.

#### **New Business**

Mr. Jemison presented a request to get a blueprint for a studium. He said the Parent Advisory Team understand that the school doesn't have the money for a sport field. The Parent Advisory Team is planning on looking for financial donors and they would like to have a blueprint to present to them.

The board members agreed to look into getting a blueprint.

Ms. Daley shared an update on the letter from the district; the PCSB released twomonths' worth of delayed capital outlay to DHS. Ms. Daley also mentioned that Discovery Schools have not missed any payment during the new transition.

Ms. Daley introduced Ms. Dana Vignale from Building Hope.

Ms. Vignale shared this is going to be a great partnership because she really has a clear understanding as to where Discovery Schools are and where we need to go and Building Hope works with schools across the state of Florida. Also, they work very closely with the districts. Ms. Vignale mentioned she assisted the Discovery High with the draft of the Corrective Action Plan. Ms. Vignale stated she is confident that DHS will be able to develop a budget that is completely independent of DALA.

Ms. Vignale mentioned the reasons why Building Hope has respect from the Bond Holders is that she is very honest, if Discovery Schools are struggling or there's a red flag, she will let us know.

Ms. Vignale said she is working in coordination with the school site team to really have a solid understanding of what Discovery Schools revenues and expenses are. She was able to develop a three-year budget for DHS.

Ms. Vignale mentioned she talked with school site team about realistic projections to increase the enrollment by 25 students. From that point forward, DHS will be able to have a balanced budget with a 3 % reserve and by the third year, we can continue with the balance budget and have a 5 % reserve.

Mr. Warren asked Ms. Vignale is she going to be involved in all of the Bond Holders calls and also directly involved with the annual audit for both schools?

Ms. Vignale stated that is correct. She stated Building Hope does not provide the auditors for the audit. Discovery Schools will need to have an independent auditor to avoid any kind of conflict, but Ms. Vignale will work directly with auditors.

A motion was made by Ms. Doretha Tillman to accept Build Hope Financial Contract. Mr. John Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Daley presented the contract from Tripp Scott Attorneys at Law. The contract will be represented by attorney Jeffrey S. Wood. Ms. Daley stated that Mr. Wood has been utilizing his services on an hour-by-hour basis because we didn't have a contract in place. Ms. Daley suggested that Discovery Schools go with the initial contract that Mr. Wood has proposed. She said that Mr. Wood is very well versed with charter schools.

A motion was made by Ms. Charlotte Butler to accept the contract from Tripp Scott Attorneys at Law. Mr. John Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Daley shared that Discovery Schools did the Havendale Parade. Discovery Schools built a beautiful float and there were some kids from each school in the parade. They gave out 13 hundred postcards with name and our QR code to our website. There is one more Saturday in Haines City.

Mr. Warren informed the board members regarding a lawsuit that's against one of our bus drivers and the insurance company.

Mr. Warren mentioned three DHS staff who have been working a lot during this transition for both schools. Mr. Warren suggested to give a stipend and then revisit the situation at a later date to determine if it should be increased or decreased.

A motion was made by Ms. Charlotte Butler to accept the stipends. Mr. John Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote

### **Board Member Report**

Ms. Daley shared a Bond Holders update; Discovery Schools received an email from the Trustee saying we owe them \$60,000 for legal fees, forbearance agreement, audit and all their attorneys had to be paid.

The meeting was adjourned by Nancy Daley at 11:30 A.M.

Next Meeting: January 21, 2025
Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred
Media Center after the Discovery
High School Meeting at 9:15 A.M.