

Discovery High School
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
01/21/2025

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
Tania Sims	Secretary

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

Ms. Daley shared Ms. Gier had a situation at work, she will not be able to attend today's meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Charlotte Butler to excuse Ms. Gier from today's meeting. Ms. Doretha Tillman seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Charlotte Butler to accept the 12/10/2024 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 878 students.

Mr. Jemison shared the Title One update; DHS is currently at 68.0% on free-reduced lunch applications. Mr. Jemison stated DHS is trying to offer an incentive to the students to encourage parents to complete a lunch application.

Old Business

Board Approved
02/25/25
Date

Mr. Jemison stated DHS Staff were appreciative to have the returning bonus and Title One / Critical Shortage Supplements.

Ms. Daley stated the board would like a copy of the list of the staff members and the amount received.

Ms. Daley shared an update on the vacant land property sale; Discovery Schools received a purchase agreement. Ms. Daley said she will discuss more details in the next meeting.

Ms. Daley stated Discovery Schools paid \$12,000 last year on the vacant land property taxes. When that bill came, she went to a property appraiser's office and had them change the zoning from commercial to residential.

Ms. Daley asked for the board approval for her to move forward with applying for an exemption for this coming year.

New Business

Mr. Jemison presented the DHS instructional calendar for the 2025-2026 school year. Mr. Jemison mentioned that the DHS calendar mirrors the PCSB calendar. The only difference would-be DHS graduation date and DHS senior awards ceremony.

A motion was made by Ms. Doretha Tillman to accept the DHS instructional calendar for 2025-2026 school year. Ms. Charlotte Butler seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Jemison shared an update on open enrollment; It started Friday 01/17/25 and DHS has received approximately 210 applications.

Ms. Daley stated that if DHS is planning to add any new programs for academics next school year, this is the time DHS needs to be planning.

Mr. Taylor mentioned the possibility of changing the name of Discovery High School to Discovery High School of Lake Alfred. Also adding billboards on the buses and DHS marquee on the end of the road by DALA.

Mr. Warren recommended putting on the bus "Discovery Schools of Lake Alfred, 6th-8th & 9th-12th".

Ms. Daley asked if DALA has an exit survey for the 8th graders to know where they are going, why they are going, or why they are not staying at DHS?

Mr. Warren said that DALA could create a survey for 8th graders.

Ms. Daley stated if they knew the reasons why students decided not to attend DHS, they might be able to create a solution before they leave.

Mr. Frabotta mentioned DALA usually sends an intent to return questionnaires to 6th and 7th graders in March. He added that DALA can do a different one for the 8th graders going to High School.

Mr. Jemison explained "Spartans for a Cure." All the proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. It is a continuation of what was started at the DALA years ago called Relay for Life.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Vignale shared where Discovery Schools are as far as the transition with Building Hope. She said Discovery Schools have submitted all the financial reports to the school district and the bond holders.

Ms. Vignale said Discovery Schools and Building Hope still need to understand the revenues and what the bond holders are withholding. The way in which Discovery School agreements are crafted is the school district is sending the bond holders the funds, and the bondholders withhold what they feel is necessary and send the rest of the funds to the school.

Ms. Vignale said their next focus will be on the budget. She is trying to make sure that Discovery Schools are receiving what they need from the bond holders since there is no clarity as to who is paying what.

Mr. Taylor asked if the Bond Holders are charging an additional processing fee for the things, they are doing for Discovery School's accounts.

Ms. Vignale stated that it is the same question she has, and she doesn't have the answers right now, but this is a very high priority for her to understand what the bond holders are withholding.

Mr. Frabotta said he and Mrs. Green created a spreadsheet that let them know the cash on hand. Mrs. Green tracks DHS and Mr. Frabotta tracks DALA.

Ms. Vignale said it is a unique situation that DALA is cited in those bond documents. It is not common because Discovery Schools are one board, but two separate corporate entities. Ms. Vignale recommended DHS should be separate, apart, and responsible for their own revenues and expenses. She said based on that financial recovery plan the district wants Discovery Schools to operate separate and apart from each other financially. The revenues that come in for DALA are invested into DALA and revenue that comes into DHS are invested into DHS.

Ms. Vignale explained what Discovery Schools can expect from Building Hope's team.

Ms. Vignale reviewed the balance sheet and the profit and loss statement for Discovery High School. She said one of the reasons why the cash balance increased was because of the Esser Act reimbursement of \$225,000.

Ms. Vignale mentioned that DHS expenses are exceeding its revenue. DHS needs to keep this in mind as they develop the amended budget for the remainder of the year. Ms. Vignale stated DHS needs to increase revenue or decrease expenses.

Ms. Vignale stated the school site leadership team and her will develop a budget, but it's contingent upon the board to review and improve it. The board then should look at the budget to see how the school spending is trending. The head of the schools should ensure that the principals are in fact staying within their spending trend.

Ms. Vignale stated Discovery Schools were a conversion from a county system to a charter system, because of this they adopted a lot of the district PTO policies. This is not a sustainable practice for an independent charter school. Ms. Vignale recommended taking a hard look at Discovery Schools PTO policies to prevent employees from accruing too much time that ultimately needs to be cashed out. Ms. Vignale also recommended reviewing Discovery School's retirement plan, FRS.

Board Member Report

Ms. Daley shared the bond holder update; Ms. Daley, Mr. Warren and Ms. Vignale have a meeting coming up on Thursday with the bond holders.

The meeting was adjourned by Nancy Daley at 11:25 A.M.

Next Meeting: February 25, 2025
Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred
Media Center after the Discovery
High School Meeting at 9:15 A.M.