

Discovery High School
Governing Board Meeting Minutes
02/25/2024

The following members were present:

Kevin Warren	President/Treasurer
Nancy Daley	Chairperson/Community Member
Charlotte Butler	Community Member
Doretha Tillman	Community Member
Terry Gier	Community Member
Tania Sims	Secretary

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

Ms. Sims shared that Mr. Taylor will not be able to attend today's meeting.

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Charlotte Butler to accept the 1/21/2025 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. DHS has no new hires, resignations or terminations for the previous month.

Mr. Jemison shared enrollment for Discovery High School is at 871 students. DHS has enrolled a few students last week and hopefully they will be able to enroll more students.

Mr. Jemison shared the Title One update; DHS finished up at 74% free-reduce applications.

Old Business

Ms. Daley shared an update on the vacant land property sale; Discovery Schools received the sale purchase agreement amended. Ms. Daley shared the sale purchase agreement including a sketch of where the property is exactly located.

Board Approved
3/31/25
Date

Ms. Daley said the attorney looked at the sale purchase agreement. He had some input which they fixed.

Ms. Daley stated to move forward with the sale purchase agreement. The Board Members need to approve it as well as the Bond Holders. She also said in the forbearance agreement there are some requirements Discovery Schools had to look into before selling it.

Ms. Daley said the money from the sale will go into Discovery School fund balance account. According to the forbearance, Discovery Schools has the ability to use the money in case it is needed. She suggested not to use the money for ongoing operational costs.

Ms. Gier stated selling it is a great opportunity to satisfy the bond holders and to improve the financial condition of Discovery Schools.

A motion was made by Ms. Charlotte Butler to move forward with the sale purchase agreement amended and get the Bond Holders to look at it. Ms. Doretha Tillman seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Ms. Daley shared an update on the property tax exemption. There are more documents Ms. Daley and Mr. Warren will need to fill out and attach those documents with the application. The deadline is March 3rd, 2025.

New Business

Mr. Jemison shared an update on open enrollment; DHS has received approximately 400 applications. DHS is planning to enroll 300 to 325 new students for the next school year.

Mr. Jemison mentioned DHS will share more ads on social media to remind parents that DHS is still taking applications for the next school year.

Mr. Jemison shared information regarding Cognia; DHS will have a virtual presentation on March 28th, 2025.

Mr. Frabotta said DHS and DALA have been having meetings, they are doing a need analysis going forward to take both schools to the next level. Since Discovery Schools are more stable financially.

Mr. Frabotta mentioned DHS and DALA are working on a vision to create sustainable and viable schools. They would like to create Discovery Schools as a destination spot for staff and students.

Mr. Frabotta stated for any plan to be successful the right people need to be involved. Both schools are looking at reorganization and competitive salaries.

Mr. Frabotta shared the vision focused around acknowledging things that Discovery Schools need to do:

1. Promoting recruitment retention for staff and students.
2. Lowering transportation costs.
3. Improving students and staff morale.

Mr. Frabotta said DHS and DALA hosted a couple of meetings recently on exploring the possibilities of four-day school week. Both schools put out a survey to Discovery Schools staff just to gather some data. He also mentioned that DHS and DALA would like for the Board to participate with the survey after they take a look at it and for the Board to share any concerns or questions. Both schools would like to have the Board support to continue to discuss and see if this is a viable option; cost savings and set Discovery Schools apart.

Ms. Butler stated that she likes the idea, and she would like to hear from other schools who are doing a four-day school schedule.

Ms. Daley said the Board would like the financial department input on these new initiatives.

Mr. Frabotta stated that both schools want to have full support from the Board for all the different initiatives shared at this meeting.

All Board Members present agreed to move forward with the different initiatives.

Mr. Jemison shared some important dates for DHS.

1. Senior award will be hosted at Discovery High School, Tuesday, May 20th, 2025, at 5:00 P.M.
2. Graduation will be hosted at RP Funding in Lakeland, Sunday, May 25th, 2025, at 3:30 P.M.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Vignale from Building Hope said she, Mr. Warren and Mr. Frabotta have been able to get greater clarity from the trustees. Discovery Schools and Building Hope have a better understanding as to what the Bond Holders are withholding.

Ms. Vignale stated the goal to achieve as far as straightening out the accounts is to stop the commingling of funds. The deposits made from the district to DHS; the Bond Holders will withhold what they need for the bond payments and any fees. The remainder of the money will go to DHS. The deposits made for DALA will go straight to DALA.

Ms. Vignale shared Discovery Schools are in the budget process. She is working closely with both principles with the goal of balancing both schools' budgets against 5% minimum cash reserve. Both Schools need to operate independently of each other and within their revenue streams.

Ms. Vignale stated she is working with Mrs. Green, Mr. Warren and the principles to project out what the remainder of the year looks like. They are going line by line to make sure they have a good understanding of the expenses.

Ms. Vignale mentioned the revenues on the average will be based on October and February FTE.

Ms. Vignale stated how crucial it is for DHS to create a budget on a realistic enrollment count. She recommended balancing a budget at 900 students and staffing on those numbers.

Ms. Vignale said the goal is to present to the Board the budget proposal for 2025-2026 school year at the next board meeting in March. She stated how important it is to have a preliminary budget approved before staff contracts and staff compensation is set.

Board Member Report

Mr. Warren shared an update on the promotional video; there are some changes that need to be made within the next couple weeks.

The meeting was adjourned by Nancy Daley at 11:20 A.M.

Next Meeting: March 31st, 2025
at Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred
in the Media Center at 9:15 A.M.