

**DISCOVERY SCHOOLS GOVERNING BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Type: Combined Regular Monthly Meeting of the Governing Board

Date: Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Time: 9:15 AM to 11:15 AM

Location: Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred

Presiding Officer: Nancy Daley, Chairperson

Minutes Prepared By: Tania Sims, Secretary

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Discovery Schools Governing Board was called to order at 9:15 AM by Nancy Daley, Chairperson.

Board Members Present:

- Kevin Warren, President/Treasurer
- Nancy Daley, Chairperson/Community Member
- Charlotte Butler, Community Member
- Doretha Tillman, Community Member
- John Taylor, Community Member
- Tania Sims, Secretary

Board Members Absent:

None

Others in Attendance:

- Gordon Crozier, CFO from Building Hope (via Zoom)
- Darryl Jemison, Principal
- Stephen Frabotta, Principal
- Beth Fontaine, Assistant Principal
- Sandy Altamirano, Teacher of the Year

I. Approval of Previous Minutes

Main motion: Moved by Doretha Tillman to approve Combined Discovery Schools minutes from the November 4, 2025, meeting as written. Charlotte Butler seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Main motion: Moved by John Taylor to approve Combined Discovery Schools minutes from the November 18, 2025, meeting as written. Charlotte Butler seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

- **Note:** Charlotte Butler clarified for the record that there were no minutes for a meeting on December 16, 2025, as that meeting was canceled.

II. Treasurer's Report – Mr. Gordon Crozier

Mr. Gordon Crozier, CFO from Building Hope, presented the financial overview for Discovery Schools via Zoom, reporting on the period through November 30, 2025, with December currently in closing.

Board Approved
02/17/26
Date

A. Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred (DALA) Financial Summary:

- **Cash Position:** The school is building cash, with approximately \$300,000 on hand as of November 30.
- **Year-to-Date Performance (5 months ended Nov. 30):**
 - **Revenues:** Slightly above budget, primarily due to Food Service revenue exceeding projections by approximately \$200,000.
 - **Expenses:** Closely aligned with budget, within approximately \$19,000 of planned expenditures. The school is commended for disciplined budget management.
- **Budget Variance Analysis:** With 58% of the fiscal year remaining, 58% of the original expense budget remains, indicating spending is on track.
- **Food Service Program:** A detailed cost analysis is underway with Mr. Warren to capture all associated costs (personnel, facilities, utilities, waste disposal) to properly allocate expenses for federal reporting, confirming the program operates at a net loss.
- **Cash Flow & Budgeting:** Past budget variances related to projected revenues have been corrected. Future budgets will be based strictly on actual funding formulas from the district.

B. Discovery High School (DHS) Financial Summary:

- **Enrollment & Revenue:** Actual enrollment is 886 students, 14 below the budgeted 900. However, year-to-date revenue is only \$6,600 below budget due to favorable student classifications:
 - Increased counts of **ESE students** (adding ~\$26,000 in revenue).
 - Significant increase in **Career Education students** (50 actual vs. 20 budgeted), who generate approximately 10% more funding per student.
- **Financial Outlook:** Revenue trends are positive, but the higher funding levels necessitate the provision of additional services, which may explain some increases in instructional and student support service expenses.
- **Conclusion:** Both schools are in stable financial condition. DHS's revenue mix has mitigated the impact of lower enrollment. Expenses will be scrutinized closely during the upcoming budget process to align with current enrollment and service demands.

III. Principal's Report

A. Personnel Action Reports:

- **Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred (DALA):** Mr. Stephen Frabotta reported one resignation and one new hire. The new hire is a direct replacement for the resigned position.
- **Discovery High School (DHS):** Mr. Darryl Jemison reported that there were no personnel actions requiring board approval.
- **Main Motion:** Moved by Charlotte Butler to approve the personnel actions as presented. Doretha Tillman seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

B. Enrollment Update

- **Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred (DALA) – Mr. Frabotta reported:**
 - 6th Grade: 352 students (target: 360)
 - 7th Grade: 338 students
 - 8th Grade: 324 students
 - **Total DALA Enrollment:** 1,017 students. We will continue to enroll until the budgeted projection of 1,020 students.
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- **Discovery High School (DHS) – Mrs. Fontaine reported:**
 - Current Enrollment: 886 total students

IV. Old Business

A. Title I & Free/Reduced Lunch Status Updates

Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred (DALA) – Mr. Frabotta reported:

- The current Free/Reduced Lunch rate is **85%**, which exceeds the federal threshold for Title I designation.
- Mr. Frabotta commended Ms. Reyna for her phenomenal work in managing this critical program.

Discovery High School (DHS) – Mr. Darryl reported:

- The current Free/Reduced Lunch rate is approximately **76%**.

B. Open Enrollment

Mrs. Daley noted that Open Enrollment officially began the previous Friday and commended the visibility of the advertising campaign, particularly on social media platforms.

Application Numbers (Report by Mr. Frabotta):

- Discovery Schools are off to a strong start.
- **Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred (DALA):** Has received approximately **300 applications** for the middle school grades.
- **Discovery High School (DHS):** Has received approximately **200 applications**.

C. Property Sale Update – Mrs. Daley reported:

Chairperson Nancy Daley reported that the purchase agreement for the property sale has been received and reviewed by the board’s attorney, who recommended one minor revision. Mrs. Daley provided the board with a packet containing the purchase agreement, photos, and a map of the property location. The contract includes an easement for a directional sign for Discovery High School.

Main Motion: Moved by Charlotte Butler to approve the sale and authorize Kevin Warren to sign the revised purchase agreement. Seconded by Doretha Tillman. The motion passed by unanimous vote

D. Marketing

1) Bus Magnets:

Chairperson Nancy Daley presented a new bumper sticker designed for all school buses. The goal is to increase brand visibility in the communities served while buses are on the road.

2) Sports Banners & Sponsorship Recognition:

- **Discovery High School (DHS):** Mr. Jemison reported that sponsorship banners for donors (including Mullins and Building Hope) have been produced and displayed. The next step is to add a digital recognition component to the school website and Facebook page.
- **Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred (DALA):** Mr. Frabotta reported that banner planning is ongoing. Due to restrictions on signage facing the road, they are exploring alternative display locations, such as inside the gymnasium.

E. Transportation Update:

Mr. Warren reported ongoing technical difficulties with the district's Focus program interface, which is preventing the seamless upload of student transportation data from both schools.

- **Status:** A workaround has been identified with the "Bus Boss" vendor. A combined file for both schools must be formatted and uploaded weekly.
- **Next Steps:** The new file format was created and assigned to staff for implementation. Once the upload is successful, accurate bus stop data for all students will be available.
- **Future Planning:** With accurate data, the administration can begin identifying students who live outside current transportation zones. The team is exploring the creation of new "hub stops" to serve these areas, which could support future enrollment growth. This will require direct communication with affected families.

V. New Business

A. Returning Bonus & Title 1 / Critical Shortage Supplements

Mr. Frabotta reported that the Returning Bonus and Title I / Critical Shortage supplements were successfully paid out to staff at both schools on Friday, January 16, 2026.

- The staff expressed appreciation for the payment, which helps bridge the long gap between December and January paychecks.

B. Potential New Board Members

Chairperson Nancy Daley presented the resumes of three candidates who have expressed interest in joining the Governing Board: Sherry Wells, Aaron Nangle, and Terrence Pereira. Sherry Wells (via Zoom) and Aaron Nangle were previously interviewed at the November meeting, and all were found to be worthy and capable.

Board Discussion: Members discussed the benefits of expanding the board size, primarily to improve quorum reliability and reduce meeting cancellations. Mr. Taylor, Mrs. Tillman, and Ms. Butler expressed support for this expansion.

Main Motion: Moved by John Taylor to accept and appoint all three candidates—Sherry Wells, Aaron Nangle, and Terrence Pereira—as new members of the Discovery Schools Governing Board. Seconded by Charlotte Butler The motion passed by unanimous vote.

VI. Stakeholder Report

A. Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred (DALA) Teacher of the Year – Ms. Sandy Altamirano

Ms. Altamirano shared positive news from DALA athletics, announcing that the school's junior varsity volleyball team completed an undefeated season. Additionally, the team won the county tournament for the first time in school history.

VII. Board Member Report

Mr. Taylor proposed the formation of a voluntary **Legislative Awareness Team** at each school. The team's purpose would be to inform staff about proposed state legislation affecting education, enabling individuals to contact their representatives if they choose. The team would have no formal responsibilities beyond raising awareness.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM by Chairperson Daley.

Respectfully submitted,

Tania Sims

Secretary, Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred Governing Board

Next Meeting: February 17, 2025
Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred Media
Center after the Discovery High School
Meeting at 9:15 A.M.