

DISCOVERY ACADEMY OF LAKE ALFRED, INC.

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

April 23, 2014

The following Board Members were present

Charlotte Butler	Chairperson
Mike Jones	Community Member
Kitty Walker	Community Member
Carol Fulks	Executive Director/Treasurer
Cheryl Wilkinson	Secretary
Kim Reddick	Teacher Representative

Carol Fulks sent an email asking for the board to meet today along with a copy of the agenda. In the email she gave board members information on three items that were to be discussed today at the meeting. She asked if anyone needed to read over the items before the meeting got started.

The first item for discussion involved a time change for the start time and dismissal time for Discovery Academy. Throughout the year administration held meetings with small staff groups to get feedback and ideas of what could make Discovery Academy better for students and staff. One of the items discussed was the start and end time for students. Administration and staff feel that if Discovery could start one hour early and release one hour early from the current time this would help staff members with scheduling appointments, before and after child care, and more afternoon time to spend with family. They also feel that this time would help students getting them up and going early and preparing them for an early start when they leave here and go to high school that has an even earlier start time. Students would also have more afternoon time to spend in extracurricular activities and homework time. The suggested start time for students would be 7:55 tardy bell and 3:00 dismissal bell. Teachers would work 7:25 AM – 3:10 PM.

Mike Jones made a motion to go ahead with the time change. Charlotte Butler made a motion to second. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

The second item on the agenda to be discussed deals with Kelly Services. Kelly Services provides substitute teachers for the Polk County School Board. Administration has talked with a representative from Kelly Services and would like the board's approval to start using Kelly Services for the 2014-15 school year. Mike Jones asked to sustain from voting on this issue due to his wife Tawn Jones is a substitute teacher for Discovery Academy. Carol Fulks informed the board members as of right now Discovery has 3 full time classroom para-educators that cover classrooms when teachers are absent, needed in parent conferences, for meetings scheduled by administration, emergency family problems, and when sports teams have to leave early to play their games. If Discovery uses Kelly Services they could eliminate one para position this year and hope to eliminate the other 2 position over the next few years. Discovery's accountant George Miarecki stated that he had run the numbers and compared what money was being spent now and what would be spent using Kelly Services. Kelly Services is also working on having substitute bus drivers which would really help Discovery. Carol Fulks said that Kelly will train

the teachers on how to use their system to call in for a substitute and they also do training for the staff they use to substitute in the classrooms. Carol Fulks thinks that Kelly Service will have a lot of retired school teachers who will have classroom experience.

Kitty Walker made a motion to approve Discovery Academy contracting with Kelly Services. Charlotte Butler made a motion to second. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

The third item to be discussed was a contract with SLA Food Services. SLA Food Services had meet with administration and provided information on contracting with Discovery to run their lunchroom. Carol Fulks stated that a lot of food from the dining hall was thrown away. Students like to eat off of the a la carte line and do not eat the food from the regular lunch serving line. She thinks SLA would be able to improve the food quality and students would eat more from the regular serving line. If this happens Discovery could be eligible for more food commodities (free food) and more benefits. Normally the state requires a school to put out to bid contracts to take over and manage their lunchroom – but since SLA Food Services already have a contract with the Lake Wales Charter School – Discovery Academy can be grandfathered in and piggy back under their contract. She stated that in Lake Wales they have 65% participation for lunch. As of this time Discovery is doing well at lunch but breakfast is not doing as well. Hoping SLA can improve on that. SLA is all about the students making healthy choices – there will not be a separate a la crate line all items will be on the regular serving line. The daily meal menu will be posted on Discovery’s website as it is now. George Miarecki went over the financial aspect of how Discovery would save money by going with SLA. Discovery Academy would terminate all of the lunchroom staff; therefore, saving salary and benefits, that are given to all staff members. Mike Jones asked if SLA could offer previous lunchroom workers a job – the answer was yes for an hourly rate with no benefits at all. Mr. Miarecki stated that with all of the money that SLA was going to make for Discovery that by law a nonprofit organization can only make a certain percentage and anything over that percentage would be used to purchase much needed new equipment for the dining hall. Carol Fulks stated that SLA has a certified nutritious on staff that plans meals to make sure they meet state guidelines. They also will provide after school snacks for students playing sports and plan on being at Discovery for our evening events that provide food. She feels that contracting with SLA will take some responsibilities away from the administration and allow them to devote more time to the students of Discovery.

Mike Jones made a motion to allow Discovery to sign the contract with SLA for contracted food service. Kitty Walker made a motion to second. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

Kevin Warren made a closing comment about Melissa Oppenheimer (the lunchroom manager). He feels that she has done a great job taking on a lot of new responsibilities. Melissa and her staff have worked very hard and he appreciated that very much.

Carol Fulks appreciated every one coming today. She felt like Discovery had to get moving on the three items on the agenda today before the next board meeting in June.

Mike Jones made a motion to adjourn. Kitty Walker made a motion to second. Motion was passed by a unanimous vote.