

DISCOVERY ACADEMY OF LAKE ALFRED, INC.

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

January 13, 2015

The following Board Members were present

Carol Fulks	Executive Director/Treasurer
Charlotte Butler	Chairperson/Community Member
Mike Jones	Community Member
Kitty Walker	Community Member
Aimee Diaz	Community Member
Cheryl Wilkinson	Secretary
Beth Fontaine	Teacher Representative 2014 – 2015

Moment of silence in honor of John Grega, devoted board member who gave so much to Discovery Academy's board and students.

Minutes

Charlotte Butler welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Mrs. Butler asked if there were any corrections or addition to the minutes. There were no corrections or additions.

Kitty Walker made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Mike Jones seconded the motion. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report.

George C. Miarecki, CPA went over the financial statements line item by line item. Mr. Miarecki stated that DALA has almost 4 million dollars in assets as this time. He noted that most line items do not change. Some line items might have a negative balance due to already spending money that will be reimbursed. Original budget was based on 980 students but revenue received was for 1,039 students. Budget adjustments will be made for additional revenue. Some line items funds have been paid at full price and when Discovery received funds from e-rate there will be changes made for that line item. The bus loan is going down. Mrs. Butler stated that she had read Gov. Scott was trying to increase the state spending for each student. Mr. Miarecki stated he thought the amount was about \$200.00 per student and if that happened it could help the budget next year. Mr. Miarecki went over the line items that needed a budget amendment and explained why the change was made. He asked board members if they had any questions concerning the budget or amendments.

Mike Jones made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Aimee Diaz seconded the motion. The motions was accepted by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Miarecki went over Discovery's investments stating that Discovery had not received Decembers report yet, but everything was looking good in the November reports.

President's Report

Carol Fulks went over the enrollment figures Discovery now has 1,038 students enrolled with 397 6th grade, 336 7th grade, and 305 8th grade. During open enrollment Discovery received 107 applications the first day. A lot of parents are applying on line.

Carol Fulks told board members that Discovery had 3 teachers leave and that most vacancies had been filled. At this time Discovery has two teaching vacancies. She asked the board to approve all personnel action forms stating that we had one out of field PAF. Monique Ruiz will be out of field ESOL.

Kitty Walker made a motion to accept all personnel action forms and Ms. Ruiz as out of field ESOL. Mike Jones seconded the motion. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Carol Fulks asked Stacy McGrady to talk to the board, she wants the board members to understand the laws regarding loaning money to a related party. Mainly Discovery Academy loaning money to the new Discovery High School. Also the laws stating that one board could serve both schools. Ms. McGrady talked to the board explaining the laws regarding these matters and asked board members if they had any questions. She also stated that when applying for the charter application for the new high school that Discovery should emphasize how well they have done financially and what a good job the current board had done, noting that the same board would be overseeing both schools. Ms. McGrady also stated that legal gifting of money is allowed between the two schools as a gift or a loan. She let the board know that all transactions must be in writing with all items due to or due from intercompany be approved in advance by the board members. Everything should go before the board for a vote before it is implemented. Make sure you document all bids and discussions in the minutes of the board meetings.

George Miarecki went over the time line for land development for the new high school (board members had a hand out) some cash had to be spent out of pocket for land development. Any construction money will be through the loan. Charlotte Butler asked what Discovery was getting from the land developer. Mr. Miarecki said all surveying and permits are being done by the company.

Kitty Walker made a motion to approve paying Envisors \$72,270.00 for land developing. Aimee Diaz seconded the motion. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote.

Carol Fulks let the board know that Discovery has not closed on the vacant land. The present land owners have filled an eviction notion to have tenants on the property move. Discovery will not close on property until the land is vacant.

Carol Fulks went over the time line for Discovery's high school charter application appeal. Board members had a hand out that showed the time line and the steps that would have to be taken after each decision concerning the application was made.

Mike Jones asked about the administrator for the new high school. Until the high school has 325 students both schools, Discovery Academy and Discovery High School would share the same administrator.

New Business

Kitty Walker mentioned that she had spoken to Linda Williams (former PCSB employee) and she expressed an interest in being involved at Discovery. Ms. Walker would like to recommend Linda Williams as a new board member (taking the place of John Grega). Board members had a copy of Linda Williams's bio information and educational background.

Kitty Walker made a motion to approve Linda Williams as a new board member starting at the March board meeting. Mike Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Kevin Warren updated the board members on Title 1 and the School Improvement Plan. Staff involvement starting last year in May continues this year. Beth Fontaine and Mark Hastings got everyone involved and all actions are in full swing. The report puts in writing what DALA is already doing. One important aspect is to make sure students that are off track will have a plan for the area of need.

Discovery has already been doing what the state is now requiring putting them ahead of the game in monitoring students and involving student, teachers, administration and parents.

Aimee Diaz made a motion to accept the School Improvement Plan as written. Mike Jones seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Carol Fulks updated the board on the purchase of a new bus to replace the bus that burned. The insurance company paid Discovery for the value of the burned bus and with that money along with \$72,008 Discovery can purchase a new bus.

Mike Jones made a motion to approve the purchase of a new bus. Kitty Walker seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

The question was asked if they ever found out what caused the school bus to catch on fire. Mark Whitehead stated that three different agencies inspected the bus and there was a gas leak in the engine but none could explain the reason for the leak.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORT

Charlotte Butler recommended that as a board we should do something public for Kristina Buhrman the bus driver of the burning school bus. Mike Jones suggested a certificate and gift card at the March meeting.

Kitty Walker thanked Discovery for the Holiday basket and for Discovery's perseverance going forward with the new Discovery High School.

Aimee Diaz wished everyone good luck going forward with the appeal process and stated that everyone was doing an amazing job.

Mike Jones stated he was glad to hear the students were enjoying and participating more in the meals that the dining hall was serving including the new breakfast carts and ice cream choices. These items are increasing sales.

Kevin Warren invited all board members to Discovery's upcoming events, including Breakfast Under the Stars, Administration Lunch, and Morning Madness.

Kitty Walker said DALA's closet was going well. They have a few consentient families that use the closet and she thinks parents have learned how the closet works now.

Mike Jones made a motion to adjourn. Aimee Diaz seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: **March 10, 2015**
8:30 A.M. Discovery Academy
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