

DISCOVERY ACADEMY OF LAKE ALFRED, INC.

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

June 9, 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

Minutes

Charlotte Butler welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. 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 and reminded the board that Discovery does not get a check from the PCSB in June. He noted that the bus payment is going down and it almost paid off. The IDEA budget was in the positive due to receiving money from the PCSB there is additional money needing to be spent for ESE students. As of now the Dining Hall account has \$115,000.00 the law allows up to 165,000.00 in the account any funds over that amount must be spent. Budget adjustments will be made for any line item that is over or under budget to balance the end of the year items. He went over all adjustment including the adjustment for the medical insurance due to getting a better rate from Florida Blue. We will be receiving E-rate funds for phone expenses that are over budget. Overall the budget is looking very good and will end the year either on budget or under budget. Title 1 has spent most of the money allocated and will spend all funds by the end of June. IDEA will try and spend all remaining funds on ESE needs. The dining hall has not received the final check from the state. Also, payment will be made from SLA for anything spent over allocated funds for commodities. When all money has been received George will make sure Discovery is not over the allowed amount and any funds over will be spent on equipment for the dining hall. Mr. Miarecki went over the budget for the 2015-16 year line item by line item explaining the changes that were made. He is hoping for an increase next year from the state but did not add that amount into the budget. He estimated an insurance increase along with salary increases. George explained the new salary schedule change from 1.25 to 1.5 increase if effective making an increase of 3.0 if evaluated highly effective. Title 1 budget adjusted mostly for higher salaries.

Mike Jones made a motion to accept all budget amendments for the 2014-15 Operating budget and to approve the Operating budget for 2015-2016 and Title 1 2015-16 budget. Kitty Walker seconded the motion. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Miarecki went over funds that Discovery has spent for Discovery High School at this time DALA can forgive this \$20,240.98 debt.

Mike Jones made a motion to forgive the \$20,240.98 debt. Kitty Walker seconded the motion. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Miarecki went over Discovery's investments did not have the quarterly report but have an \$18,000.00 increase and investments are looking good.

President's Report

Carol Fulks went over the enrollment figures for the 2015-16 school year as of now Discovery has 1,039 students enrolled with 319 6th grade, 396 7th grade, and 324 8th grade. We will be moving a 6th grade team to 7th grade due to the large number of 7th grade students and smaller numbers in 6th grade.

Carol Fulks handed out a list of all new personnel actions and asked the board for approval. She let the board members know that education is almost in a crisis at this time. Teachers are very hard to find the ones that do accept positions work for a while and then leave. There are a lot of challenges facing education at this time and Discovery is doing their very best to find the best teachers. Staff members have been in state and out of state to recruit new teachers. At this point all new hires are in field and we have no new staff members out of field. Mike Jones asked about staff not reappointed and Carol Fulks went over the reasons for not reappointing them.

Aimee Diaz made a motion to accept all personnel action forms. Kitty Walker seconded the motion. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote.

Carol Fulks handed out Discovery Academy's 2015 yearbook to board members and reflected on the school year.

OLD BUSINESS

Carol Fulks informed the board that the committee had selected an architect to design the new Discovery High School. The firm is Furr Wegman. Their fee is \$386,456.00. Payment would be made from the construction loan. Carol Fulks has been looking at financial institutes for securing a loan. CenterState is very interested but not at a fixed rate. Discovery will qualify for an urban loan guarantee. This loan type lowers the interest rate and any interest reduction saves a lot of money. Mike Jones asked if the full fee would have to be paid if for some reason we did not get the high school charter. Carol Fulks will ask the firm to rewrite the contract to be specific about the amount of payment in that case. She would like to have shovel in hand ready to break ground in October to be ready to start the school year in August 2016.

Kitty Walker made a motion to approve the selection of Furr Wegman to do the architectural design for Discovery High School. Aimee Diaz seconded the motion. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote.

Mrs. Fulks asked the board to approve a new contract from Enterprise Services for Janitorial Maintenance. It is the same company that has worked for Discovery the past years and there has not been an increase. She feels that the \$6,000.00 a year increase is worth the services that they provide.

Mike Jones made a motion to approve the increase for Enterprise Services. Aimee Diaz seconded the motion. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote.

Carol Fulks informed the board that she had resubmitted the charter application for Discovery High School for feedback and should have it from the PCSB by June 30th. She will resubmit the charter application for the high school in July.

NEW BUSINESS

Carol Fulks presented George Miareckie, CPA contract for the 2015-16 school year.

Carol Fulks went over Discovery Academy's school calendar for the 2015-16 school year. She also went over the Open Enrollment dates and the board meeting schedule – noting there was one change for the August meeting. The change is to move the board meeting from August 4th to August 11th.

Aimee Diaz made a motion to accept Mr. Miarecki's contract, the 2015-16 school calendar, the 2015-16 open enrollment dates and Discovery Academy's governing board meeting dates. Kitty Walker seconded the motion. The motion was accepted by a unanimous vote.

Charlotte Butler thanked Beth Fontaine for her year of service as teacher representative on the board of directors. She gave a very special thanks for all of Beth's hard work for the board and especially her help with Discovery High School charter application process. Beth was presented with a thank you gift. Mrs. Butler let the members know that Katelyn Dent would be the teacher representative for the 2015-16 school year. Katelyn is out of town for her wedding at this time but will be back for the August meeting.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORT

Kitty Walker noted that Discovery had a very good year. She thinks that the field of education will get harder in many ways among them hiring and keeping qualified teachers.

Aimee Diaz thanked everyone and is looking forward to another good year.

Charlotte Butler mentioned an article she saw in the paper regarding boxes of books that were placed in areas that anyone interested in taking a book to read could just pick it up. She thinks it would be a good idea to put boxes on the school buses for students to pick up a book to read on the bus.

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

Next meeting: **August 11, 2015**
8:30 a.m. Discovery Academy Media
Center

