

Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred

Governing Board Meeting Minutes 1/16/2018

The following members were present:

Carol Fulks	Executive Director/Treasurer
Charlotte Butler	Chairperson/Community Member
Mike Jones	Community Member
Catherine Walker	Community Member
Linda Williams	Community Member
Jill Dunbar	Secretary

Charlotte Butler welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.

Minutes

A motion was made by Linda Williams to accept the 10/12/17 minutes as written. Mike Jones seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

George Miarecki, CPA, reviewed the financial statements with the board line item by line item. He stated that Title I funds would be fully expended by end of year. He then reviewed the investments.

Miarecki then presented the Dining Hall Original Budget. Butler asked if DALA was continuing to provide the dining hall food service through SLA for the high school. Fulks stated that yes, DALA was and would continue for the rest of this year and one more year after that.

Mike Jones made a motion to accept the Dining Hall Original Budget. Kitty Walker seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous vote.

Miarecki reviewed the financial statements and annual audit for the Board members.

Linda Williams made a motion to accept the Annual Audit as presented. Kitty Walker seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous vote.

President's Report

Carol Fulks stated that enrollment was at 944 students with a waiting list for all three grade levels. DALA has recently accepted more students and they are enrolling now to be at the optimum number of 950 enrolled students. Kevin Warren stated that the school next door is now a magnet school and there are more magnet schools in the area this year. Carol Fulks stated DALA has already begun recruiting and Open Enrollment began today for the 2018-19 school year. Fulks anticipates a good turnout as the school has already received many applications in the first few hours of Open Enrollment.

Carol Fulks then reviewed the Personnel Actions for the Board.

Kitty Walker made a motion to accept all personnel actions and Mike Jones seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Old Business

Kevin Warren handed out and reviewed the 2017-18 Parent Involvement Plan, stating that it has been renamed Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan and the format has changed, but still requires the same information as previous years. Butler asked if the school monitors the progress of parent participation. Warren stated that he receives parent feedback from all events and childcare and transportation are the biggest hurdle for parents who want to be involved.

Linda Williams made a motion to accept the 2017-2018 Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan. Mike Jones seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous vote.

Kitty Walker asked if Puerto Rican student enrollment due to the hurricane has impacted the school. Warren stated that we do have six or seven students from Puerto Rico and some do not speak any English. DALA anticipates more students enrolling from Puerto Rico.

Kevin Warren handed out and reviewed the 2017-18 Teacher Evaluation System changes for the Board. The Board then discussed particulars of those changes and why the changes were made. Warren stated that teachers were included in the discussion and process for making the changes. Patricia Miller stated that Admin was very receptive to the teacher ideas and the teachers were very happy with the final changes to the evaluation system. Linda Williams asked if the changes would enable more teachers to be classified as highly effective. Warren stated that the new system would make it fairer for teachers and estimated that approximately 15% more teachers (using last year's data) would score highly effective with the changes.

Mike Jones made a motion to accept the presented changes to the 17-18 Teacher Evaluation System. Kitty Walker seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous vote.

Carol Fulks updated the Board regarding the recording of board meetings. Fulks requested that Jeremy Hurd purchase microphones and each board member would test the use of a microphone at the next meeting. Hurd is getting a quote for the cost of the entire recording system.

New Business

George Miarecki explained the Fund Balance Policy. It was suggested during the Charter Renewal process that DALA create this policy.

Linda Williams made a motion to approve the Fund Balance Policy. Kitty Walker seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous vote.

Carol Fulks presented the proposed Succession Plan. The Board members would like to have more specific time frames listed for short-term (temporary) v. long-term and/or permanent. The Board would like to have an extended vision for both schools regarding this policy. The Succession Plan will be reviewed again at the next Board meeting after changes have been made to it.

Board Member Report

Charlotte Butler stated that she read in the newspaper about a student thrift closet similar to DALA's Closet. Other Board members spoke about the need for some students to be able to receive items from DALA's closet free of charge if need be.

Butler asked about the Charter Renewal. Warren stated that the Office of School Choice had some questions, which Admin had responded to. The committee had no concerns regarding the renewal. Warren stated that the committee had very positive remarks during the visit to the school. DALA is waiting for OSC to present the Charter Renewal Report to PCSB in February.

Mike Jones thanked Admin for the Christmas gift, as did the other Board members. Kitty Walker thanked all involved for their hard work.

Mike Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:50AM; it was seconded by Linda Williams and passed by unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: March 13, 2018
8:30 AM in the Discovery Academy
of Lake Alfred Media Center