

Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred

Governing Board Meeting Minutes 10/22/2019

The following members were present:

Carol Fulks	Executive Director/Treasurer
Charlotte Butler	Chairperson/Community Member
Gregory Holloman	Community Member
Aimee Diaz	Community Member
John Taylor	Community Member
Laura Nolan	Teacher
Mary Pulse	Secretary

Charlotte Butler welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING **Election of Chair/Officers**

After discussion and careful consideration of all nominees, Aimee Diaz nominated the following members for the Board to continue in their positions:
Chair – Charlotte Butler, President/Treasurer – Carol Fulks, Secretary – Mary Pulse.
John Taylor seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous vote.

Presentation of Annual Audit

George Miarecki, CPA presented the annual audit to the Board. He stated that the audit went extremely well.

Minutes

A motion was made by Aimee Diaz to accept the 8/13/19 minutes as written. John Taylor 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.

Miarecki then reviewed the Operating Budget and the Title I Budget. Mr. Miarecki said the actual budget is right on track with the projected budget. Title 1 and IDEA are also on target. Mr. Miarecki informed the board that the IDEA grant money is received all up front for the entire school year.

Board Approved
1-14-2020
Date

George Miarecki discussed with the board the option of USDA loans versus bonds. Mr. Miarecki told the Governing Board he has done extensive research on both options and in his expert opinion we should go with bonds. He said the USDA loans carry an annual fee of \$35,000 while bonds do not. The bonds do, however, require less cash up front. Bonds are fixed interest rates while the USDA loans are a variable rate. If and when interest rates rise so will the amount of our loan payments if we continue with the USDA loans.

After discussion among the board and questions directed and answered by Mr. Miarecki, the board voted to proceed with bonds. John Taylor made the motion and Aimee Diaz seconded it with a unanimous vote by all.

President's Report

Carol Fulks stated the current enrollment for Discovery Academy is 974 with 321 in 6th grade, 327 in 7th grade and 326 in 8th grade. There is an extensive waitlist for 6th grade at 155. The waitlist for 7th grade is 38 and 8th grade is 82.

Mrs. Fulks then presented the personnel actions saying two 7th grade teachers have resigned but two have already been hired to replace them and are already in the classroom. There was no interruption using substitute teachers.

John Taylor made a motion to accept all personnel actions and Aimee Diaz seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote.

Old Business

Mark Whitehead gave a Safe Schools update.

Mark Whitehead said there was a campus tour conducted by local law enforcement consisting of police, fire department and EMS. The purpose of the tour was to help us find our strong and weak points in the event of an actual emergency. The final Safe Schools Plan was presented and approved by Polk County and sent to the state for final approval.

Mr. Whitehead also discussed that the entire staff took part in a training of Polk County's Critical Incident Response Plan.

Mrs. Fulks discussed the upcoming Open Enrollment for Discovery Academy to begin on Monday, November 4, 2019 and end on Monday, November 18, 2019. Flyers have been sent to all elementary schools in the area and they have agreed to send the flyers home to the parents of all 5th grade students.

New Business

A new teacher salary schedule being used by Polk County was brought before the board for approval. Aimee Diaz made a motion to approve the new salary schedule, seconded by John Taylor with a unanimous vote.

Board Member Report

Charlotte Butler told the board that former board member Mike Jones has resigned his position on the board for personal reasons. Mrs. Butler thanked Mr. Jones for all his years of service to Discovery Academy and Discovery High School. Mrs. Butler welcomed the newest board member, Mr. Gregory Holloman. Ms. Butler said we may be adding additional board members in the future. John Taylor made a motion to approve Mr. Holloman as a board member; Aimee Diaz seconded this with an enthusiastic unanimous vote by all.

Mrs. Butler also questioned both Mrs. Fulks and Mr. Warren regarding a newspaper article she had read stating that Discovery Academy was still owed \$5,000,000 from the county for roof repair for damage that occurred during Hurricane Irma. Both Mrs. Fulks and Mr. Warren said Discovery Academy received no damage and were unsure the origination of the newspaper article.

John Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 AM.

Next Meeting: January 14, 2020
8:30 AM in the Discovery Academy
of Lake Alfred Media Center