

# Discovery Academy of Lake Alfred

## Governing Board Meeting Minutes 8/11/2020

The following members were present:

Carol Fulks	Executive Director/Treasurer
Aimee Diaz	Community Member
Nancy Daley	Community Member
John Taylor	Community Member
Kelsey Drzewiecki	Teacher
Mary Pulse	Secretary

Aimee Diaz welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

### Minutes

A motion was made by John Taylor to accept the 6/16/20 minutes as written. Nancy Daley 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 updated the Board regarding the current liabilities. Mr. Miarecki said the current liabilities and balance sheet look very good. Mr. Miarecki said the investments stayed even, the fees cancelled out the gains but in this current environment this is good news.

The food service equipment loan is now paid off in full. Mr. Miarecki did say the debt of the dining hall increased due to the lost revenue from March through May.

Miarecki then reviewed the Operating Budget and the IDEA grant money. Mr. Miarecki said the actual budget is very close to the projected budget in enrollment numbers, instructional and personnel. The IDEA grant is close to spending 90% of what was received.

### President's Report

Carol Fulks stated that enrollment for the first day of school is 976 with a wait list of 61 in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 78 in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 14 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Board Approved  
10-13-2020  
Date

Carol Fulks then reviewed the Personnel Actions for the Board. Mrs. Fulks explained how “out of field” teachers are working towards certification and what they need to do to accomplish this.

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

### **Old Business**

Mark Whitehead gave a Safe Schools update.

Mark Whitehead said there is an upcoming walkthrough with the county so they can make recommendations. Mr. Whitehead said that we have petitioned the county to have a security gate at the entrance of the campus but it was denied.

### **New Business**

Mrs. Fulks said PCSB has not made a decision on teacher salaries for the 2020-2021 school year but she would like to do something for our staff. Since no evaluations were given for the 2019-2020 we would like to give each instructional staff member a 1.5% raise. We would also go the next step on the PCSB Salary schedule for the Para’s and Secretaries. Admin will receive a 2.5% raise.

John Taylor asked if this could change if PCSB makes a decision on salaries and Mrs. Fulks said we will do at least the minimum of what PCSB implements.

Nancy Daily made a motion to accept the new salary schedule and John Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

Kevin Warren talked about the reopening plan that was submitted to the district and to the state. The plan has emphasis on having strategies to help ESE and ELL students succeed. We need to continue to monitor and report our progress.

Mr. Warren provided the results of the parent survey in regards to in person versus virtual learning. The results are: 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 144 want virtual/182 in person, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade parents were split just about 50/50. The results were also 50/50 among gender and ethnicities.

For face-to-face learning we will follow the CDC recommendations.

Nancy Daley asked if we would offer hybrid, Mr. Warren said at this time no but the choice made is for the entire semester. The parents are told even if they choose virtual learning their spot is secured for in person when things return to normal.

Nancy Daley feels the teachers will face many challenges enforcing rules to students in regards to mask wearing and social distancing.

John Taylor asked if there is additional funding for any unexpected expenses that may be incurred. Mrs. Fulks said yes there are and Mr. Miarecki added that the government has programs for this situation to issue additional money if necessary.

Nancy Daley asked if there are hand sanitizers in all areas and Mr. Whitehead answered they are being set up in all classrooms and buses.

Aimee Diaz asked if there is a new school schedule this year and Mr. Warren said yes, the high school will be from 7:23 – 2:30 and the middle school will be 9:05 – 3:20. The delay is to limit the number of students riding on the buses.

Mr. Taylor asked if we will provide masks if students don't wear one and Mrs. Fulks said yes.

Mark Whitehead commented that we are waiting for the PCSB code of conduct with regards on guidelines on mask wearing and if students refuse. Nancy Daley added that in the city of Lake Alfred it is mandatory to wear a mask inside and out.

A motion was made by Nancy Daley to vote on the reopening plan. John Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Warren presented the Parent/Family Engagement Compact for Learning which outlines staff responsibility as well as parent, family and student responsibilities. It is in the Student Planner.

A motion was made by Nancy Daley to approve the Parent/Family Compact for Learning. John Taylor seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Warren also informed the board of the Engagement Plan, which lists requirements from Title 1 to get parents more involved.

Mr. Warren met in March with parents who made recommendations to make the parent engagement plan better. Some of the parent's recommendations have been implemented. If any more meetings are necessary with parents, they may be virtual.

Nancy Daley said we should come up with more ideas to get the parents involved.

A motion was made by John Taylor to approve the Engagement Plan. Nancy Daley seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous vote

## **Board Member Report**

Aimee Diaz wishes everyone good luck on this challenging unusual school year ahead.

John Taylor said with so many stories in the media, he just hopes everyone stays healthy. Mrs. Fulks assured everyone that although we face many struggles ahead we will continue to follow the Governor's mandate and enforce the wearing of masks by all staff members.

Nancy Daley asked if we can delay the opening of school until September and Mr. Warren said that we must open in August per the Governor's office.

Kevin Warren asked the teacher representative, Kelsey Drzewiecki her thoughts. Mrs. Drzewiecki said that teachers are nervous and concerned. They want to stay positive for the students but can't help but be a bit apprehensive. They will put their best foot forward and hope for the best.

Aimee Diaz adjourned the meeting at 9:28 AM.

**Next Meeting: October 13, 2020**  
8:30 AM in the Discovery Academy  
of Lake Alfred Media Center