

Discovery Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

- I. Meeting was called to order at 6:37 by Lisa Gonzalez
Lisa Gonzales, Miranda Wilkening, Jessica Lynch, Tiana Clark, Ryan Schoffelmeer, Kelly Hunt Vander Vliet and Mylese Tucker were present. Lori Knox-Lindsay and Suzanne Radzik not present.
Discovery – Ernesto Martinez and Debra Weller were present
Gabriele Group – Kiki and Alan Gabriele were present
- II. Mission and Vision were read by Tiana Clark:

OUR MISSION

Discovery Charter School will foster in its students the passion and curiosity necessary for lifelong learning. Students will develop the ability to think critically, communicate effectively, and excel academically. Through an integrated, place-based curriculum, our students will become stewards of their environment and community.

OUR VISION

An inclusive community that nurtures how to think, not what to think — one child at a time.

- III. Financial Report
 - Kiki spoke about the MTD loss of \$5000 and YTD loss of \$26,000, mostly due to inflation and increased cost of supplies.
 - We can capitalize more of the Barn development expenditures to break even.
 - Board Fund was set up to keep track of DOW cash flow. Current balance is \$5000.
 - Alan spoke about the necessity for long term financial planning as our Bond matures. Our debt interest will go up \$12,00 per month. He emphasized the need to change our financial goals and strategies.
 - Lisa Gonzalez asked about Bond companies that cater to charter schools. Alan Gabriele and Ernesto Martinez will look into that.
 - Alan emphasized again the importance for Discovery to break even and show a surplus and the need to tighten the belt.
- IV. Consent Agenda

Lisa Gonzalez moved to accept the Consent Agenda

Jessica Lynch seconded

Unanimously passed

V. No Public Comment

VI. Items for Discussion

- Strategic Planning – meeting at a later date
- Annual Report
Lisa Gonzalez and Miranda Wilkening will discuss and get back to the Board.
Considering an impact report vs. annual report.
- Superintendent Contract
The Board will be meeting at 5:30 before the March board meeting to go over the contract.
- Board Self Assessment
Board members will fill out the assessment for review at the next meeting
- Climate Survey
Ernesto has been playing phone tag with Dr. Halik who is interested in helping us with the climate survey.
- Policies
Lisa Gonzalez spoke about how policies should always be evolving and be up to date on the website. The Policy working group will meet to set up a schedule to review and update policies. The next meeting will be in March.

VII. Matters For Approval

- Revised Vision Statement
Ryan Schoffelmeer requested a punctuation change, using an em-dash, to which everyone agreed. Miranda Wilkening moved to accept the revised vision statement. Tiana Clark Seconded. Unanimously passed.
- Lunch RFP 2023-2024

Lisa Gonzalez moved to accept the RFP, Ryan Schoffelmeer seconded. Unanimously approved.
- Sexual Harassment Policy
Ernesto Martinez said that the document fulfilled all the requirements of the insurance carrier.
Lisa Gonzalez moved to accept the policy and Mylese Tucker seconded. Unanimously passed.
- Conflict Resolution Policy
Mylese Tucker moved to accept the policy and Jessica Lynch seconded. Unanimously passed.

VIII. School Report

Ernesto Martinez reported:

- Enrollment as of February first is 558

- Front entryway is complete!
- Awaiting quotes from 2 companies for cleaning services. Looking into hiring own staff for cost savings and quality control.
- Exterior lights in the parking lot will be replaced with LED lights. We are waiting for additional numbers in the quote to see if it is worth it to change more building lights. The NIPSCO rebate is small compared to the cost of the job. It could be \$60-\$70K to replace bulbs that would save \$10-\$12K per year.
- Chrome Books that won't hold a charge are being replaced.
- \$42,747.41 in student fees have been collected with approximately \$29,000 outstanding.
- Intent to return forms went live
- Education related virtual legislative sessions are available for viewing on the Indiana General Assembly web page.

Debra Weller reported:

- STAR Data from winter – setting up meetings to see where gaps are. Starting up tutoring after school.
- Adopting new math curriculum and looking at various things to help close the gap.
- Student dress code is being reworked
- Middle School Behavior Plans – includes reflection sheet to be filled out by student
- Everybody is ready for Spring Break!

IX. Working Groups Update

1) Development

- Valpo Kids Day Out
- School Tours until Kindergarten Lotto
- Billboards up in Michigan City, Portage and Chesterton
- Gym sponsorship at the YMCA
- Little league sponsorships with recognition on the ball field and T-shirts

2) Finance

- Scheduling next meeting
- Planning for budget and other financial pieces

3) Policy – next meeting in March

4) Diversity and Equity – getting started with first meeting

5) DOW – going great!

X. PAC Update

- Balance as of Jan 31st \$34,180.45
- Voted on and paid for Fall Fest -Central Park Plaza in Valpo on October 8th
- 41 Kits sold for Chocolate and Canvas Fundraiser, planning on another one in Spring
- 65 Volunteers for Valentine's Day parties
- Ice Skating Event March 5th in Valpo

XI. Recognition

- Kudos for Teachers and Parents who have so many things to deal with. Thank you for hanging in there!
- Thank you to Staff Sponsors and Coaches who have extremely long days. They go the extra mile to help our kids.
- Thank you to Miranda Wilkening for jumping in as PAC president. She is doing a great job.
- Thank you to Andreana Gonzalez for the most hours volunteered.

XII. Lisa Gonzalez adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm