



DISCOVERY CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS DISCOVERY CHARTER SCHOOL

Virtual Board Meeting – <https://linkedin.zoom.us/j/7929489817>

Board Packet Availability – www.DiscoveryK8.org/About Us/Governance/Board Meetings/Documents 2020

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

6:30 P.M.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Spieler called meeting to order at 6:30pm

a. President Spieler established the existence of a quorum, with the following members present:

Present: Mr. Spieler, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Eagle, Mr. Foisie, and Ms. Lee

b. Establish virtual connections working

President Spieler established zoom connection working.

c. Approval of Agenda

On a motion made by Ms. Eagle, and seconded by Ms. Lee.

Board moved to approve motion to approve agenda as amended

Section VI – third item was labeled “b” and was corrected to “c” & move Section II OPEN SESSION, Item a. Public comments to after financial, and directors report.

5-0-0. Aye: Present: Mr. Spieler, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Eagle, Mr. Foisie, and Ms. Lee

d. Pledge of Allegiance led by President Spieler

e. Establishing rules of order for virtual meeting.

Rules explained by President Spieler to 95 individuals attending remotely.

Established rules:

1. President Spieler will moderate and recognize those wishing to speak
2. Everyone to mute microphones and “raise hands” in chat screen
3. Board members votes to be recognized one at a time.

II. REPORTS

a. Financials - March (EdTec)

Dena Koren reported that the finance presentation was developed 3 days prior to the Discovery Board Meeting, and as everything is changing daily, therefore; it is hard to predict what will happen to effect Discovery’s finances. Funding calculations will most likely change due to the COVID19 situation and school closures.

Phoenix was originally forecasted at a -193K operating loss, however prior to school closures Phoenix was back on track for a 186K loss this year. With closure attendance funding calculations will change. Onsite school operations will change.

Falcon campus prior to closure was forecasted at a -530K operating loss, now with closure there will be an improvement to a -250K loss net income.

Ms. Koren offered to run any financial scenarios the Board would like to see. Additionally she reported that attendance funding will be based on our Feb 29 ADA numbers for the rest of the school year. Phoenix P1 was strong and P2 was behind. Falcon had a strong steady P1 and P2.

Finance questions that will effect the Discovery program moving forward are:
Where are expenses going? What will local funding be? Will school fundraisers and support of the Annual Fund continue? What will happen with homeschool and after care?

Ms. Sanchez asked Ms. Koren, as a financial consultant, what would this mean for next year, how do we prepare, and will we need to make program cuts? Ms. Koren answered that it was Ms. Perry's and Ms. Walkers call. A recession is coming and we must hang on tight. Discovery must do what we do best-deliver education. State recommendations to school have been to provide school meals (breakfast/lunch) to our families in need, pay key essential employees, and arrange for child supervision if needed. It was recommended that we all pay attention to CDC announcements and legal briefings.

Mr. Foisie asked Ms. Koren what we should be worried about? Her response was that she doesn't know yet, but there is time to continue budgeting for the 2020-2021 school year. It is unknown at this time if the state will dip into it's Rainy Day Fund, and how much funding we will get after this recession. Phoenix has enough in reserve, and Falcons reserve is smaller.

b. Superintendent/Phoenix Campus Director Report (Debby Perry)

Ms. Perry informed us that the administration is finding out things in real time just like everyone else is. She does not know at this time, if May 1st extension going to be when schools open or if schools will be closed for the year. Everyone trying to figure out how all these changes affect our schools. County and state trying to figure out what is happening as well.

Ms. Perry and Ms. Walker are happy with what each campus teachers have done. The staff started putting things in place two weeks ago, and on March 13 when the closures were Announced the kids went home with packets and chrome books. Discovery started online "virtual school" on Monday, March 16. She reported that everyone on the staff is taxed. The director's meet weekly with staff members.

Ms. Perry has been attending a lot of webinars. The State Superintendent's webinar message to educators was to "do your best".

Currently, some schools and children have no access to education and resources. There is an equitable problem. Kids and parents all completing with web /computers/internet.

Ms. Perry stated that parents have been very supportive.

A staff survey for both schools was taken. 63 responses were received. Question posed to the teachers how the staff could be supported. 84 % of the teachers who responded wanted a day or some time off want a day off. 33% responded by ranking 1 through 5 - How it was going? 4 was the answer. Ms. Perry has received some feedback from parents for a different schedules on Fridays. So there will be no classes with the main goal for everyone to take time to take care of themselves.

Ms. Perry reported that when the Governor sent out guidelines concerning keeping key essential staff – she used that as a guideline to determine who should be furloughed. Monday administration met with office staff, secretaries and business manager those tasked with making the schools run. Ms. Perry informed hourly employees to go file for unemployment immediately/now, as this closure could be going 12-18 months. There were 56 employees between the two schools that the furlough applied to : the office staff, TLC, janitors. She made it clear that no one had been fired or laid-off. Ms. Perry communicated that once more information was released or we receive different information that statuses could change.

March 19 & April 15 pay checks are still coming. We still need more information as we are trying to balance and figure this out. Administration tried to be as transparent with staff and letting them know that the administration didn't have answers.

Ms. Sanchez asked what type of support (meals, computers, etc.) to our families. Ms. Perry answered that one family asked for food support. Discovery was contacting and distributing to families. Everyone at Phoenix campus in grade 4 and up took home chrome book. At this time grades pre-K through third do not have chrome books. Phoenix opened campus so families could pick up Chrome books, and reaching out to families to see what support that they need.

Public in attendance asked if students will move up into next grade level for next year. Ms. Perry stated that the teachers are working to make sure learning stays on tasks.

c. Falcon Campus Director Report (Miki Walker)

Ms. Walker reported that she was getting great feedback from parents, and that they are amazed at what we have done. Falcon offered and gave surrounding neighborhood access to extra learning packets, and neighbors did come by and get the packets.

SPED team rolling out TLC territory, and service providers reaching out to parents. Middle School students went home with their chrome books. Grades 4 and grade 5 also received chrome books. 5-4 got chromes. 2 & 3 looking for some tech support. Falcon teachers are being very creative at what is being offered.

Ms. Walker had good news concerning the Falcon Campus Solar project. The project finally passed the first permit review March 16, and she is hoping that the state would offer some leeway toward this project due to the COVID19 situation.

III. OPEN SESSION

Prior to public comments President Spieler set public comment rules once again. He stated to audience that the board and school directors cannot give information concern personnel issues, as personnel issues are confidential. Ms. Perry was asked by President Spieler if Discovery had laid off any employees or were the employees furloughed? Ms. Perry responded that it was her intent is to bring back all employees, and that the state needs to direct/explain more on what is mandatory.

a. PUBLIC COMMENTS were as follows:

Yolanda Patino – 2/3 grade teacher at Discovery. Read a Nelson Mandela quote about greatness. Wants us to hold tight to our social constructs and that we act with grace humility & kindness. DCS is a people.

Yolanda passed to Miguel – Miquel read the letter that he sent to the board. Statement concerning his contributions and community . Hoping that he can have some financial support. Would like to return.

Jonathon Dyer – Voice concern about Miguel layoff. Essential staff argument.

Audrey Thomas – past student. Disappointed with decision. Wants to support Miguel. Losing Miguel would be losing heart of Discovery.

Sarah Snow – Falcon Parent/PCS President. Voiced that there would be significant results to keep our campus without our two custodians. Ask for facilities upkeep to be considered.

Alex Fishman – DCS Phoenix father of two. Acknowledging difficult time. He is in no position to second guess. Reminded us that we are a community school. Asked if we can brain storm to help the furloughed employees, and have volunteer to participate a grass roots effort to help.

Stephen Fiss – Discovery's first Superintendent. Stated that having sat in Debby's chair he knows first hand how difficult it is to be a leader. DCS is doing as good as better than other schools. Mr Fiss asked the board to consider care of the facilities. Could be jobs that could be happening? Think long term.

Maric Radko – DCS 8th grader. Stated that Ms. Perry is doing great job. Marie stated that she does not know anyone who could do Miguel's job. Marie offered support to resolve this situation for everyone and Miguel's support as well.

Survail – DCS Phoenix parent. Asked were financials taken into account with the decision? Concerned about all the hourly employees. Can we have a community action?

Alison Higuera – Expressed thanks to teachers and staff for the virtual school roll out. Echoing other arguments... We are a community. We should have someone there to maintain our schools. Perhaps we have other projects Miguel could do. She would like to help as well.

Karen – Stated at some point if Miguel is eligible to return, then it's a reach of faith to hope that Miguel will be available once we would like him to return. A new employee won't be as good as Miguel.

Alec Tuason – How is an essential employee defined by state, or if we have the decision? We are making a huge mistake.

Teresa Fiss – expressed herself to be in support of Miguel and for Discovery to reconsider furlough. Remarked that Miguel is a member of school community. Hard worker. From parental level want school to be really clean. Rumors. May 1st is when we return. His presence stop could stop vandalism.

AM L – Phoenix parent. Miguel is a cornerstone. I hope the board considers the advice to retain your employees. If we (Discovery community) need to help. Ask for the community for help. We can help finance.

President Spieler thanked the public, and reminded everyone that the Board was meeting tomorrow to discuss employees.

IV. ACTION / DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Election Committee - dates and procedures, board declarations, determination of board seats.

Ms. Sanchez Election Committee Chair informed the Board that all committee positions are filled and all community stakeholders are represented. She will reach out to committee to develop questions and will have a call this week. Committee members are encouraged to reach out to possible candidates. Then the committee will start interviewing. President Spieler recommended the committee chairs review Board Bylaws.

Board Declarations were as follows:

Mr. Ilan Spieler – will run again.

Mr. Chris Foisie – will run again

Ms. Gladys Lee – will run again

Board seat discussion. Last year the Board declared 7 total seats, and discussion held on how many seats the Board would like to have potentially open this next school year. Consensus was To keep the same number of seats the Board had last year. Keep it the way we had it last year.

On a motion made by Mr. Spieler, and seconded by Mr. Foisie.

Board moved to approve motion to have potentially up to 7 seats on the Board next year.

5-0-0. Aye: Present: Mr. Spieler, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Eagle, Mr. Foisie, and Ms. Lee

b. Temporary Change to Lottery

Ms. Perry presented a temporary amendment to allow the Discovery lotteries to be held Virtually Ms. Lee and Mr. Foisie have verified all lottery tickets and Ms. Eagle and Ms. Sanchez will be lottery witnesses.

On a motion made by Mr. Spieler, and seconded by Ms. Sanchez.

Board moved to approve to approve the change to have the school lotteries take place on March 27 10am via a teleconference and all eligible participants will be invited to attend virtually. 5-0-0. Aye: Present: Mr. Spieler, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Eagle, Mr. Foisie, and Ms. Lee

c. Approval of Audit Report

The Audit Committee chair Ms. Eagle, reported that the audit was completed, and the Audit Report from Squar Milner, LLP found Discovery's control and financial reporting in compliance.

On a motion made by Ms. Eagle, and seconded by Mr. Foisie.

Board moved to approve the audit report as presented. 5-0-0.

Aye: Present: Mr. Spieler, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Eagle, Mr. Foisie, and Ms. Lee

d. Status review and discussion regarding Strategic Plan

It was reported that the Strategic Plan has drafts, and the Board continues to work on updates. In the next month or two the board would like to combine drafts and review the document. Ms. Lee reported that the Discovery Experience Committee met on March 6th, and the committee was able to go through the section line by line. The committee did not get to processes, and had to table the meeting. The committee will be scheduled to meet again.

V. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION)

a. Minutes for 2/26/2020 Regular Board Meeting

On a motion made by Ms. Eagle, and seconded by Ms. Lee

Board moved to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. 5-0-0.

Aye: Present: Mr. Spieler, Ms. Sanchez, Ms. Eagle, Mr. Foisie, and Ms. Lee

VI. BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS / CORRESPONDENCE / BOARD OPERATIONS / RECOGNITION

a. Board Operations

Virtual Board Meetings will continue

b. Reports: Committees/Correspondence/Activities

Mr. Foisie reported the fiancé committee will be meeting. No date has been set.

b. Board Calendar

March 26, 2020 – Special closed session Meeting 4pm

April 22, 2020 – next Board Meeting

d. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Eagle reminded board members to fill out their 700form. Deadline is April 1
Strategic Plan – get close to a final draft and make plans to share with community.

e. Poem of the Month

Read by President Spieler. Titled: Try to Praise the Mutilated World. By James Zagajewski

VII. ADJOURN 8:47pm