

**Discovery Charter School
1100 Camino Biscay
Chula Vista, CA 91910**

Board of Directors
Special Board Meeting
Thursday, July 28, 2020
5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

I. Opening Procedures

A. Call to Order at 5:31

B. Roll Call

Members Present: Rochelle Carroll, Erin Richison, Terry McKearney and Vikki Castorena

Members Absent: Dr. Morgan Appel

Others Present: Principal Neil MacGaffey, Associate Principal Nestor Espinoza, Secretary Sara Roa

C. Pledge of Allegiance led by Board President Rochelle Carroll

II. Approve Agenda as amended to table Item #VII – Funding for Dean of Students Position .

Motion: Richison Second: Castorena Vote: MCSU

III. Public Comment: Persons wishing to address the Board of Directors on any item on the agenda or non-agenda items should do so during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. No action or discussion shall be undertaken by the Board of Directors on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. Speakers are requested to limit their comments to no more than five (5) minutes.

A. Items on the Agenda - None

B. Items not on the Agenda:

- Parent Jessica Fawver expressed a concern where the DCS Board agendas are posted, time the agenda was posted for this meeting, website not working properly and not sending parents to the right link. She is concerned the school hiring a Dean of Students if there won't be a student body on campus at the beginning of the school year. These are challenging times and improving technology can be an incredible tool for teachers. There is a concern that some families did not have access to computers.

- Parent Mrs. Poukkula expressed concern with the time the agenda was posted on the website and Class Dojo, and school's website not working properly. Communication is the key to able to work together and to provide the best for our kids, especially when the school has emergency Board meetings. She expressed concern with the money spent on a Dean of Students position when there are families who didn't receive a computer for Distance Learning. Communication, attention to details and transparency is important for parents and students.
- Associate Principal Nestor Espinoza thanked the teachers for being flexible and voluntarily coming together to meet and discuss the most important part of DCS, which is providing an important education to children. Time was spent to plan and provide each student what they deserve and equip the teachers with the necessary tools. A big shout-out to the staff for being flexible and working on getting ready for the students.
- Parent Homer Lopez expressed a concern the website not being accessible and not taking users to the right links. There is lack of transparency with the school. The Dean of Students position is not necessary, rationale is generic and job description needs to be more specific. There was a lack of teaching during Distance Learning, teachers not knowing how to use the Teams program and not offering enough instructional time to students. He hopes teachers have the proper training for the new school year to hold online classes and are held accountable to teach students properly.
- Dual Immersion parent Mrs. Hazel Pingol thanked the Board for listening to parents and opening the third D.I class for Kinder and First grade to give more opportunities to Discovery families that are dedicated to the school and are helping to make this a better school.
- Parent Alexis Garcia expressed concern the 24 hour notice for Special Board meetings is unreasonable when school website that doesn't work properly. Board and administration need to improve working closely with parents. Last minute Board meetings where items appear to have already been decided will drive parents away. Teachers were inadequately prepared for Distance Learning and Discovery is not the type of school who does just the minimum.
- Parent Lourdes Arballo thanked the staff, administration and DCS Board for all they do and working during their vacation and on the weekends preparing for what is to come. Understands parents are upset by not receiving the Board meeting notification, but sometimes we need to make an effort to find the information needed. We are all in this together and we should be able to help each other. She believes staff and administration are doing a great job.

IV. Principal's Report.

- Mr. MacGaffey acknowledged and apologized there is a glitch with the website and the school will make sure that is fixed. The agenda was also posted on Dojo and always welcomes parents attendance and participation in Board meeting. DCS will improve that process for future Board meetings.
- He explained that the purpose of the Special Board meeting is because the environment keeps shifting and we are now starting the new year on Distance Learning and preparations

have changed. The school also needs to plan for when students return. This fall will be a different experience for students.

- He had a very productive planning session with leadership team and in August he has scheduled meetings with stakeholder parents that are vital for the planning. DCS teachers will provide parents a structured plan before school starts.

V. Report on Preliminary Expenditures from Learning Loss Mitigation Funds (LLMF) for our Students during Distance Learning 2020-2021

Principal Neil MacGaffey presented an extended explanation on Preliminary Expenditures from Learning Loss Mitigation Funds for students during Distance Learning during 2020-2021 school year.

VI. Approve Preliminary Expenditures from Learning Loss Mitigation Funds (LLMF)

Rationale: For the 2020-21 school year, all Local Educational Agencies (LEA) offering distance learning shall comply with requirements outlined in the latest (6/23/20) education trailer bill AB-77 - Section 43503.

Cost: \$187,500, not to exceed \$190,000

Funding Source: Learning Loss Mitigation Funds (LLMF)

Motion: Castorena Second: McKearney Vote: MSCU

VII. Board Communication

- Ms. Carroll appreciates the participation of all stakeholders, teachers and staff, community members because it is about all of us working together. As we move forward with the best of intentions for our students that are at the center of what we are doing and why we are here, let's always try to assume a positive intent and know that we are all here to listen and to help and support. By parents coming and sharing their thoughts and listening to how matters are decided or how things are planned out is important. We hope parents will join the upcoming parent meetings. We continue to be responsive as a District and as a charter school in terms of how we best support our students and families with this Distance Learning model and the daily changes that occur.
- Mrs. Castorena thanked everyone for attending the meeting and voicing their concerns which she has felt some of those at home.
- Mrs. Richison shared these are very trying times as we navigate the politics, the health ordinances and what we do for our students. Communication is going to be the key, keeping that in the forefront as we move forward, especially with the learning continuity and attendance plan. Opportunities to have comments on that plan and how we are bringing our community in to have a voice. She understands we are making decisions under a lot of pressure. We need to stay focused on our students and the most vulnerable to provide the services they need.
- Mr. McKearney seconded Dr. Richison's comments and thanked the parents and members of the community for their passion and understanding. Communicating with parents is difficult during this time but we need to make a special effort to make it better and avoid

any mis communication so stakeholders don't feel they are not part of the process. He also thanked the parents who came forward tonight.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 pm

Motion: Castorena Second: McKearney Vote: MSCU

The next regular meeting of the Discovery Charter School Board of Directors will be on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 5:30pm.

Rochelle Carroll, Board President

Sara Roa, Secretary to the Board

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