



Discovery Charter School

Governing Board Meeting Minutes February 2, 2017

The Minutes of the Governing Board of the Discovery Charter School held on Thursday, February 2, 2017, beginning at 6:00pm at our Mesa Vista Campus:

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
The DCS Governing Board meeting was called to order February 2, 2017 at 6:06pm by Heidi Ongbongan.
2. Roll Call/Establishment of a Quorum: Carol Hutchison, Heidi Ongbongan, Glen Smallman, Steve Weaver, Megan Hubble, Tim West, Tami Sloan-Harnish (ACTION ITEM)
All were present. A Quorum was established.
3. Flag Salute/Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
4. Reciting of School Motto
The school motto was recited by Megan Hubble
Discovery Charter School's mission is to promote a safe, nurturing environment which fosters student success through community involvement, progressive educational practices, and innovative use of technology.
5. Public Comments-(Comments may be limited to three minutes per person. Action will not be taken on the matters considered during this period until specifically included on an agenda as an Action Item.)
There were no public comments at this time.
6. Adoption of Agenda (ACTION ITEM)
The addition of new governing board members was struck. Megan Hubble moved to adopt the agenda as amended. Steve Weaver seconded. Heidi Ongbongan, Steve Weaver, Megan Hubble, Tim West, Glen Smallman, and Tami Sloan-Harnish voted in favor, Carol Hutchison voted against. Motion carried.

REPORTS (The non-action general items to be discussed are listed, but not limited to, these items):

1. Administration Report – Clark Price and Amanda Kettleon
 - i. Charter Renewal -
Clark Price talked about the Charter Renewal. He was called on January 24th and told that our school was on the Charter Authority's agenda on the 27th with a recommendation to revoke the school's charter. Our charter is up this year. His understanding was that this puts us in a place of conditional renewal. We submitted our renewal application as instructed on February 1st. We are awaiting their timeline of what else to do. Our one year of test scores has been given as the only reason for this situation. Typically the precedent that has been set is that the schools obtain legal, submit a plan for improvement, and then show improvement over the next three years.

Tim West asked what are the specific plans to implement the changes requested and how will that be shown. Price responded that we have the strategic plan that we have already written. It is moving along we have started implementing it already. West asked again about what we are specifically doing to improve the testing in the next two months and how we are using the resources from other schools in this situation to help us improve. He talked about how a consultant can help administration and staff to make these changes. Price replied that we need to first go through legal so we aren't guessing what it is the Charter Authority is looking for. West said that a consultant would look at other schools

that have been in this situation and find the most efficient ways to improve test scores without changing what we like about our school. He said it is important to do this in parallel with legal to get resources to the classrooms as quickly as possible. Carol Hutchison said that in the past governing board meetings starting this fall these items have been already addressed and things have already been implemented to improve math and other areas.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

2. None

NEW BUSINESS:

~~7. Review and possible action for the addition of new Governing Board members (ACTION ITEM)~~

8. Hold Governing board elections (ACTION ITEM)

Heidi Ongbongan feels that we need to build a strong governing board, and is stepping down as governing board president.

Heidi Ongbongan nominated Tim West for governing board president. Carol Hutchison seconded. All voted in favor. Heidi then turned the meeting over to Tim West.

Vice President - Tami Sloan-Harnish nominated Megan Hubble as Vice-President, Heidi Ongbongan seconded the nomination. All in favor.

Tim talked about a strong governing board and seeking people with licensing, legal, human resources and finance to be on the governing board. Right now we do have two licensed teachers on the board.

Treasurer –Glen Smallman nominated Steve Weaver as treasurer. Heidi Ongbongan seconded. All in favor.

Secretary - Megan Hubble nominated Tami Sloan-Harnish for secretary. Steve Weaver seconded. All in favor.

9. Review and possible action for contract for outside consultant (ACTION ITEM)

Megan Hubble talked to a consultant, Dr. Kyle Konold. He has been a specialist working with other charters and turning them around. He has had a lot of experience in education. He had suggestions to make in many areas including the governing board, and suggested we focus on curriculum and testing. He wants to create a short term improvement plan to improve this year's test scores, and also to create a long term plan. The cost is \$6,000 for three months.

Tim West again said that is an advisory position only, and not a director. That this is to help the staff to improve.

Carol questioned if this consultant has worked in the state of Nevada. Ongbongan said he is currently working with Delta Academy.

Glen Smallman questioned if the three month contract was one that is renewed again after the initial three months?

Amanda Kettleson was asked her opinion - she questioned the amount, and asked to have time to take this information to the next staff meeting to get staff input.

Clark Price encouraged in getting both staff and parental input. He wants to work with the Charter Authority and see what they actually want us to do first, rather than just guess what it is that they want..

Discussion was held about hiring an attorney to help through the current situation. Price said we had an attorney when the school was formed that was referred to us by the Charter Authority. That

attorney does not have experience with our current issues. He asked for referrals of an attorney that has experience, and he was referred to an attorney that has experience with this and is currently working with two other schools who are currently working on plans with the Charter Authority. She has a working relationship with the board and the process. Those schools have been given three year plans, and Beacon Academy has met their plan. The attorney is requesting a retainer of \$500 a month, and a \$250 an hour for other work. We cannot enter into a contract without Governing Board approval. Megan Hubble asked who else is doing this work, and questioned the attorney's experience, and if anyone else has been recommended.

Discussion was held over the contract for the attorney.

Carol Hutchison moved to accept the 12 month contract for the attorney. Steve Weaver seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

10. Review and possible action to create new board committees (ACTION ITEM)

Megan Hubble asked to create an academic oversight committee. Heidi Ongbongan talked about what an academic oversight committee does at her school. Discussion was held as to the details and specific tasks of such a committee. Committees must be chaired by a board member, but there can be other members from staff, parents and other sources. The oversight committee reviews data and makes sure it is used to strengthen the education. Ongbongan said they reviewed the assessments.

Heidi Ongbongan moved to have an Academic Excellence Committee formed. Megan Hubble seconded. Vote was called - all in favor.

11. Review and possible action to authorize a search for administrative employees (ACTION ITEM)

The contract for Clark Price was not for the entire school year, and it was questioned how much longer his contract was. Discussion for him to stay through the charter renewal was had. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

12. Review and possible action to create and authorize an administrative evaluation (ACTION ITEM)

Megan Hubble discussed the gathering of samples of administrative evaluations. She collected a couple of samples, including one from the Charter Authority. They are not prepared to authorize a particular plan at this time. Carol asked if we have someone who has the human resources background to help put together an administrative review procedure and tailor it to our school.

13. Review and possible action to authorize a contract with a board oversight company (ACTION ITEM)

Megan Hubble talked about having an oversight company to help the governing board to be in compliance and keep on track. She presented two names of companies that offer this type of service. Board on Track offers a quiz and free 15 minute consultation. She is looking at ways to strengthen the board overall.

Carol Hutchison suggested talking with some of former governing board members to see how things were run before.

Tim West moved that they do all the free things on help improve the governing board before hiring a consultant. Megan Hubble seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.

OTHER:

14. Board Member Comments (Non-Action Items)

Carol Hutchison commented on prior board meetings and she feels that there are board members that may not have the best interest of the school in mind and have something against the current administration. She suggests that each board member evaluate themselves and follow the grievance policy that is already in place.

Heidi Ongbongan didn't agree that board members didn't have the school's best interest in mind, but there may be personality conflicts.

Tim West said we need to follow the rules and processes so we can make it though this time. This includes oversight committees, parent views and outside views. The rules are not hidden. They are written down and on the website.

Megan Hubble encouraged everyone to read the charter, especially the goals that we have and the school's mission.

15. Public Comments – (Comments may be limited to three minutes per person. Action will not be taken on the matters considered during this period until specifically included on an agenda as an Action Item.)

Dr. David Price talked about the school and the model we have here. He talked about how standardized test results aren't the best judge of how students are performing, but the best measure is through teacher evaluations. He talked about the dedication of the current administrators. Dr. Price said the he recommended board training and said to be willing to spend time and money to learn what you are supposed to do.

Clark Price asked for clarification on the committees, and he wants to make sure that staff and parents will be included in the committees.

*The following people did not state their name before their public comments.

Public Commenter 1 said while the parents are supportive of the school, there are some holes that the kids have in their education, she wants to make sure those are covered and filled in. She expects her children to be working ahead of their grade level.

Public Commenter 2 said they have put about a hundred kids through this school. Their son went from fourth through 8th grade, and is now at Somerset and just got straight A's. He doesn't want parents to think that student don't get an education at Discovery. Their son is at the top of his class because of what he got at Discovery.

Public Commenter 3 has a masters in education, and is new at Discovery, and would like to help.

Public Commenter 4 said as parents we love this school, and as long as we are still moving forward, please don't take that away. We are here because the school doesn't teach to the test. Our kids are truly loved by administration and staff. Bringing in outside people who don't understand how our school works is a big fear for our parents.

Public Commenter 5 has two sons that went to Discovery, one started in third grade. Assessments don't always have to be a written test. You can assess in different ways. Her oldest son is now at a magnet school is acing everything, and is bored. He was a challenge while at Discovery, but this school helped him through by working with him individually without having to have the legal accommodation plans. A child doesn't have to have the 504 or IEP here for them to accommodate a student.

Public Commenter 6's son went to another school and was struggling so bad, but she had seen him grow so much since he has been here. They help the students who don't fit the mold and make them not feel stupid. She hopes this doesn't change the core values of the school

Public Commenter 7 said her son has a 504 at the school, but has never had to argue for his accommodations at all. They work with well with him - she couldn't send him anywhere else.

Public Commenter 8 said they work with all the kids - Coach Johnny has helped her son tremendously. They help the kids on an emotional level.

Public Commenter 9 asked how many parents went to the website to see what their student will be testing on for the standardized tests. She is confident that her kids will do fine, but wonders how many parents are practicing and helping their own kids at home with testing. Students she knows who have moved away and entered new schools have been above their grade levels when they moved.

Public Commenter 10 said his son is on the autistic spectrum, and has been to all sorts of schools. He is thriving here. There are two components to education. Hoop jumping with the testing and taking care of and teaching the students. He suspects there is a bigger component of testing anxiety and familiarity that is causing the low test scores, rather than the subject material being taught.

Public Commenter 11 talked about how well the staff is handling the news. They are receptive to parents and their feedback. She is interested in the academic committee. She would appreciate the rubrics coming home with the standards. She wants to make sure we are held to teaching the standards.

Public Commenter 12 said communication has been brought up. The school has improved on communication. He takes care of the website and the app, and asked parents to reach out and let them know what needs to go out.

Public Commenter 13 said this school is different for a reason - if we work together as a team

Public Commenter 14 is a teacher at Discovery and completely fell in love with the way Clark ran the school. Every student is different and should be treated that way. The admin comes into the rooms and works with the kids and the staff. We know what we need to do, and we know we don't want to lose what we have. We know the admin can do this.

Public Commenter 15 - He asked who put us in the bottom 5% and why the board isn't going to the state and asking them why Nevada schools are the bottom overall.

16. Response to Public Comments

Megan Hubble - wants to say we don't want to change the things that brought us to the school in the first place, but we need to have a shift in how we do things. She came from a school with a lot of testing. She doesn't want to go to that, but does want to have more test preparation and make the students practice the tests. Many students are above grade level, but testing at their grade level and they need to be prepared for that.

Heidi Ongbongan said her students love the administration. They are asking to get support for the charter itself.

Carol Hutchison said Clark, Amanda and the teachers have already put a lot of the changes into place, so these kids are not walking into the next set of tests without and preparation. This isn't just a one or two week thing. They have been preparing for a while now.

17. Announcements and Agenda Planning

Next scheduled Board Meeting to be announced. February 15th at the Hillpointe Campus at 6:00 will be the next meeting.

18. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Tim West.