

MINUTES

Discovery Health Sciences Foundation Board of Directors Monday, February 21, 2022, 4:15 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Discovery Health Sciences Foundation, Inc. is held at Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy Loyola Campus, 3rd Floor Board Room (3837 Loyola Drive, Kenner, LA 70065) to discuss matters that are critical to the continuation of the business of Discovery Schools and that are not able to be postponed due to legal requirements or other deadlines.

I. Call to Order

A. **Mrs. Nugent Smith called the meeting to order at 4:20 PM.**

II. Roll Call

	<i>Board of Directors</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
1	Ms. Lynda Nugent Smith, Chair	X	
2	Mr. Ronnie Slone, Vice-Chair	X	
3	Mr. Wayne Thomas, Treasurer	X, *entered at 4:29	
4	Ms. Emily Arata		X
5	Mr. Joe Caldarera		X
6	Dr. Patty Glaser, ex officio member	X	
7	Ms. Diane Hollis	X, *entered at 4:30	
8	Mr. Jim Hudson	X	
9	Dr. Vinicio Madrigal	X, *entered at 4:30	
10	Ms. Jeanne Monte	X	
11	Dr. Lacey Ellis	X, *entered at 4:29	
12	Mr. Henry Shane		X
13	Ms. Allison Sharai	X (virtual)	
14	Mr. David Sherman		X
15	Mr. Chuck Toney, Jr.		X
16	Ms. Beth Walker		X

**Denotes time joined the meeting.*

Non-Board members in attendance: Faith Broussard (development), Natalie Newton (development), Sharon Preen (CAO), Don Wheat (CFO), Jesse Watson (recruitment), Christy Aymami (technology), Candice Schott (HS principal)

III. Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Jeanne Monte

IV. Public Comment

A. Ms. Newton noted no public comments were submitted prior to the meeting.

V. Approval of Minutes.

A. **ACTION ITEM: Ms. Hollis moved to approve the minutes from January 24, 2022. Ms. Monte seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion adopted by a unanimous vote.**

VI. CFO Report, Don Wheat

A. Mr. Wheat announces the 2 schools will receive additional ESSER allocations.

B. Mr. Wheat explained the audit has been complete and submitted to the District

C. Mr. Wheat provided financials for KDHSA, DJOD, and the Hub.

D. Mr. Wheat provided updated financials on Friends of Discovery.

VII. Treasurer's Report, Wayne Thomas

A. Nothing to report.

VIII. Friends of Discovery Report, Wayne Thomas

A. Nothing to report.

IX. CAO/Asst. Head of School, Sharon Preen

A. Ms. Preen explains to the Board, standards alignment to ensure students are on track and pacing appropriately from lost time due to Covid and Hurricane Ida.

B. The schools have a heavy focus on written expressions.

C. The schools are maximizing small group instruction by utilizing the additional staff hired.

D. LEAP testing is scheduled for April. There is a LEAP parent night planned in March.

E. The school is continuing to host New Staff Academy sessions for new staff.

F. The organization is heavily recruiting teachers.

X. CEO/Head of School Report, Patty Glaser

A. Covid:

- Dr. Glaser reviews COVID data including infection rate, staff vaccination rate, updated mitigation strategies.

B. Admissions:

- Dr. Glaser provided application updates. For KD = 1,653 applicants; DJOD = 811. The Discovery Schools application window opened on November 1, 2021 and closed on February 4, 2022. The lottery will be held on March 15, 2022, in the "Zoom Room" at the Loyola campus.

C. Accelerate learning & learning recovery:

- Tulane students are tutoring, hourly tutors, hiring co-teachers for 2nd-4th grade at Maine & DJOD campus. 6 of 12 have been hired for Maine. 1 out of 6 hired for DJOD.
- We also anticipate robust summer programs for students (ESSER funds).

D. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Work: Currently working with Beloved Organization to complete an equity audit. Dr. Watson is leading the process.

E. New Charter Application Status: BR Ochsner Discovery Health Sciences Academy. Planning has already begun. The plan is to open the BR Ochsner Discovery in August 2023. A few Board members traveled to see the Runnels now BR Ochsner Discovery campus. We will work with architects to remove some walls to make large classrooms.

F. Construction:

- Vintage Campus – Addition of 18 modular classrooms – in process.
- KDHSA - Funding for Arts & Athletic Performance Center – working on this. Won state appeal for use of ERRER III funds (\$3.6 million) Cost of facility likely will be \$7.5 due to rising costs and time delay. Seven firms came to the mandated meeting.

G. Events and Development:

- GALA - Friday, April 1, 2022 – 2022 Discovery Bash – Chateau Country Club
- Working with Emeril Foundation and Ochsner to schedule a DJOD ribbon cutting for the Emeril Kitchen and garden
- Working to obtain Saints turf at end of the season for use at Muss Bertolino Stadium.
- NSBR wrote the Reimagine grant for us for BR Discovery. Ken Campbell is the new CEO of NSBR.
- Discovery has a large presence in Jefferson Parish Mardi Gras parades.
- Actively recruiting teachers and staff for next year.
- Board members attended the Pro Bono Publico event at the Rex den on Saturday, February 19, 2022. Pro Bono is supporting the summer programs at a \$15,000 level.
- KDHSA high school art students have a large student art display in EJGH.

G. Challenges:

- Annual testing upcoming results & addressing learning loss;
- hiring the final positions – Nationwide shortage of teachers;
- Diligence in spending the ESSER II & ESSER III allocation & receiving reimbursement;
- creative financing for the construction of the Middle School wing so we can bring Maine students to Loyola-Vintage campus.

XI. Action Items

- A. The ratification of the Board Chair Committee. The committee will consist of Jeanne Monte, Ronnie Slone, and David Sherman. **Mr. Hudson motioned to approve this ratification. Dr. Madrigal seconded the motion. Motion carries by unanimous vote.**
- XII. Old Business
- A. Ms. Nugent Smith requested the Board to attend a planning meeting on April 12th from 2-6 PM.
- B. Ms. Nugent smith requested Look at the calendar for this Thursday, February 24th at 4:15 to go over the structure of the April 12th meeting.
- XIII. New Business
- A. None
- XIV. Executive Session
- A. Student Issue.
Mr. Thomas motion to go into Executive Session at 5:32 PM. Second: Dr. Madrigal VOTE: Motion carries. Unanimous approval.
No action was taken during the Executive Session
Mr. Slone motioned to end Executive Session at 6:05 PM. Second: Ms. Monte VOTE: Motion carries. Unanimous approval.
- XV. Public Comment
- A. No public comment.
- XVI. Adjournment
- A. **Mr. Slone moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Monte seconded the motion. VOTE: Motion carries. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.**