

MINUTES

Discovery Health Sciences Foundation Board of Directors Monday, September 20, 2021, 4:15 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Discovery Health Sciences Foundation, Inc. is held electronically to discuss matters that are critical to 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. **Ms. Lynda 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, Vice-chair	X	
2	Mr. Ronnie Slone	X	
3	Mr. Wayne Thomas, Treasurer	X	
4	Ms. Diane Hollis	X	
5	Mr. Jim Hudson	X	
6	Dr. Vinicio Madrigal	X	
7	Ms. Jeanne Monte	X, virtual	
8	Mr. Joe Caldarera		
9	Dr. Lacey Ellis	X,	
10	Mr. Henry Shane		
11	Mr. David Sherman	X	
12	Dr. Patty Glaser, ex officio member	X	
13	Ms. Allison Sharai	X, virtual	
14	Mr. Chuck Toney, Jr.	X, virtual	
15	Ms. Beth Walker	X	
16	Ms. Emily Arata		

**Denotes time joined the meeting.*

Non-Board members in attendance: Kaytlyn Bourgeois (Accountant), Faith Broussard (development) Natalie Newton (development), Sharon Preen (CAO) (virtual), Jesse Watson (title) and Don Wheat (CFO),

III. Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Diane Hollis

IV. Public Comment

A. Ms. Smith explains the protocol for public comments for Board meetings. Public comments can be submitted prior to Board meetings by sending comments to public.comment@discoveryhsf.org. The public comments will be read aloud. In addition, as we move through the agenda, Ms. Smith will open public comments before all items that require a Board vote.

B. Ms. Smith opens it up for public comment. No public comments.

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

I. **Due to the days lost from Hurricane Ida, Ms. Hollis motions to extend the academic calendar year by 10 days. Mr. Slone seconded the motion. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.**

V. Approval of Minutes.

A. Ms. Smith opens the meeting up for public comment. No public comment. **Mr. Thomas motions to approve the August minutes. Mr. Slone seconds the motion. The August minutes are approved by a unanimous vote.**

VI. CFO Report, Don Wheat

A. Don presented a brief update on the current financials without a formal CFO report to present. He noted that Hurricane Ida has not had any major impacts on operations and there were no breaks in payroll due to the storm.

B. He noted that we are still working on our current financial statement audit and 401k audit with the auditors and should have preliminary results to present at the next board meeting.

C. Don mentioned that we have been in contact with our insurance company about damages on each campus and that we have had adjusters out to assess the damages due to the Hurricane. We are working through repairs now.

VII. Treasurer's Report, Wayne Thomas

A. Mr. Thomas updates the Board on the current financial status.

VIII. Friends of Discovery Report, Wayne Thomas

A. Nothing to report.

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

- A. Ms. Preen's topics will be covered in Dr. Glaser's report.
- X. CEO/Head of School Report, Patty Glaser
 - A. Hurricane Ida - Hurricane Ida made landfall at 11:55 AM Sunday, August 30, 2021, as a strong category-4 hurricane. The storm moved ashore near Port Fourchon, Louisiana and traveled through Lafourche Parish then took a northeast turn to St. Charles & St. John Parishes. The center of the storm was approximately 10 miles to the west of the Loyola/Vintage campus. There were minor damages to all campuses with the Maine campus being the worse.
 - B. Communication to Employees: Dr. Glaser went over what was communicated to employees over time of evacuation.
 - C. Return to Work & School: The faculty returned to work on Monday, September 13 and the expectation was for teachers to check on their classrooms and to contact families & students.
 - D. Additions to the Academic Calendar: Proposing to add 10 academic days to the school calendar.
 - E. Employees and Families in Need: Families were also made aware of the tentative timeline on 9/3/21. Families completed a survey indicating from 1-5 their level of need. Parent Liaison has been contacting all level 1 families. We had supplies donated from Wal-mart and will distribute through the Owl Shop. We had uniforms donated from Skobels. Discovery partnered with Three O'Clock project to feed families/employees dinner twice weekly for the next 2 weeks. We have about 12-15 employees who need to find temporary housing.
 - F. Current COVID Numbers: No report due to evacuation of Hurricane Ida. The schools are requiring masks indoors of all faculty and students. According to LAPCS
 - G. Enrollment & October 1 count: Admissions team has been working on filling empty seats from students who did not show up in August (not storm related). Discovery is also now filling seats of students who are relocating due to the storm. The schools are trying to verify the return dates of those students who were unable to return on 9/20/21 but will return before 11/15/21.
 - H. Admissions update: The application period will open November 1, 2021, and close on February 4, 2022, at Noon. Ms. Newton presents to the Board the lottery preferences for KDHSA and DJOD. The school worked with the Ochsner legal team to tighten up verbiage in regards to the Ochsner preference.
 - 1. Addition of legacy preference: Legacy student is defined as a sibling or legal dependent (child) of a Kenner Discovery graduate
 - 2. Addition of preference for Ida displaced students. Students who were unable to return to their Discovery School due to Hurricane Ida relocation.
 - 3. Hurricane Ida temporarily displaced students (not permanent seats):

- a) KDHSA open to temporarily displaced juniors and seniors. Must come from a surrounding parish or Jefferson Parish school that is not part of the tiered re-entry plan. Must be on a year round schedule (not block).
- b) DJOD possibly open to Ochsner employee dependents in grades K-5 who are displaced. Working to see if we can hire temporary teachers for these positions.

I. Current Status of Federal Funds

- 1. Dr. Glaser presented an ESSER status update and noted the amounts budgeted and the amounts still remaining to be updated
- 2. Our team has been working steadily to continue to get the additional modular building process on-going

J. Construction

- 1. KDHSA - Funding for A & A Performance Center - working on this
- 2. The Action Item to be had relates to this: CEA with JPSB not to exceed \$5M

K. Baton Rouge New Charter Application

- 1. Extended timeline to submit applications on September 17, 2021, as a PreK-8
 - a) Strong application - starting with 3 sections per grade & increasing to 6 sections per grade - opening in 2023.
 - b) The intent is to add a high school if there is community demand
- 2. Submitted as a corporate partnership with Ochsner
- 3. Ochsner has started working from the school site where we would be located if approved. Ochsner has purchased the building.

L. IT Update

- 1. We are waiting on delayed shipments of IT equipment. There are manufacturing and shipping delays due to pandemic & weather related causes.

M. Events & Development

- 1. DJOD Emeril's ribbon cutting September 27th - canceled due to Hurricane Ida; to be rescheduled

N. Challenges

- 1. Recovery from Hurricane Ida
- 2. Hiring final positions

3. Annual testing results & addressing learning loss
4. Diligence in spending the ESSER II & ESSER III allocation
5. Previous and continued challenge: Affording the Discovery Arts and Athletic Performance Center - addressing this challenge several ways - completed if approved by district & state

XI. Action Items

- A. Hurricane Ida displaced students: **Mr. Slone motioned to allow displaced students on a first come first serve basis until all seats are full. Mr. Hudson seconded the motion, All in favor, motion carries.**
- B. 2022-23 Admissions Lottery: Natalie Newton presented the Admissions update and described the process of the lottery and preferences. **Mr. Slone motioned to allow the same preferences in the 2022-23 Admissions Lottery as the previous year's preferences. Dr. Madrigal seconded the motion, All in favor, motion carries.**
- C. **Mr. Thomas motioned to amend the agenda to add item C, seconded by Mr. Slone.** Item D action item is to increase the proposed CEA with JPSB for funds for the Arts and Athletics center to a maximum of \$5 million as opposed to \$3 million due to low interest rates. **Mr. Thomas motioned to approve the proposal, Mr. Slone seconds, All in favor, motion carries.**
- D. **Ms. Hollis motioned to amend the agenda to add item D, seconded by Mr. Slone.** Item D action item is to propose to extend the academic calendar by 10 days due to lost instructional days during Hurricane Ida evacuation. **Ms. Hollis motioned to approve the academic calendar amendment, Ms. Walker seconds, All in favor, motion carries.**

XII. Old Business

- A. None noted

XIII. New Business

- A. Wayne suggested that the October or November board meeting be held at the new Dr. John Ochsner campus.

XIV. Executive Session

- A. None necessary

XV. Public Comment

- A. None noted. Ms. Newton opened the floor for public comment. No public comment.

XVI. Adjournment

- A. **Ms. Hollis moved to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Madrigal seconded the motion. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 5:48 PM.**