

## MINUTES

### Discovery Health Sciences Foundation Board of Directors Monday, June 21, 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 *4:27pm	
4	Ms. Diane Hollis		x
5	Mr. Jim Hudson	x	
6	Dr. Vinicio Madrigal	x *4:27pm	
7	Ms. Jeanne Monte	x	
8	Mr. Joe Caldarera		x
9	Dr. Lacey Ellis	x	
10	Mr. Henry Shane	x	
11	Mr. David Sherman		x
12	Dr. Patty Glaser, ex officio member	x	
13	Ms. Allison Sharai	x	
14	Mr. Chuck Toney, Jr.		x
15	Ms. Beth Walker		x

16	Ms. Emily Arata		x
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*\*Denotes time joined meeting*

Non-Board members in attendance: Kaytlyn Bourgeois (Accountant), Natalie Newton (development), Sharon Preen (CAO), Jesse Watson (Middle School Principal) and Don Wheat (CFO)

III. Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. Jeanne Monte

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](mailto:public.comment@discoveryhsf.org). The public comments will be read aloud. In addition, as we move through the agenda, Mr. Slone 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. Natalie Newton reads aloud a public comment from Ms. Kristen Kain submitted via email prior to the meeting. Ms. Smith assured the board that she would respond via email with details after the meeting. Dr. Glaser also added that she will soon be sending out construction updates to all families.

V. Approval of Minutes.

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

VI. CFO Report, Don Wheat

A. Mr. Wheat presents to the Board the April 2021 monthly financial report. He pointed out that the PPP Loan forgiveness application has been submitted and expects a response within 6 weeks.

B. Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire: Mr. Wheat explains the compliance questionnaire and the start of the annual audit. **Mr. Shane motions to approve the questionnaire, Dr. Madrigal seconds the motion, unanimously approved.**

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. Still awaiting results for Leap Assessment results and should receive student performance results late June/early July. We will look at different data comparisons to identify our kids' assessments.
- B. Continue to actively recruit and interview potential candidates for the school year 21-22. We have hired 47 new staff members.
  - 1. Challenges: shortage of qualified-certified Middle School Math & Science Teachers
- C. New Discovery Staff June PD was June 7th-11th
  - 1. 72 staff members attended (new hires & those that did not attend in 2020); 38 new Discovery staff attended the June PD
  - 2. A highlight was the Emergenetics PD & Thinking Profiles with Ronnie Slone learning how to think and react in a new working environment
  - 3. Our goal is to have the employees leave the week feeling like a family and a team
- X. CEO/Head of School Report, Patty Glaser
  - A. Covid-19 updates: Nothing to report!
  - B. Teaching & Learning Summer Opportunities:
    - 1. Bridges is running the first half of the day and Community Works Camp is the second half; summer school & sports and wellness camps are also going on.
    - 2. Robust summer programs open to all K-8th
  - C. Admissions: Admissions team continues to fill empty seats. We have 2,000 kids on the waitlist, so filling seats has not been a problem.
  - D. Development:
    - 1. Save the Date - Gala 2021 is November 6, 2021 @ Chateau
    - 2. Save the Date - Ribbon Cutting is November 4, 2021 @ Loyola
    - 3. Save the Date - DJOD ribbon cutting ceremony is August 23rd, 2021 @ DJOD
    - 4. Working on a ProBono grant to help support transportation for summer programs and will submit at the end of June.
    - 5. Discovery also submitted a grant to help build a soccer field with lights and turf.
  - E. Federal Funds:
    - 1. Dr. Glaser explains the usage of the ESSER II and ESSER III allocation.

- a) Want to offer more learning time and provide both interventions & enrichments
- b) Upgrade facilities/infrastructure - to provide more indoor and outdoor space for social distancing
- c) Recommend adding 20 modular classrooms to Vintage campus (ESSER II) and we are still waiting to hear back from the district on approval.
- d) Received notification that we will receive ESSER II & III funds from the District for DJOD. The first installment is approximately \$650,000

F. Accountability commission:

- 1. Scores from annual testing should arrive in July. School letter grades assignments will be determined after results are in.
  - a) Not sure if there will be letter grades assigned this year.
  - b) Accountability formulas have proposed changes that will be voted on in August by BESE.

G. Construction:

- 1. Dr. Glaser stated that she walked the DJOD campus today and the team is working on a punch list and lighting. It will be furnished by the beginning of August.
- 2. Dr. Glaser explains the funding breakdown of the funding for the Arts & Athletic center at the Loyola campus.

H. New Charters

- 1. The EBR interview on May 12th went well, but the “independent” evaluator did not recommend any of the 3 charters that applied. Discovery scored the highest of the 3 scores at 94% of 100% - you have to score 100% to be approved. Now, we are preparing with the charter writer to slightly revise the applications and apply with BESE for a type 2 charter.

I. Potential Baton Rouge Partners and Facility

- 1. We were planning on Discovery Fusion opening in 2022, but won't be approved until December, so it may be smaller than we initially planned
- 2. Baton Rouge Discovery will open in 2023, if we are approved

J. Challenges:

- 1. Affording the Arts & Athletic Center
- 2. Annual testing results in July
- 3. Diligence in spending ESSER II & ESSER III allocation

4. Hope for low COVID numbers to maintain in the fall

XI. Action Items

- A. Adoption of 2021-22 Budget. **Motion made by Mr. Thomas, Seconded by Dr. Madrigal. All in favor, motion carries.**

XII. Old Business

- A. Ms. Smith mentioned that in a prior meeting, the board agreed to enter into negotiations on a campus in BR. Since we are not approved for the charter yet, we are in friendly negotiations with the building owners and it is still a work in progress, pending approval from BESE.

XIII. New Business

- A. 2021-22 Board Meeting Calendar was presented and no objections were made. If the DJOD campus is furnished by the August 2021 meeting, the board plans to hold the in-person meeting at the new DJOD campus.

XIV. Executive Session - No executive session was entered.

XV. Adjournment

- A. **Mr. Hudson moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Monte seconded the motion. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 5:19 PM.**