

MINUTES

Discovery Health Sciences Foundation Board of Directors Monday, October 18, 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, Chair	X	
2	Mr. Ronnie Slone, Vice-Chair		X
3	Mr. Wayne Thomas, Treasurer	X	
4	Ms. Emily Arata	X, virtual *4:40	
5	Mr. Joe Caldarera	X, *4:33	
6	Dr. Patty Glaser, ex officio member	X	
7	Ms. Diane Hollis	X	
8	Mr. Jim Hudson	X, *4:33	
9	Dr. Vinicio Madrigal	X, *4:42	
10	Ms. Jeanne Monte	X	
11	Dr. Lacey Seymour	X, virtual	
12	Mr. Henry Shane	X	
13	Ms. Allison Sharai	X	
14	Mr. David Sherman	X, virtual	
15	Mr. Chuck Toney, Jr.	X, virtual	
16	Ms. Beth Walker	X, virtual	

**Denotes time joined the meeting.*

Non-Board members in attendance: Kaytlyn Bourgeois (Accountant), Faith Broussard (development), Natalie Newton (development), Sharon Preen (CAO) (virtual), 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.

V. Approval of Minutes.

A. **Ms. Smith motions to approve the September minutes. Ms. Hollis seconds the motion. The September minutes are approved by a unanimous vote.**

VI. CFO Report, Don Wheat

A. Mr. Wheat received a draft of the auditor's report and shared it with the Board. Mr. Wheat received confirmation from the District that we have until the end of October to submit the final report, however, Mr. Wheat believes the audit report will be complete at the end of the week. Mr. Wheat would like the board to allow the Treasurer, Mr. Thomas, to approve filing the report when it is finalized. **Mr. Thomas motions to approve filing the final audit report when it is finalized. Ms. Sharai seconded. All in favor. Motion carries.**

B. Mr. Wheat explains the current financial standing for Discovery Schools, KDHS, and DJOD.

VII. Treasurer's Report, Wayne Thomas

A. Mr. Thomas commented on the draft of the financial statement audit report to the Board commending Mr. Wheat on having no deficiencies in internal control noted.

VIII. Friends of Discovery Report, Wayne Thomas

A. Nothing to report.

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

A. Ms. Preen explains how teachers use assessment data to drive instruction. The adjustments to the academic calendar will help the school plan for LEAP.

B. Additional ESSER funds are helping fund these programs to address learning interruptions and learning recovery. One of the things we plan to address these

issues is to hire more co-teachers for tutoring during the school year. Hire tutors who are content experts. The school formed a partnership with one of the local universities. We have 21 students from Tulane to tutor middle and high school students.

- C. Staff development - faculty PD day on November 19th will focus on Instructional rigor and deep dive into standards and look into LEAP assessments. Teachers will take the test for their content area.

- D. New staff academy to help support first year Discovery teachers

X. CEO/Head of School Report, Patty Glaser

- A. Dr. Glaser reviews COVID data. The schools are reporting a very low to little infection rate. Masks are required indoors for vaccinated and unvaccinated people. Discovery partnered with the LA department of Health for weekly testing and will start in late October for athletes, clubs, performance members and unvaccinated staff.
- B. IT update: Disruption last week caused by a failed Sonicwall. Failed on Saturday; repaired by Wednesday mid-morning. Impacted all campuses. The team is investigating quicker solutions for future potential issues.
- C. Accelerate learning & learning recovery - refocused on strong academics and rigor in the classrooms, focus on middle school with academic team, focus on DJOD with 3 division heads as academic leaders. The school is working around teacher shortages
- D. New Charter Application Status. Presentation to BESE innovation and turn around committee. Glaser, Watson, Newton, Slone, and Wheat presented to BESE. Interview in November with a third party. BESE vote in January. Plan to open BR Discovery in August 2023.
- E. Events and Development - Thursday, November 4, 2021, Loyola campus ribbon cutting. Not canceled yet. Working with COK on redoing Muss Bertolino Stadium. Reimagine grant - state for BR Discovery. Charter Growth Fund. State funds. Tentative Special Board meeting on Dec 13, 2021 .
- F. Challenges: Annual testing results and addressing accelerate learning and learning recovery.
 - 1. Diligence in spending the ESSER III allocation and receiving reimbursement
 - 2. Creative Financing for the construction of the middle school wing so we can bring Maine campus students to Loyola-Vintage campus.

XI. Action Items

- A. None noted.

XII. Old Business

- A. None noted.

XIII. New Business

A. None noted.

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. Mr. Caldarera seconded the motion. Motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 PM.**