

MINUTES

Discovery Health Sciences Foundation Board of Directors Monday, January 24, 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	
4	Ms. Emily Arata		x
5	Mr. Joe Caldarera	x	
6	Dr. Patty Glaser, ex officio member	x	
7	Ms. Diane Hollis	x	
8	Mr. Jim Hudson		x
9	Dr. Vinicio Madrigal	x	
10	Ms. Jeanne Monte	x	
11	Dr. Lacey Ellis		x
12	Mr. Henry Shane	x (exited 5:25)	
13	Ms. Allison Sharai	x	
14	Mr. David Sherman	x*4:55 pm.	
15	Mr. Chuck Toney, Jr.		x
16	Ms. Beth Walker		x

Non-Board members in attendance: Lee Reid (Adams & Reese), Natalie Newton (development), Sharon Preen (CAO) (virtual), Don Wheat (CFO), Jesse Watson (recruitment), Christy Aymami (technology)

**Denotes time joined the meeting.*

- III. Pledge of Allegiance, Dr. Vinicio Madrigal
- IV. Public Comment
 - A. Ms. Newton noted no public comments were submitted prior to the meeting.
- V. Approval of Minutes.
 - A. **ACTION ITEM: Mr. Caldarea moved to approve the minutes from November 15, 2021. Ms. Hollis seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion adopted by a unanimous vote.**
- VI. CFO Report, Don Wheat
 - A. Mr. Wheat explains the current financial standing for Discovery Schools, KDHSA, and DJOD.
 - B. Mr. Wheat presented a brief on COVID-related funding expenditures.
 - C. Mr. Wheat also reported no audit issues.
 - 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. No report.
- X. CEO/Head of School Report, Patty Glaser
 - A. Dr. Glaser reviews COVID data including infection rate, staff vaccination rate, updated mitigation strategies, and new required weekly testing procedures (partnership with LA Dept of Health).
 - Mr. Reid provided insight and legal guidance on the legality of the mandatory testing requirement for student-athletes.
 - B. Admissions:
 - Dr. Glaser provided application updates. For KD = 1,092 applicants; DJOD = 538. The Discovery Schools application window opened on November 1, 2021. The deadline for students to apply is February 4, 2022, at noon.
 - Pivoted to virtual open houses this past month for all campuses. Went very well.
 - 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 received approval with an 8:1 vote in the Committee meeting (1/18/2022). Dr. Davis (Gov Appointee) voted against us. The next day in the full BESE meeting, Discovery received a Unanimous vote for a Type 2 charter in Baton Rouge. The plan is to open Baton Rouge Discovery in August 2023 with 2022-23 as the planning year.

- Mr. Lee Reid mentions that we need to begin moving forward with finalizing lease terms and MOU. Suggested an action item for the board soon.

F. Construction:

- Vintage Campus – Addition of 18 modular classrooms – in process. The design has been approved. The modulars are being manufactured now and were to be delivered late March or early April. Mr. Lee Reid is assisting with the process. Going out for bid if Vanguard or BOXX does not honor the TIP program as agreed to and this will delay the modular installation until next school year.
- KDHSA - Funding for A & A 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. Amount borrowed depends on how our own fund balance looks and if we want to contribute more and borrow less. The RFQ for a construction firm is being advertised now. Interviews will be 3/16/2022.
- Mr. Caldara inquired about pilings for future construction. Dr. Glaser said we would consult with our Architect.

G. Events and Development:

- GALA Rescheduled - 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. We made it past Round 2 of interviews and are awaiting allocations to be made by Feb. 21st. 10-15% of applicants did not make it to Phase 2. We still anticipate NSBR funding. Also, Chris Meyer has left NSBR accepted a position as CEO of BRAF.
- Driftwood Parade – Saturday, February 12th Band, Cheer, Dance & Pep Squad marching. 1:00pm - Discovery will have a presence!!!!
- College/career Fair – February 12th in the morning. – led by Dr. Watson and Ms. Preen

H. 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. Tag-along Policy - if a teacher's dependent joins under the tag-along policy, if the faculty leaves and does not live in the district, the student will complete the current school year but will not be re-enrolled for the following school year.

Motion: Dr. Madrigal

Second: Mr. Slone

VOTE: unanimous approval

- B. Alternative Construction Plan for Modular Installation - Motion to allow Mr. Reid, Ms. Nugent Smith and Dr. Glaser & Executive Committee to move forward with necessary approvals for the alternative installation plan.**

Motion: Mr. Sherman Second: Ms. Monte

VOTE: unanimous approval

- C. ****Motion to add an item:**

Motion: Dr. Madrigal Second: Slone

Abstained: Allison Sharai; all others approved

Motion is: To approve MOU and lease with Ochsner with Lynda to execute once Wayne, Lynda, Patty, Lee have finalized.

Motion: Ms. Monte Second: Dr. Madrigal

Abstained: Allison Sharai; all others approved

XII. Old Business

- A. None noted.**

XIII. New Business

- A. Ms. Nugent Smith advised the board that there will be upcoming training and re-establishment/re-organization of committees.**

XIV. Executive Session

- A. Student Issue.**

Motion to go into Executive Session: Mr. Slone

Second: Ms. Monte

VOTE: Motion carries. Unanimous approval.

****no action was taken during the Executive Session**

Motion to end Executive Session: Mr. Calderera

Second: Mr. Thomas

VOTE: Motion carries. Unanimous approval.

XV. Public Comment

- A. No public comment.**

XVI. Adjournment

- A. Mr. Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hollis seconded the motion. VOTE: Motion carries. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.**