

Discovery Academy of Science
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
May 29, 2021 Minutes
2817 St. Marks Dr. Dunedin FL 34698
Saturday, 8:30 am

- 1- Call to order
- 2- Approval of the agenda items
- 3- Approval of 02/13/2021 & 04/24/2021 board meeting minutes
- 4- Principal remarks
- 5- Public remarks

FINANCE:

- 1- Financial reports

Recent financial statements

ESSER-II(CRRSA) funds update

DAS allocation of \$195,753.49 to be spent by August 2021

Additional ~ \$200,000 to be spent by next school year, 2021-22

- 2- Approval of 2021-22 budget - LINK

516 students

Positive funds balance and the first time for the referendum funds(~\$250K) to be used for salaries and art music programs.

DAS salary scale

- 3- Budget Amendment fiscal year ending June 30, 2021 - Approval of the amendment

HEALTH & SAFETY

- 1- Covid-19 updates - discussion item

Masks are not required for the 2021-22 school year

DAS follows PCSB policy and procedures.

The last day of mask mandate is June 9th, 2021 5:00 pm

- 2- Approval of DAS opt-in to PCSB mental Health Plan and opt-in to district's Alyssa's Law compliance with Motorola Safer APP.

EDUCATION

- 1- Spring MAP scores data update for the Governing Board- Review Item

Document link

- 2- DAS summer school updates

K-7 grades with only eligible students invited(60 students), June 21-July 16, 8:30 am to 11:30

\$100 per day for teachers, \$150 for admin. Costs to be paid from the ESSER-II grant.

FACILITIES

- 1- DAS campus expansion to Nursery Rd. location.

Survey results

Presentation by Project Finance and Development LLC, Bond financing and project timeline
DAS Clearwater location, August 2022 and projected DAS Dunedin location in August 2023 (to be approved by the DAS board)

2022-23 school year budget - 1st year of DAS Clearwater campus

2- Updates from the current landlord, St. Marks Church

PE Court fundraising and construction.

School beautification, exterior painting of the whole campus.

BOARD ADMINISTRATION

1- Principal contract renewal, Emre Akbaba

2- Closure of the meeting. Saturday, August 27th, 2021 8:30 am for the next board meeting tentatively.

Additional Information
Discovery Academy of Science
Saturday, February 13, 2021, 8:30 am

Agron Elmazi

Fatih Demir

Fethullah Caliskan

Issues/ Items motioned and voted on by Governing Board Members:

1. The Board meeting was called to order at 8:30 am by Mr. Fatih Demir
2. Approval of agenda items; Mr. Demir wanted to add an agenda item regarding the new board membership position.
Motion: Approve the current agenda items
Second: Mr. Elmazi
Vote: Yes-3
No-0
3. Approval of last board two board meeting minutes from February 13 and April 24th.
Mr. Akbaba mentioned that April 24 meeting was mostly the items for the new campus project.
Motion Approval of the Feb 14ht and April 24th board meeting minutes Mr. Demir
Second Mr. Elmazi
Vote Yes-3
No-0
4. Principal remarks: Mr. Akbaba updated board members about the following items.
Mr. Akbaba gave updates were as below.

Enrollment update for next year: 536students in total as of May 26

South campus:115

North campus:421

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Grade	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	KG	Grand Total
Count	56	63	52	69	66	61	56	54	59	536

MAP and all FSA testing completed with no problems. 100 of the kids are tested. Over the state school grade threshold of 95%

PE court fundraising

Construction starts on June 10th

8th-grade graduation - June 9th

Mask mandate is over as of June 10th.

4 day weekday starts on June 14th, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Mr. Akbaba is off for summer break from June 17- 24

I start a Master's Program at the American College of Education for Educational Leadership to better serve the DAS community. If the board approves, I would like to ask for reimbursement for tuition if I pass the courses.

5. Public remarks- no public remarks were made in this session.

FINANCE:

1. Review/discussion of finances. Mr. Akbaba and Mr. Demir presented the recent financial reports to the board members. All reports reviewed. Mr. Akbaba addressed the balance questions. The school is in a positive balance in the amount of \$194,985.40 as of April 31, 2020.

Mr. Akbaba presented the ESSER-II grant allocation. School has to spend a \$195,753.49 by August 30. Mr. Demir asked, if the school will be able to spend this amount. Mr. Akbaba stated that there are already expenses made and will seek reimbursement from the special project office.

2. Approval of the 2021-22 budget. The budget presented to the board members. Board do not expect a major change in student enrollment. The budget has positive balance of \$254,331. There could be additional ESSER grant funds that may positively affect the budget. Additional interventions specialists could be hired based on the amount along with new curriculum materials could be bought to remediate student learning loss.

Motion Approval of the 2021-22 budget Mr. Demir

Second Mr. Elmazi

Vote Yes-3

No-0

3. Mr. Akbaba presented the budget amendment for 2020-21 school year.

The amendment didn't include the newly assigned ESSER-II funds. New year end balance is \$133,931.88 that is a decrease. The main reason is the construction of the PE court shade and additional COVID related curriculum and technology purchases such as chromebooks and FSA practice materials and a NURSE position added to the budget.

Health and Safety

1. COVID-19 updates

Mr. Akbaba updates the board members about the covid-19.

Mask mandate will expire on June 9th. Mr. Demir reiterated that DAS shall follow PCSB policies for COVID-19 policy and procedures. Mr. Akbaba agreed and told the board members, that was and will be the case when it comes to mask mandates and other COVID policies. Mr. Akbaba also mentioned the guidance from the Florida Department of Education. Although charter school boards may make any decisions, FLDOE may impose funding sanctions. Any finding sanction at a charter school will have a great negative impact on the school. Although DAS budget and reserves are very strong, it is not to the benefit of the school and students to get sanctioned with state funding said Mr. Akbaba

2. Approval of DAS opt to PCSB mental health plan

Mr. Akbaba asked board members to opt into PCSB plan. This is very convenient for the school to manage the mental health piece to stay in state compliance. DAS guidance counselor Ms. Robin Chaloune is coordinating the implementation of such plan.

Motion	Approval of the opt in document for mental plan
Second	Dr. Nazik
Vote	Yes-4 No-0

Education

1. Spring MAP scores: Board members reviewed the Spring MAPO scores. The data supported that student learning loss were at minimum levels. There is a GAP between face to face vs e-learning students. In person learning modality students did better. School administration will study the results of FSA in the same manner.
2. DAS summer school updates
Mr. Akbaba presented the summer school plan. PCSB is also informed that DAS will conduct summer school. over 40 invitations sent to parents. Mr. Akbaba invited more so if parents choose not to attend then we would still have sessions in place to address any learning difficulties. during summer school, masks will be optional.

Facilities

1. DAS new campus project
Mr. Akbaba and Mr. Demir presented the new campus project. Survey results were discussed only five parents stated that they would definitely unenroll their students. All other would like to continue their enrollments despite 8-10 miles change in location.
Taylor Smith presented his company to the board of directors. Project Finance and Development LLC. Taylor stated that he will coordinate the sale and bond financing. He presented a project timeline. The location of the campus is on 2465 Nursery Rd. Clearwater. Unity church of Clearwater is located in the existing location. They want to seel the property of 5 acres in return of a new church building built for them. The site has 18,000 sq ft existing church facility. That would need to be renovated and a new building will be added around 36,000 sqft.
Mr. Akbaba and Mr. Demir provided projection budgets based on the projected construction cost. The budgets were in positiva balance. The school will gradually increase its enrollment to 800 in three years. The first year of operation is expected in August 2022. Board members asked Mr. Akbaba for a contingency plan if the construction timeline is in jeopardy due to unforeseen circumstances. Mr. Akbaba will present such a plan in the upcoming meetings.
The estimated project construction cost will be \$11M including the land acquisition.

Motion	Approval of hiring Project Finance and Development LLC as the project manager.
Second	Dr. Caliskan
Vote	Yes-3 No-0
2. Updates from current landlord St. Marks
PE Court fundraising resulted over \$35K funds raised to support the cost of PE court. The construction will begin June 17th, expected to finish in early August before the first day of school.
The landlord at the north campus will paint the exterior and install new asphalt for some part of the road and parking lots.

Board Administration

1. Principal Akbaba contract renewal
Mr. Akbaba said that he has been with DAS since 2003 as the founding principal and employed by DAS board, he is committed to work many years to come at DAS. He has been a principal for 13 years. Board members moved to approve Mr. Akbaba's salary at a district principal who has been working for 13 years. Mr. Akbaba received such figure from director of charter school Amy Hayes.
Board members also reviewed the salaries of school principal in Florida public schools and charter schools across the state.

Motion	Approval of Mr. Akbaba's contract by Mr. Demir
Second	Dr. Caliskan

Vote Yes-3
 No-0

2. Closure of the meeting

Meeting date is schedule tentatively to August 27th, pending on the development on the new campus project timeline.

Based on recent developments, board may call a special meeting if needed.

Board Members

Fatih Demir, Fethullah Caliskan, Agron Elmazi