



# *New Discoveries* *Montessori Academy*

1000 Fifth Avenue SE, Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350 320.234.6362(w) 320.234.6300(f) [www.newdiscoveries.org](http://www.newdiscoveries.org)

## **Official Board of Directors**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Monday, April 25, 2022

The Official Board Meeting of New Discoveries Montessori Academy of Hutchinson, MN was held at New Discoveries Montessori Academy, Hutchinson, MN and Electronically via Zoom due to pandemic.

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order at 4:17 p.m.  
Voting members present: Meytal Stancek, Spencer Kangas, Chris LaPlante, Patti Hoerner, Patrick Selchert.  
Absent: Shari Colvin, Amanda Sundblad.  
Non-voting member present: Dave Conrad, Dustin Reeves.
2. Guests: Emily Edstrom Moore, Osprey Wilds representative via zoom.
3. Spotlight Report –Emily Edstrom Moore presented the timeline for NDMA’s contract renewal with Authorizer, Osprey Wilds Environmental Learning Center. The current contract expires June 30, 2023.
4. Agenda – MS (Hoerner/Kangas) to approve the agenda no additions, roll call vote taken; motion carries unanimously.
5. MS (La Plante/Hoerner) to approve the consent agenda, no corrections, roll call vote taken; motion carries unanimously.
  - a. Minutes of March 21, 2022 Meeting
  - b. Submitted Committee Reports
6. Financial Reports
  - a. Received March 2022 financial statements.
  - b. MS (Hoerner/La Plante) to approve March 2022 supplemental information report, roll call vote taken; motion carries unanimously.
7. Reports
  - a. Executive & Associate Directors – see attached reports.
    - i. Personnel changes – resignations: Nicole Johnson, para, Audri Erickson, para, Kim Streich, food service, Damian Kinzler, custodial, Lois Tritz, teacher, no dismissals or reassignments, and new employment: Joanne Rusch, paraprofessional.
    - ii. Strategic Plan Update:
    - iii. Environmental Education Update: Students have been exploring outside on nicer days.
    - iv. Academic Testing and Achievement Update: MCA’s are being administered.
    - v. Enrollment Update: Enrollment is up from budgeted numbers.
    - vi. Activities and Happenings related to the school, staff, students, families, community: STEM Family Discoveries Night is coming up, CH Music Showcase, E1 Music Showcase, as well as end of year field trips.
  - b. Board Activities –
    - i. Board Training – Board Training Webinars from Brian Carpenter are available. Members are to let Ms. Kinzler know which training is completed for recording.

8. Old Business
  - a. None at this time.
  
9. New Business
  - b. None at this time.
  
10. Upcoming Meetings/Events/Announcements
  - a. Next board meeting, Monday, May 16, 2022 – 5:30 p.m.
  - b. Finance Committee Meeting, May 9, 2022 – 11:45 a.m.
  - c. Policy/Governance Committee Meeting – May 9, 2022 – 12:30 p.m.
  
11. Adjournment 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tara Erickson  
Recorder



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## *Executive Director Report* for NDMA's

Board of Directors – Dave Conrad, Monday, April 25, 2022

### 1. Employment Update

- We have five recent employee resignations: one kitchen staff, two teaching Partners, one custodian, and one classroom teacher who has been on leave. Four of the five left for higher paying, year-round jobs; one is retiring.

### 2. COVID-19

- We have had no cases since mid-February.

### 3. Enrollment

- Our current enrollment matches budgeted enrollment
- Next year's enrollment currently suggests waiting lists in three-year-old preschool, first, second, and third grades. We have 24 in each section of upper elementary, and we will need to split our middle school into two sections.

### 4. Administrative Positions for 2022-23

- Kirsten and I have been interviewing candidates for the Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (CIA), and the Special Education Coordinator positions listed on the board-approved organizational structure.
- We have offered the Special Education Coordinator position and are well underway with interviews for the CIA position.

### 5. Administrator Review Committee



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- I entertained questions from Board Members regarding the work of the Administrator Review Committee, acknowledging that – as difficult as the process was – I am reasonably happy with the retirement package offered: benefits through the COBRA period, and use of 30 unused sick days. The compensation for the 30 unused sick days is coming from contract work I am doing on the 30 unused vacation days.

**Associate Director – NDMA ANNUAL MEETING**

**Kirsten K Kinzler**

**Report on Academic Achievement and Environmental Education**

**Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Report on Academic Achievement**

NWEA MAP in Reading and Math; Students take the NWEA MAP Assessment 3 times a year – Fall, Winter, Spring. Spring assessments will be completed in May.

Here is a snapshot of how are students are doing from Fall to Winter. (see handout)

For each grade level there is a RIT score that students are trying to meet. The “# Students at/above Grade Level Mean RIT” column is the total number of students in that grade that met the grade level RIT score.

NWEA also projects where students should grow to from one testing session to the next. The column “Met Projected Growth (as determined by NWEA) indicates the number of students that achieved this growth.

The last two columns are the number of students that improved from their initial score 1 or more points their previous testing session.

To summarize: When looking at the year to year data, we typically have between 40 and 50% of our students at/above grade level and meeting projected growth. Our percentage of students improving on their score between test sessions is much higher – typically in the 70 percent range. Our students are showing improvement – not always at the rate in which NWEA suggests, but they are improving. The teaching staff at NDMA uses this data to help students fill in any gaps that they may have, set goals, and help them progress.

MCA/MTAS assessments in Reading, Math, and Science is administered in April each year for students in grades 3-8. We are currently administering these assessments. 2021-2022 results will be available in August.

**Report on Environmental Education/Focus on our environment**

Students are talking about the climate change, going on walks and making environmental observations, collecting information on the weather, growing plants in our greenhouse, and exploring the great outdoors. We are completing our goals on our Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP). We have over half of our staff that has been diligent in marking down their outdoor space time (one of our goals) in the Osprey Wilds Documentation Binder and will have 100% of them accounted for by the end of the year (hint, hint!). Specifically, E2 classrooms (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders) went on an environmental day to the Ney Center in Henderson and enjoyed many outdoor experiences. The 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be attending the McLeod County Nature Day on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Other specific environmental field trips include – Children’s House to Gale Woods Farm and the Arboretum, E2 students to Minnesota Pioneer Park. Our middle school students went on a weeklong environmental trip to Wolf Ridge in October and our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders just returned from a 3-day stay at Osprey Wilds. We are grateful for our connection to our environment and to be practicing environmental stewardship.

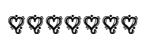
**School Happenings**

Family Discoveries 3M STEM Night – Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 5:30-6:00pm FREE Dinner, 6:00-7:00pm STEM Activities – Egg Drop and Rocket Launcher

Upcoming Music Showcase programs for students in Children’s House and E1 have been planned.

Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30pm – CH Music Showcase

Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm – EI Music Showcase



**There is no success without struggle!**



*You can't fly without a bit of struggle!*

Once a man was passing through a forest when he notices a butterfly's cocoon on a tree branch. He decided to sit down and watch the butterfly's transformation. He watched the butterfly for hours as it tried to force itself out of a small hole. After a few hours, the butterfly suddenly stopped moving as it got stuck.

The man felt bad for the butterfly and decided to help it out. He took a knife and cut the cocoon carefully so as not to hurt the butterfly. Though the butterfly emerged, it looked weak. Its body looked swollen and its wings shriveled.

He sat there waiting for the butterfly to grow wings and start flying. No matter what the butterfly did, the wings wouldn't grow and he was stuck there unable to fly with his swollen body and weak wings.

The man was confused because he thought he was helping the butterfly by getting rid of its struggles but what he didn't know was that his very action made the butterfly weak and disabled. The butterfly needed to struggle through the cocoon because that was the only way the fluid from its body would reach its wings which would help it fly. Since its struggle was cut short, the butterfly could never fully develop and gain strength and now had to lead its life crawling around.

**Moral:** You have to endure struggles to succeed.

Enduring the struggle of being in a pandemic has taught us that we can ALL do hard things. Thank you for helping our students find a safe place at New Discoveries where they can grow physically, emotionally, and academically. Thank you, staff, for the many hours you devote to helping New Discoveries be a place of joy for us to work, help our students learn and care for one another. Thank you, parents, for trusting us with your children. Thank you for continuing to do hard things.

**NDMA NWEA MAP DATA  
YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE  
Fall, Winter, Spring  
2021-2022**

**NWEA MAP DATA YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE \* Fall, Winter, Spring - 2021-2022**

NWEA MAP - MATH																		
Grade	# Students at/above Grade Level Mean RIT			% Students at/above Grade Level Mean RIT			# tested			Met Projected Growth (as determined by NWEA)			# Students Demonstrating Growth on RIT Fall to Winter/Spring			% Students Demonstrating Growth on RIT Fall to Winter/Spring		
	F21	W22	S22	F21	W22	S22	F21	W22	S22	F21	W22	S22	F21	W22	S22	F21	W22	S22
K	19	20		70%	71%		27	28			14			25			89%	
1	8	7		30%	25%		27	28			10			24			86%	
2	12	12		46%	46%		26	26			9			21			81%	
3	10	4		42%	17%		24	23			6			18			78%	
4	10	7		42%	28%		24	25			12			20			80%	
5	7	6		28%	25%		25	24			11			19			79%	
6	9	12		41%	50%		22	24			12			15			63%	
7	7	7		37%	41%		19	17			3			8			47%	
8	2	2		29%	25%		7	8			2			3			38%	
Total	84	77		42%	38%		201	203			79			153			75%	

%

39% #DIV/0!

NWEA MAP - READING																		
Grade	# Students at/above Grade Level Mean RIT			% Students at/above Grade Level Mean RIT			# tested			Met Projected Growth (as determined by NWEA)			# Students Demonstrating Growth on RIT Fall to Winter/Spring			% Students Demonstrating Growth on RIT Fall to Winter/Spring		
	F21	W22	S22	F21	W22	S22	F21	W22	S22	F21	W22	S22	F21	W22	S22	F21	W22	S22
K	20	17		74%	61%		27	28			11			22			79%	
1	9	6		32%	21%		28	28			6			22			79%	
2	11	11		42%	44%		26	25			9			23			92%	
3	7	8		29%	36%		24	22			11			17			77%	
4	7	9		29%	36%		24	25			10			16			64%	
5	7	9		28%	38%		25	24			15			19			79%	
6	12	12		55%	52%		22	23			13			15			65%	
7	8	5		44%	29%		18	17			4			4			24%	
8	2	2		29%	25%		7	8			4			4			50%	
Total	83	79		41%	40%		201	200			83			142			71%	

42% #DIV/0!