



Official Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 27, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.
NDMA Conference Room

1000 5th Avenue SE, Hutchinson, Minnesota 55350 320.234.6362(w) 320.234.6300(f) www.newdiscoveries.org

The Official Board Meeting of New Discoveries Montessori Academy of Hutchinson, MN was held at New Discoveries Montessori Academy, Hutchinson, MN.

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m.

Voting members present: Tim Dezelske, Patti Hoerner, Christine La Plante, Shari Colvin, Samantha Casillas, Jill Montes (5:57).

Absent: Spencer Kangas, Tiffany Knox

Non-voting member present: Kirsten Kinzler, Director.

Tara Erickson, Recorder.

2. Guests: via teams meeting: Dustin Reeves, Creative Planning, and Ryan Schmidt, Schlenner Wenner & Co.

3. Spotlight Report – Schlenner Wenner & Co. Audit Presentation. Mr. Schmidt shared the high points of the audit for the board members.

4. Agenda – MS (Dezelske/Hoerner) to approve the agenda, all aye; motion carries unanimously.

5. MS (Dezelske/LaPlante) to approve the consent agenda, all aye; motion carries unanimously.

a. Minutes of December 16, 2024 Meeting – with changes to 7.a.ii and 7.b.i,

b. Submitted Committee Reports

i. Financial Committee met December 10th, 2024 – Kinzler shared the details of the minutes.

ii. Policy Committee did not meet in January.

6. Financial Reports

a. Received the December 2024 Financial Report.

a. MS (Dezelske/LaPlante) to approve December 2024 Supplemental Information Report, roll call vote taken; motion carries unanimously.

7. Reports

a. Executive Director – please see reports attached.

i. Personnel changes – hire: Elisabeth Mumford, SpEd Teacher; reassignment: Taylor Gunder

ii. Strategic Plan Update – ILT will be meeting tomorrow to go over the plan.

Providing a quality, comprehensive public education within a Montessori context

- iii. Environmental Education Update – Patti Hoerner and Peggy Enerson gave a presentation at the Montessori program at River Falls, WI sharing our program for recycling our school food waste. They will present at the February board meeting.
 - iv. Academic Testing and Achievement Update – Kinzler shared the date from the NWEA Map testing.
 - v. Enrollment Update – enrollment numbers have remained steady
 - vi. Activities and Happenings related to the school, staff, students, families, community – fundraiser coming up: NDMA Reading Rally 2025 – raising money while promoting reading with a goal of \$5000.00. Readers have already raised \$1665.00! Culver’s Restaurant Night fundraiser – Monday Feb 3, 2025, from 5-8 p.m.
- b. Board Activities – Training opportunities – Osprey Wilds, Brian Carpenter, MACS

8. Unfinished Business

- a. MS (Dezelske/Colvin) to approve the third Reading and Approval of the following policies, all aye; motion carries
 - i. 551P – Student Journalism Policy
 - ii. 621P – Library Materials
 - iii. 509P – Nondiscrimination – Title IX Policy
- b. MS (Dezelske/Montes) to approve Second Reading and Approval of Changes to the By-Laws, updates to match what we are already doing such as board member term limits and how to join a meeting via devices, all aye; motion carries unanimously.

9. New Business

- a. Nominating Committee – Members
 - i. Patti Hoerner
 - ii. Samantha Casillas

10. Upcoming Meetings/Events/Announcements

- a. Next board meeting, February 24, 2025 – 5:30 p.m. *4th Monday due to Holiday
- b. Finance Committee Meeting, February 10, 2025 – 11:45 a.m.
- c. Policy/Governance Committee Meeting, February 10, 2025 – 12:15 p.m.
- d. Facilities Committee Meeting, tbd
- e. Administrative Review Committee, tbd
- f. Annual Meeting, April 28, 2025 – 3:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tara Erickson
Recorder