



Official Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 24, 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 5:30 p.m.

Voting members present: Tim Dezelske, Patti Hoerner, Christine La Plante, Shari Colvin, Samantha Casillas, Jill Montes, Spencer Kangas.

Absent: Tiffany Knox

Non-voting member present: Kirsten Kinzler, Director.

Tara Erickson, Recorder.

2. Guests: Emily, Bess, Betsy

3. Spotlight Report – Betsy Christian, NDMA School Psychologist. Betsy gave a brief presentation on the National association for school psychologists NASP in Seattle, WA that she attended. This is a PD conference with over 1200 sessions to pick from. Catalysts in Action was the theme about finding ways to take meaningful restorative breaks. She attended some research and some mini skills sessions to learn about reading resources. Next steps could include gathering resources and creating a dyslexia training for teachers. Another step is to examine and improve our practice for SLD assessment. She also wants to share the fidelity tools with SEL team. Use the new and refreshed knowledge to finish building an MTSS handbook.

4. Agenda – MS (Dezelske/LaPlante) to approve the agenda, noted that the Finance Committee meeting for March needs to be adjusted to March 17 and the board meeting to March 24th, all aye; motion carries unanimously.

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

a. Minutes of January 27, 2025 Meeting

b. Submitted Committee Reports

- i. Financial Committee met February 11th, 2025 – It was noted in the financial minutes that 3rd graders should be replaced with 3-year-olds.
- ii. Policy/Governance Committee met February 11th, 2025 – From the authorizer evaluation report, it should be noted the June 2023 minutes should have read that Kinzler asked for the meeting to remain open during the presentation of the evaluation report provided by the administrator review committee, The newly adopted Title IX policy will need to be readjusted

Providing a quality, comprehensive public education within a Montessori context

to the 2020 Title IX document, and the board should begin new board training requirements in March.

6. Financial Reports

- a. MS (Dezelske/Montes) to approve the January 2025 Financial Report with the working budget, there was discussion regarding where the budget sits now - we need 10 students to overcome the projected deficit, no other concerns noted, roll call vote taken; motion carries unanimously.
- b. MS (Dezelske/Hoerner) to approve the January 2025 Supplemental Information Report, no concerns noted, roll call vote taken; motion carries unanimously.

7. Reports

- a. Executive Director – please see reports attached.
 - i. Personnel changes – reassignments: Emily Madrid to building sub, and new employments: Alison Peterson – CH para and Carli Andren – E1 para.
 - ii. Strategic Plan Update – updating for Montessori observations, discussions at ILT regarding classroom volunteers.
 - iii. Environmental Education Update – February ILT discussed record-keeping for the ELP goals and reminders to keep track of student activities.
 - iv. Academic Testing and Achievement Update – PLC discussion – how will we respond to the most recent screening data?
 - v. Enrollment Update – Total K-8 185, total PK-8 215
 - vi. Activities and Happenings related to the school, staff, students, families, community – the Book Fair went well at conferences, selling over \$3000 and donating \$500 of books to classrooms, Culver’s Fundraiser = \$424.11, CH Musical Program “Moo-sical” is happening tomorrow night, and March 10-14 is spring break.
- b. Board Activities –
 - i. Presentation from Osprey Wilds over Contract Renewal – Emily Edstrom Moore of Osprey Wilds, congratulates NDMA for meeting the renewal contract goals. NDMA has been renewed for 3 years. Ms. Edstrom Moore shared some details regarding elements of the contract, tasks and timelines, and how the eval and exhibits work together and items to monitor going forward and the process for finalization.

8. Unfinished Business

9. New Business

- a. MS (Dezelske/Hoerner) to Review and Approve changes to 509P Nondiscrimination Title IX, taking it back to the original 2020 version including minor changes, all aye; motion carries unanimously.
- b. First Reading of the following policies was had.
 - i. 525P Cellular Phones and Personal Electronic Devices
 - ii. 722P Public Data Subject Requests, with additions of:
 1. Data Practices Responsible Authority – Kirsten Kinzler
 2. Data Practices Compliance Official – Tara Erickson
 3. Data Practices Designee – Niccole Schwartz

10. Upcoming Meetings/Events/Announcements

- a. Board Training, March 24, 2025 – 5:00 p.m.
- b. Next board meeting, March 24, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.
- c. Finance Committee Meeting, March 17, 2025 – 11:45 a.m.
- d. Policy/Governance Committee Meeting, following the Finance Committee Meeting
- e. Facilities Committee Meeting, tbd
- f. Administrative Review Committee, tbd
- g. Annual Meeting, April 28, 2025 – 3:30 p.m.

Providing a quality, comprehensive public education within a Montessori context

11. Adjournment 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tara Erickson
Recorder