



Official Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 23, 2026 –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: Shari Colvin, Tim Dezelske, Patti Hoerner, Spencer Kangas, Tiffany Knox, Jill Montes, Christine La Plante. Absent: none

Non-voting member present: Kirsten Kinzler, Director.

2. Guests: none

3. Public Comment: (Exhibit J): none

4. Spotlight Report: Kirsten Kinzler shared some of the highlights of happenings at the school related to Montessori week. There was a morning assembly to kick off the week’s activities with the theme of “peace.” This was followed by the Children’s House Music Showcase Performance for the school. There is a large four-season tree on the wall of the multi-purpose room that will be covered with leaves and snowflakes from students and staff containing messages of peace. Kinzler read the book chosen for this year, *Peace is an Offering*, by Annette LeBox and Illustrated by Stephanie Graegin. She emphasized how peace is everywhere – in big things and little things. (Exhibits D & T*)

5. Agenda: MS (Dezelske/ LaPlante to approve the agenda with deletion of “protocol for public comment” on item 2, all aye; motion carries unanimously.

6. Consent Agenda: MS (Dezelske/Montes) to approve the consent agenda, all aye; motion carries unanimously by roll call.

- a. Minutes of December 26, 2026 Meeting

- b. Submitted Committee Reports

- i. Financial Committee met February 17, 2026 – Knox shared highlights from the financial committee meeting. (Exhibit K

- ii. Policy/Governance Committee met February 17, 2026 – Colvin highlighted the changes to the attendance policy and why the changes were needed. (Exhibit J)

7. Financial Reports

- a. January 2026 Financial Report – there was one new enrollment since the last report. Still in a very fragile financial situation, yet much better position than the fall reports.

- b. MS (Dezelske/Hoerner) to approve January 2026 Supplemental Information Report, nothing unexpected, motion carries unanimously by roll call.

8. Reports

- a. Executive Director – see attached report.

- i. Personnel changes – addition of one teaching partner.

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- ii. Strategic Plan Update – No further updates this month.
 - iii. Environmental Education Update – No further updates this month. There is ongoing encouragement to have teachers document what is happening with their students.
 - iv. Academic Testing and Achievement Update – NWEA and FastBridge Winter Benchmark results were shared with the board. The Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) spent considerable time going through the results and discussing steps that might be taken to reach the set goals. It was questioned whether administering the assessments in December versus January contributed to the drop in reading scores from fall to winter. Mathematics results were a little more hopeful. The ILT suggested a beginning focus at this time would be to identify strategic interventions to get students just below the 50% percentile up to grade level. Teachers will be asked to share best/effective practices that have worked for them at PLC meetings. (Exhibit G)
 - v. Enrollment Update – enrollment is up one from last month.
 - vi. Activities and Happenings related to the school, staff, students, families, community: The Hockey Winter Classic was very successful and can be found and viewed on YouTube. Thursday evening will be Family Discoveries Night with a focus on reading (Exhibit T). There will be a presentation in Hutchinson on “The Anxious Generation.” Kinzler will attend and bring back any helpful information. “Roasting” had been happening in E2 classrooms. The whole school community was informed this was not appropriate in the school. There will be a new fundraiser starting this week. MACS is working to get safety aid for charter schools. This is already allotted to regular school districts at \$32 per student.
- b. Board Activities –
- i. At the end of the meeting, the board completed the draft form of the Board Performance Evaluation and Training Self-Assessment provided by the Authorizer. (Exhibit J)

9. Unfinished Business

- a. none

10. New Business

- a. Received Osprey Wilds report of Complaint and NDMA’s response
- b. MS (Dezelske/Montes) to approve the following policies with presented changes: – all aye; motion carries unanimously (Exhibit J)
 - i. 503P Attendance Policy
 - ii. 605P Dress Code Policy
 - iii. 701.1P School District Budget Policy
 - iv. 701.2P Fund Balance Policy
- c. Review 2026-2027 Preliminary Calendar – Start and end dates are acceptable to board members. No formal action taken this month.

11. Upcoming Meetings/Events/Announcements

- a. Next board meeting, March 23, 2026 – 5:30 p.m.
- b. Finance Committee Meeting, March 17, 2026 – 11:45 a.m.
- c. Policy/Governance Committee Meeting, March 17, 2026 – 12:15 p.m.
- d. Facilities Committee Meeting, tbd
- e. Administrative Review Committee, tbd
- f. Annual Meeting, April 20, 2026 – 3:30 p.m.

12. Adjournment 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Shari Colvin
Board Secretary

*Exhibit T added to reference “Montessori Methods”

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