



Official Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 23, 2026 –5:30 p.m.
NDMA Conference Room

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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, Spencer Kangas, Tiffany Knox, Jill Montes, Christine La Plante. Absent: Patti Hoerner

Non-voting member present: Kirsten Kinzler, Director.

2. Guests: Tammy Maiers (NDMA Speech Therapist), Laura Lonquist (NDMA CH Teacher), Peggy Enerson (NDMA CH Teacher), Emily Edstrom Moore (Osprey Wilds).
3. Public Comment: (Exhibit J): Maiers and Lonquist, representing concerned employees at NDMA, presented collaborative ideas regarding classrooms, healthcare, hiring and retention, advertising, and communications. They requested written responses to their concerns via email. Colvin shared that most of these concerns will go through the Finance Committee's next meeting and responses will come from there.
4. Spotlight Report: (Exhibits D & T*) Enerson shared an update on - The Lost Art of Garden to Table - a never ending story (MN School Garden Conference presentation attended by Peggy Enerson and Patti Hoerner). NDMA Should be proud of the gardening going on at our school, she stated. There are the plants that we bring to the food shelf, and the students will also grow and take a vegetable home this spring. Enerson shared a couple of pictures from an E1 field trip to a large garden in the fall. There was a "Lightening talk" presented on child-friendly plants. Cosmos and sedum were at the top of the list. Enerson will donate some of her sedum plants to the butterfly garden. For the good of our school community, Hoerner and Enerson are donating their 100\$ for a new butterfly garden to be built in the backyard.

Enerson shared the "4 Acts of Developing Community" by Paul Born.

Tell your story,

Enjoy one another by pending time together.

Care for one another.

Work together to build a better world.

5. Agenda: MS (Dezelske/Montes) to approve the agenda with, all aye; motion carries unanimously.
6. Consent Agenda: MS (Dezelske/Colvin) to approve the consent agenda, all aye; motion carries unanimously by roll call.
 - a. Minutes of February 23, 2026 Meeting
 - b. Submitted Committee Reports
 - i. Financial Committee met March 17th, 2026, we are looking at a bit of a surplus for the year, state, state aid is questionable with more updates at our next meeting (Exhibit K)

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- ii. Policy/Governance Committee met March 17th, 2026, finished compiling the board evaluation from last month, it will be a part of the annual report. (Exhibit J)

7. Financial Reports

- a. February 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/Montes) to approve February 2026 Supplemental Information Report, didn't see anything out of line, motion carries unanimously by roll call.

8. Reports

- a. Executive Director – see attached report.
 - i. Personnel changes – none at this time.
 - ii. Strategic Plan Update – No further updates this month.
 - iii. Environmental Education Update – Ms Sims and her E1 classroom are growing seeds for a spring plant fundraiser. Classrooms will be getting butterfly kits in the next month. Grades 5 and 6 will be going to Osprey Wilds next week for their environmental learning experience.
 - iv. Academic Testing and Achievement Update – NWEA and FastBridge assessments are complete for the Winter Benchmark. (Exhibit G)
 - v. Enrollment Update – enrollment is up one preschooler from last month.
 - vi. Activities and Happenings related to the school, staff, students, families, community: The Osprey Wilds overnight trip, E2 Science Fair, and Spring field trips.
- b. Board Activities –
 - i. Continue board trainings (Exhibit J)

9. Unfinished Business

- a. MS (Dezelske/Montes) to Review and Approve 2026-2027 School Year Calendar, all aye; motion carries unanimously.

10. New Business

- a. MS (Dezelske/LaPlante) to approve all review and revisions of policies in 10.a., all aye; motion carries unanimously.
 - i. 704P Group Health Insurance Purchase Policy
 - ii. 706.1P Gift Acceptance Policy
 - iii. 706.2P Real Estate Gift Policy
 - iv. 708P Capital Asset Threshold Policy
 - v. 709P Student Transportation Safety Policy
 - vi. 760P School Credit Card Policy

11. Upcoming Meetings/Events/Announcements

- a. Annual Meeting, April 20, 2026 – 3:30 p.m. Multi-Purpose Room
- b. Next board meeting, April 20, 2026 – 4:00 p.m. (An hour early due to the Annual Meeting at 3:30)
- c. Finance Committee Meeting, April 13, 2026 – 11:45 a.m.
- d. Policy/Governance Committee Meeting, April 13, 2026 – Following Finance Meeting
- e. Facilities Committee Meeting, tbd
- f. Administrative Review Committee, Monday, April 13th at 1:00 p.m.

12. Adjournment 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tara Erickson
Board Recorder

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