



Discovery Woods - District # 4198
Board of Directors Board Meeting
5:00-6:30 p.m. at 604 N 7th Street, Brainerd, MN 56401
Date: November 20, 2025

Mission: To provide Brainerd Lakes Area families a choice for quality elementary education centered around the individual needs of the child, with a focus on the environment.

Board of Directors' Purpose

To provide leadership, set policy, and develop accountability practices that will ensure high student achievement.

Called to order at 5:00pm by Dawn

Present: Chasidi Grant, Rebekah Kent-Ehlebracht, Dawn Snook, Ashley Gangestad, Denise Belden ,
Melina Kramer, Matt Hastert,

Absent:

Ex-Officio: Kara DeVriendt

Guests:

1. Community Forum - (3 minutes)- No one present
2. Charter School Finance Committee Report
 - i. October [Financials](#) and [Supplement](#)
 - ii. Motion to accept the Financials as shown. M/S Rebekah/Chasidi. Ashley-yes, Rebekah-yes, Melina-yes, Chasidi-yes, Denise-yes, Dawn-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passed.
3. Minutes from Prior Meeting: [October 23, 2025](#)
 - a. Motion to accept the minutes with the change to MARSS. M/S Rebekah/Melina Motion passed.
4. Board Training - [Article](#) (*Charter Facilities in Minnesota: An Overview of Lease Aid and Affiliated Building Corporations*)
 - a. We had to do lease aid for last year. It went through and got approved this week. We are getting lease aid with our rent and it is based on how many students we have.
5. Old and/or Unfinished Business:
 - a. Strategic Plan
 - i. We looked at our strategic plan at last month's work meeting.
 - ii. We are ready to put it into the correct format. Then we will vote on it.
 - b. School Security Quotes
 - i. We pay a little for very little things. People's security put in a quote what Midwest is willing to do too.
 - ii. Do we want to go with Midwest or People's. Midwest is cheaper.
 - iii. Motion to go with Midwest security's proposal. M/S Rebekah/Denise. Emma-yes, Ashley-yes, Rebekah-yes, Melina-yes, Chasidi-yes, Denise-yes, Dawn-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passed.
6. School Director's report:
 - a. Personnel:

- i. Separations -
 1. EA, Abby Rees (effective 10/24/25)
 - a. Motion to accept Abby Rees separation. M/S Emma/Matt Emma-yes, Ashley-yes, Rebekah-yes, Melina-yes, Chasidi-yes, Denise-yes, Dawn-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passed.
 2. EA, Madelyn Harper (effective 11/21/25)
 - a. Motion to accept Madelyn Harper separation. M/S Emma/Matt Emma-yes, Ashley-yes, Rebekah-yes, Melina-yes, Chasidi-yes, Denise-yes, Dawn-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passed.
- ii. Hires -
 1. EA, Barry Trigo (start date 11/17/25)
 - a. Motion to accept the hire of Barry Trigo. M/S Denise/Chasidi. Emma-abstain, Ashley-yes, Rebekah-yes, Melina-yes, Chasidi-yes, Denise-yes, Dawn-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passed.
- b. Accept the amendments to the Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Engagement (CACR) Strategic Policy & Plan
 - i. It was called World's Best Workforce.
 - ii. The Executive Director completed it and updated it to reflect our goals with Osprey Wilds.
 - iii. We need to figure out the advisory committee.
 - iv. The plan with our goals and benchmarks. It is similar to our Annual report.
 - v. Motion to accept the Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Engagement Strategic Policy and Plan as written. M/S Rebekah/Matt Motion passed.
- c. Review the SY25 CACR Annual Summary Report and Public Meeting
 - i. If members of the school community are present, they may provide feedback about the CACR results and goals at this time
 - ii. We need to have this on the website. There are student and staff surveys. Our goals and if we met the goals are in it.
- d. Staff Survey Results
 - i. The results are very positive. More feedback and more willingness to share from the staff this fall.
 - ii. Surprised to see that rec should be shorter in the cold and wind. It can be tricky to schedule.
- e. After School Clubs
 - i. Art Club w/Ms. Laiken - starting in December
 1. Students in 2nd-4th grades, 2 times a month.
 - ii. Book Club w/Ms. Kara & Ms. Chasidi - starting after winter break
 1. There is a book rotation. Students in 3rd-6th grade.
 2. Make sure there are two adults in the club.
- f. Enrollment:

Enrollment Year End 2024-2025:

Current numbers for 2025-2026:

PK	19	PK	19
K	8	K	12
1	11	1	8

2	12	2	9
3	17	3	8
4	10	4	12
5	11	5	8
6	12	6	5
Total = 100 K-6 = 81 PreK = 19		Total = 81 K-6 = 62 PreK = 19	

7. Review board goals and Calendar

- a. [Board Goals 2025-2026](#)
- b. [Board Calendar:](#)

Current Month: NOVEMBER ☐ Review and accept the audit ☐ Moved to December ☒ Review Comprehensive Achievement & Civic Readiness (Due November 30) ☒ Review the annual policy review schedule Next Month: DECEMBER ☐ Review progress against contractual academic/environmental goals and outstanding obligations ☐ Move to February ☐ Check-in Board training ☐ Review co-curricular and extracurricular activities ☐ Review the annual policy review schedule

- c. There are checks for checking things off, if we don't do it then we will keep it on the agenda.
- d. Move the progress against contractual academic/environmental goals to February after we do the assessments.
- e. Board training email or give to the Executive Director to scan. A plan for what board training needs to happen annually.
- f. Annual policy review schedule to review all the policies before they are due.

8. Call to Order of Closed Session

- a. Confirmation that the meeting has been properly closed under Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 2(a) and § 121A.47, subd. 5 Motion to close the meeting under Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 2(a) and § 121A.47, subd. 5 M/S Rebekah/Dawn Emma-yes, Ashley-yes, Rebekah-yes, Chasidi-yes, Denise-yes, Dawn-yes, Matt-yes. Motion passed.
 - i. Roll call of board members and attendees allowed in closed session
 1. Chasidi Grant, Denise Belden, Dawn Snook, Matt Hastert, Emma Needham, Ashley Gangestad, Rebekah Kent-Ehlebrach, Kara DeVriendt
 2. Melina Kramer recused herself.

b. Statement of Purpose

- i. The chair summarizes that the closed session concerns a proposed pupil dismissal/expulsion and involves private educational data.
- ii. Motion to reopen the board meeting. M/S Rebekah/Denise. Chasidi-yes, Denise-yes, Dawn-yes, Matt-yes, Emma-yes, Ashley-yes, Rebekah-yes. Motion passed.

Next Board Meeting: December 18, 2025

Next Board Work Meeting: January 22, 2026

Meeting adjourned by Dawn at 6:03pm . M/S Emma/Denise. Motion passed.

Board minutes submitted by Ashley Gangestad