



Discovery Woods - District # 4198
Board of Directors Board Meeting
5:00-6:30 p.m. at 604 N 7th Street, Brainerd, MN 56401
Date: March 27, 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: Dawn Snook at 5:01 pm.

Present: Rebekah Kent-Ehlebracht , Dawn Snook, Ashley Gangestad, Matt Hastert , Emma Needham (arrived at 5:08)

Absent:

Ex-Officio: Kristi Crocker

Guests:

1. Board Training
 - a. [The Sounding Board #3 – Open Meeting Law, Part I](#)
 - b. [The Sounding Board #3 – Open Meeting Law, Part II](#)
2. Community Forum - (3 minutes)- No community members.
3. Minutes from Prior Meeting: [February 27, 2025](#)
 - a. Motion to approve with addition by Kristi Crocker. M/S Rebekah/Dawn Motion passed.
4. Old and/or Unfinished Business:
5. Financial report:
 - a. [February Financials](#) and [Supplement](#)
 - b. Motion to approve the financial report. M/S Rebekah/ Dawn Rebekah-yes, Matt-yes, Dawn-yes, Ashley-yes. Motion passed.
6. [MN Attorney General Office Filing - 990 and Charitable Organization and Annual Report Form](#)
 - a. Motion to approve the MN Attorney General Office Filing. M/S Rebekah/Dawn Rebekah-yes, Matt-yes, Dawn-yes, Ashley-yes. Motion passed.
7. School Director's report:
 - a. Staffing Changes:
 - i. New Hires
 1. Kori Sawyer - After Care

- a. Motion to approve hire of Kori Sawyer. M/S Rebekah/ Dawn
Rebekah-yes, Matt-yes, Dawn-yes, Ashley-yes. Motion passed.

ii. Resignations

1. Shawna Wester - After Care

- a. Motion to approve resignation of Shawn Wester. M/S Rebekah/
Dawn Rebekah-yes, Matt-yes, Dawn-yes, Ashley-yes. Motion passed.

2. Abbey Thurstin - Special Education Educational Assistant

- a. Motion to approve resignation of Abbey Thurstin. M/S Rebekah/
Dawn Rebekah-yes, Matt-yes, Dawn-yes, Ashley-yes. Motion passed.

3. Bonnie Hiemenz - Special Education Educational Assistant

- a. Motion to approve resignation of Bonnie Hiemenz. M/S Rebekah/
Dawn Rebekah-yes, Matt-yes, Dawn-yes, Ashley-yes. Motion passed.

b. Enrollment:

Current Enrollment 2024-2025:

Preliminary numbers for 2025-2026:

	PK	20		PK	14
	K	98		K	14
	1	11		1	8
	2	12		2	9
	3	18 17		3	9
	4	10		4	17
	5	11		5	6
	6	12		6	9
	Total = 103 101			Total = 86	
	K-6 = 83 81			K-6 = 72	
	PreK = 20			PreK = 14	

c. Other Updates:

- i. No new co-curricular or extracurricular activities
- ii. AmeriCorps announced we have been awarded the same positions:
 1. Early Learning Tutor - Maddie Anderson has accepted

2. Math Tutor K-3 - Mary Morris has accepted

3. Reading Tutor - Terry Ely has accepted

iii. State - possible education cuts

1. Nearly \$20 million in cuts to long-term facilities maintenance revenue for charter schools in FY26-27. (Permanently cutting charter access to LTFMR funding moving forward.) Charter schools currently receive \$132 per pupil since FY2016-17 which is a general fund revenue and can be used for “any purpose related to the general operations of the school.
2. Over \$21 million in cuts to special education tuition aid in the next biennium FY26-27—and growing to \$25 million the following biennium FY28-29. The state will be canceling state aid funding which is currently covering 10% of the charter school’s unreimbursed special education costs.
3. MDE budget book. (p.88 and p.90 – focus on the two charter school cuts)

iv. Building Purchase update

1. 5th Purchase Agreement Amendment - extended to April 30th
2. Application is back in state and local USDA rep is preparing the draft letter of conditions & final underwriting for approval consideration
3. Still looking at lighting grants and rebates.

v. DHS Complaint update

8. Review of Work Session: [March 20, 2025](#)

9. Authorizer Updates: No updates. Osprey Wilds is communicating with Creative Planning in regards to finance reporting.

10. Auditor selection: Schlenner Wenner & Co as our Auditor.

- a. Motion to accept. M/S Matt/Emma Rebekah-yes, Matt-yes, Emma-yes, Dawn-yes, Ashley-yes Motion passed.

11. [Annual Report Revisions](#)

- a. Motion to approve with changes by Kristi Crocker . M/S Rebekah/Emma Motion passed.

12. Review and Update Policies:

- a. 1.07: [Use of Technology in the Classroom Policy](#)
 - i. Motion to approve use of technology in the classroom in the classroom policy with the changes. M/S Rebekah/Dawn Motion passed.
- b. 2.07: [School Director Hiring and Evaluation Policy](#)
 - i. Motion to approve school director hiring and evaluation policy. M/S Rebekah/Dawn Motion passed.

13. Review board goals and Calendar

a. Board Goals:

- i.  Board Goals 2024-2025

b. Board Calendar:

- i.

MARCH • Select auditor - • Review employee survey - tabled until May • Policy review • Review co-curricular and extracurricular activities
APRIL • Review and approve preliminary enrollment and budget assumptions for next year. • Review the preliminary budget for next year • Review board member terms (anyone's seats up?) • Review progress against contractual academic/environmental goals and outstanding obligations • Policy review

Next Board Meeting: April 24, 2025

Next Board Work Meeting: April 17, 2025

Meeting adjourned by Emma at 6:10pm.

Board minutes submitted by Ashley Gangestad