

Vision: To empower all students with a STEM education which will help them reach their maximum potential and guide them to a promising and successful career.

Mission: To provide a high-quality, well-rounded education for K-12 students in Central Florida by incorporating innovative, proven, research-based instructional methods in a stimulating and nurturing environment which provides a special emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM), and Reading.

DISCOVERY EDUCATION SERVICES INC.,
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 30, 2025

5:30 PM

at Osceola Science Charter School

Schools:

Orlando Science Middle/High School
Orlando Science Elementary School
Orlando Science Charter School K-8
Seminole Science Charter School
Osceola Science Charter School

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda Items
3. Approval of Meeting Minutes - 12.05.2024
4. Principal's Report
5. Public Remarks
6. Board Member Remarks

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda Items

- A01. Request Approval of 2024-25 School Year Out-of-Field Teachers of Osceola Science Charter School (490181)

Acero, Marvin (ESOL) - Acharya, Pooja (ESOL) - Avin-Christian, Ashley (ESOL) - Baritogo, Ma. Vanessa (ESOL) - Baughman, Jennifer Leah Ann (ESOL) - Cenita, Maria Jessamae (ESOL) - Cherelus, Daphney (ESOL) - Cimen, Emine (ESOL, Elementary) - Durham, Veery (ESOL) - Eltanal, Jenilee Miranda (ESOL) - Fenton, Katie (ESOL) - Forrester, Tasha (ESOL) - Francois-Lormeus, Farah (ESOL, Elementary) - Fuentes, Raquel (ESOL) - Gandy, Jacob (ESOL) - Gonzalez, Yeilisse (ESOL) - Harrison, Cierra (ESOL) - Haughton, Patricia (ESOL) - Hopkins, Kari (ESOL) - Kafati, Carolina (ESOL) – Lowery, Kioka (Physical Ed.) - Machado, Miriam (ESOL, Elementary) - Manon, Jazmin (ESOL) - Parker, Deborah (ESOL) - Poniros, Mark - (ESOL, Elementary) - Quinones, Jasmine (ESOL) - Rivera Azpurua, Yahaira (ESOL) - Ruddock, Nefretitti (ESOL) - Saint Pierre, Samantha (ESOL, Elementary) - Singh, Karishma (ESOL) - Sousa, Patricia (ESOL) - Taylor, Sandra (ESOL) - Velez Gonzalez, Mildred (ESOL) - Velez Perez, Paulette (ESOL) - Walter, Tanya (ESOL) - Williams, Zykia (ESOL)

- A02. Request Approval of 2024-25 School Year Out-of-Field Teachers of Orlando Science Elementary Charter School (480200)

Bennett, Jamie (ESOL), Bermudez, Brandy (ESOL), Lamour, Vaniah (ESOL), Layher, Melissa (ESOL), MacAllister, Jennifer (ESOL), McGraw, Kaylin (ESOL), Nickerson, Lauren (ESOL), Patel, Krena (ESOL), Patsilevas, Caitlin (ESOL), Polejes, Carly (ESOL), Ramphal, Racquel (ESOL), Rodriguez, Katherine (ESOL), Vancol, Leigh Anne (ESOL), Wesemann, Terri (ESOL)

- A03. Request Approval of 2024-25 School Year Out-of-Field Teachers of Orlando Science Middle High Charter School (480089)

Grabek, Stephen (ESOL), Tomko, Laura (ESOL), Heaney, Tiffany (ESOL)

- A04. Request Approval of 2024-25 school year Out-of-Field teachers of Orlando Science Charter School K-8 (480103)

Awadalla, Madonna (ESOL), Cartagena, Valeria (ESOL), Christie, Arielle (ESOL), Clarke, Luiza (ESOL), Forte, Shantonie (ESOL), Gano, Jennifer (ESOL), Hoyle, Ashley (ESOL), Hren, Jenna (ESOL), Maze, Alexis (ESOL), Ortiz, Ingrid (ESOL), Richards, Michelle-Ann (ESOL/K-6), Roe, Raymond (ESOL)

Non-Consent Agenda Items

- A05. Request for Approval to Authorize Interim CEO and Board Chair to Sign Seminole Science Construction Contract with the Developer
- A06. Request for Approval to Authorize Interim CEO to Finalize 2025-26 SY Employee Contracts
- A07. Review of Interim CEO Contract
- A08. DES Brokerage Accounts
- A09. Anti-Poaching
- A10. Internal Search for CEO
- A11. Election of Officers
- A12. Board Member Nomination

INFORMATION

- I1. Interim CEO Updates
- I2. 2025-26 SY Staff Returning Survey
- I3. Q1 and Q2 Financials
- I4. Service Provider Updates

A10. Closure of the Meeting

Items Discussed and Voted by Governing Board Members:

Board Members Mr. Fortna, Dr. Brindala, Mr. Sabuncu and Mr. Colak attended in person. Dr. Yuksel attended online.

1. Call to Order

- Mr. Fortna called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda Items

- Dr. Yuksel requested that discussion items be moved to action items. Mr. Fortna consulted the board attorney for legal guidance who stated that changing the items on short notice is not recommended. This item was discussed among board members.
- Mr. Fortna explained his decision to remove the national CEO search from the agenda.
- Mr. Sabuncu outlined his reasons for nominating Mr. Akdeniz as a new board member.

- Mr. Fortna discussed the board member search and expressed his preference for a candidate residing in Osceola County.
- The voting results for each discussion item being moved to action items were as follows.
 - D01 to A10: Mr. Fortna (Nay), Mr. Sabuncu (Nay), Mr. Colak (Aye), Dr. Brindala (Aye), Dr. Yuksel (Aye)
 - D02 to A11: Mr. Fortna (Nay), Mr. Sabuncu (Nay), Mr. Colak (Aye), Dr. Brindala (Aye), Dr. Yuksel (Aye)
 - D03 to A12: Mr. Fortna (Nay), Mr. Sabuncu (Aye), Mr. Colak (Aye), Dr. Brindala (Nay), Dr. Yuksel (Aye)
- The discussion items were moved to action items, and the motion to approve the agenda was passed with a vote of 4 in favor and 1 opposed (Mr. Fortna).

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of 12/05/2024

- Dr. Brindala moved the motion to approve December 5th, 2024, meeting minutes. Dr. Yuksel seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Principal's Report

- Mr. Moon provided an update on recent activities at Osceola Science Charter School.

5. Public Remarks

- Board Attorney Shawn will prepare a policy for the public comment section of the board meeting.
- Mr. Zafer Demir shared some concerns about the short notice agenda items.

(Board meeting was paused at 6:43pm and resumed at 6:53pm)

6. Board Member Remarks

- Mr. Fortna acknowledged and highlighted several key events, including Choice Week, Literacy Week, Lunar New Year, congratulations to the OSS soccer championship team, first-semester award ceremonies, and the East Campus 6th Grade Science Fair.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda Items

A01. Request Approval of 2024-25 School Year Out-of-Field Teachers of Osceola Science Charter School (490181)

A02. Request Approval of 2024-25 School Year Out-of-Field Teachers of Orlando Science Elementary Charter School (480200)

A03. Request Approval of 2024-25 School Year Out-of-Field Teachers of Orlando Science Middle High Charter School (480089)

A04. Request Approval of 2024-25 school year Out-of-Field teachers of Orlando Science Charter School K-8 (480103)

- Mr. Sabuncu motion to approve the consent agenda in its entirety. Dr. Brindala seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Non-Consent Agenda Items

A05. Request for Approval to Authorize Interim CEO and Board Chair to Sign Seminole Science Construction Contract with the Developer

- Mr. Sabuncu moved to approve the motion, and Dr. Brindala seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

A06. Request for Approval to Authorize Interim CEO to Finalize 2025-26 SY Employee Contracts

- Dr. Yuksel provided suggestions regarding the salary scale. Mr. Sabuncu moved to approve the motion, and Dr. Brindala seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

A07. Review of Interim CEO Contract

- The title 'Executive Director' in the contract has been replaced with 'Interim CEO. Mr. Sabuncu moved to approve the motion, and Dr. Brindala seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

A08. DES Brokerage Accounts

- Dr. Brindala explained the item and suggested opening and maintaining a brokerage account for DES through a top firm, such as Fidelity, Vanguard, or Merrill. Dr. Brindala moved to approve the motion, and Dr. Yuksel seconded. The agenda item passed with a vote of 3 in favor and 2 opposed (Mr. Fortna and Mr. Sabuncu).
- The Board President, Mr. Fortna, has been authorized to sign the resolution. Dr. Brindala moved to approve the motion, and Dr. Yuksel seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

A09. Anti-Poaching

- Dr. Brindala explained the item, noting that a board resolution is in place. DSS should not hire any employee from DES without prior consensus. A formal discussion and agreement should take place before hiring any employee from DES. Dr. Brindala moved to approve the motion, and Dr. Yuksel seconded. The agenda item passed with a vote of 4 in favor and 1 opposed (Mr. Fortna).

A10. Internal Search for CEO

- Dr. Yuksel suggested creating a formal internal CEO search committee. Dr. Brindala and Dr. Yuksel volunteered to serve on the committee. Both DES and DSS will each nominate one individual to assist the committee with paperwork. Dr. Yuksel moved to approve the motion, and Dr. Brindala seconded. The agenda item passed with a vote of 4 in favor and 1 opposed (Mr. Sabuncu).

A11. Election of Officers

- The board members agreed that Mr. Fortna will continue as Board President and Mr. Sabuncu will continue as Vice President. No members volunteered for the Secretary position. Dr. Brindala moved to approve the motion, and Mr. Sabuncu seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

A12. Board Member Nomination

- Mr. Sabuncu moved to approve the appointment of Mr. Omer Akdeniz as a new board member, effective June 1st, replacing Dr. Yuksel. Mr. Colak seconded the motion. The agenda item passed with a vote of 3 in favor and 2 opposed (Mr. Fortna and Dr. Brindala).

A13. Closure of the Meeting

- Mr. Fortna moved to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. Brindala seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Fortna reminded everyone that the next scheduled board meeting is on April 3, 2025. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.