

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, April 3, 2025
5:30 PM
at Seminole 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 - 1.30.2025
4. Approval of Governing Board Workshop Minutes – 2.22.2025
5. Principal's Report
6. Public Remarks
7. Board Member Remarks

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda Items

- A01. Request Approval of 2024-25 fiscal year audit engagement letters of OSS, OSES, OSEC, SSCS, OPCS, Single Audit, and Tax form
- A02. Approval of OSS Lynx Campus Awning Recovery Project

Non-Consent Agenda Items

- A03. Approval of DES Corporation By-Laws revision
- A04. Approval of DES Board Meeting Procedures and Guidelines
- A05. Individual Board Member Signings of Conflict-of-Interest Form
- A06. Review and Approval (by the committee) of Minutes from CEO Search Committee Meeting on March 12, 2025
- A07. Discussion of CEO Search Committee Report, Questions to Committee Candidates, and Possible Action for CEO selection
- A08. Action for dissolution of CEO Search Committee

- A09. Discussion and Possible Action on Use of DES' Information Systems by DSS (Tallahassee Preparatory Academy – E-mail Communication)

Discussion Items

- D01. Discussion of DES Employment-Based Permanent Residency Sponsorship Program Guidelines

Information Items

- I01. Seminole Science New Campus Project
- I02. OSGS Parking Lot Improvement Update
- I03. Proposed 2025-26 SY Board Meeting Calendar
- I04. Possible Disney Litigation impacts on Orange County schools

A10. Closure of the Meeting

Items Discussed and Voted by Governing Board Members:

Board Members Mr. Fortna, Dr. Brindala, Dr. Yuksel and Mr. Colak (arrived at 5:45pm) attended in person. Mr. Sabuncu attended online.

1. Call to Order

- Mr. Fortna called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda Items

- Dr. Yuksel moved to approve the revision of the DES Corporation bylaws as a discussion item. There was no second, the motion did not carry.
- Dr. Yuksel recommended moving agenda item A03 as a discussion item since he did not have enough time to review the item documents since the documents were made available only one day before the meeting. Mr. Fortna said that all the items were reviewed during the workshop on 2.22.2025, which was attended by two board members. Dr. Brindala moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Fortna seconded it. The motion approved by majority vote. Dr. Brindala, Mr. Fortna and Mr. Sabuncu said yes, and Dr. Yuksel no.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes of 1/30/2025

- Mr. Fortna asked to change the word "search" in item A12 to "nomination & approval" in the meeting minutes. Dr. Brindala moved the motion with this change and Dr. Yuksel seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Approval of Governing Board Workshop Minutes – 2.22.2025

- The motion was moved by Mr. Sabuncu and seconded by Mr. Fortna. Only committee members participated in the voting process. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Principal's Report

- Mr. Aksu provided an update on recent activities at Seminole Science Charter School.

6. Public Remarks

- No public remarks.

7. Board Member Remarks

- No board member remarks.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent Agenda Items

A01. Request Approval of 2024-25 fiscal year audit engagement letters of OSS, OSES, OSEC, SSCS, OSCI, Single Audit, and Tax form.

A02. Approval of OSS Lynx Campus Awning Recovery Project.

- Mr. Aksu presented items A01 and A02. Dr. Yuksel moved to approve the consent agenda in its entirety. Dr. Brindala seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Non-Consent Agenda Items

A03. Approval of DES Corporation By-Laws revision

- Dr. Brindala moved to approve the motion. Mr. Fortna seconded it. Dr. Brindala and Mr. Fortna voted in favor; Dr. Yuksel, Mr. Colak, and Mr. Sabuncu voted against. The motion failed by majority vote.
- The board members agreed to hold a special meeting on April 9, 2025, to review and approve the revision of the bylaws.

A04. Approval of DES Board Meeting Procedures and Guidelines

- Yuksel asked to change “Sciences” in the title with “Services”, to remove the word “individually” from (1)(a), and remove “within the district” from (2).
- Yuksel moved to approve the revised document. The motion was seconded by Dr. Brindala. The motion was approved unanimously.

A05. Individual Board Member Signings of Conflict-of-Interest Form

- Mr. Fortna moved to table agenda item A05 to the May 15 meeting. Dr. Yuksel seconded the motion. Dr. Yuksel, Mr. Fortna, Mr. Colak, and Mr. Sabuncu voted in favor; Dr. Brindala voted against. The motion was approved by majority vote.

A06. Review and Approval (by the committee) of Minutes from CEO Search Committee Meeting on March 12, 2025.

- The motion was moved by Dr. Brindala and seconded by Dr. Yuksel. Only the committee members voted in the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

A07. Discussion of CEO Search Committee Report, Questions to Committee Candidates, and Possible Action for CEO selection

- Mr. Colak stated that he did not have enough time to review the committee reports. Dr. Brindala moved to move agenda item A07 to the next board meeting on May 15, 2025. Mr. Fortna seconded the motion. Dr. Brindala, Mr. Colak, and Mr. Fortna voted in favor; Mr. Sabuncu and Dr. Yuksel voted against. The motion was approved by majority vote.

A08. Action for dissolution of CEO Search Committee

- The motion was moved by Dr. Brindala and seconded by Mr. Fortna. The motion was approved unanimously.

A09. Discussion and Possible Action on Use of DES' Information Systems by DSS (Tallahassee Preparatory Academy – E-mail Communication)

- Board members expressed their concerns regarding the email sent to families of Discovery Education Services about the opening of Tallahassee Preparatory Academy. Board members elaborated that DES' resources can be used by DSS staff only for serving the needs of DES. Since DSS is a for-profit entity, DES attorney also emphasized that there could be legal challenges in using a non-profit institution's resources for an for-profit entity. DSS representatives apologized for not fully considering the concerns raised by the board members and gave assurances that such use of DES' information systems and resources for the benefit of DSS will not happen again.

Discussion Items

D01. Discussion of DES Employment-Based Permanent Residency Sponsorship Program Guidelines

- Mr. Aksu explained the need for the DES Employment-Based Permanent Residency Sponsorship Program Guidelines. Board members expressed their support for the program.

Information Items

I01. Seminole Science New Campus Project

- Mr. Aksu provided an update to board members on the Seminole Science Expansion Project. The next key step in the project is the Seminole County Board of Commissioners meeting on May 13th for PD rezoning approval.

I02. OSCS Parking Lot Improvement Update

- Mr. Aksu provided an update to board members on the status of the already approved parking lot improvement project at OSCS.

I03. Proposed 2025-26 SY Board Meeting Calendar

- All board members agreed with the proposed calendar. Dr. Brindala requested that Mr. Aksu share the calendar with the new board member, Mr. Akdeniz, to ensure he is also in agreement.

I04. Possible Disney Litigation impacts on Orange County schools

- Our Orange County schools received a letter from OCPS regarding potential impacts from ongoing Disney-related litigation. Specifically, there is a possibility that, depending on the outcome of the case, local governments including OCPS, may be required to pay back previously received funds if certain tax or funding arrangements are ruled invalid. At this time, the situation remains uncertain, but we are monitoring it closely and will keep the board informed of any developments that could affect school funding or operations.

A13. Closure of the Meeting

- Dr. Yuksel moved to adjourn the meeting and Dr. Brindala seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.