

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, August 17, 2023

5:30 PM

at Orlando Science Middle/High Charter School at Lynx Campus

Schools:

Orlando Science Middle/High School

Orlando Science Elementary School

Seminole Science Charter School

Osceola Science Charter School

### AGENDA

1. **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. David Fortna at 5:32 PM.

2. **Approval of Agenda Items:**

Dr. Yuksel moved to approve the agenda items. Mr. Colak seconded the motion, and all items were approved unanimously.

3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes of 05.23.2023:**

The minutes from the previous meeting on May 23, 2023, were reviewed by the board. Dr. Yuksel moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Colak seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

4. **Principal's Report:**

Principal Santos presented the Lynx campus student enrollment numbers, competitive clubs, sports teams, and enrichment clubs. She particularly highlighted the new Civics and Debate clubs. She also noted that the campus had a positive start to the school year, and everything is progressing smoothly.

5. **Public Remarks:**

No public remarks were made.

### **PRESENTATION:**

#### **P 01. Cognia Systemwide Accreditation:**

Mrs. Amanda Monahan presented on Cognia Systemwide Accreditation. The board asked questions and discussed the presentation, including accreditation framework and timeline.

#### **P 02. Strategic Plan:**

Mrs. Amanda Monahan also presented the Strategic Plan. The board reviewed and discussed the plan and decided it will be presented for approval at the October 5, 2023, board meeting. The board will provide their feedback one week prior to the October 5 board meeting.

### **ACTION ITEMS:**

**A 01. Request Approval of Discovery Education Services Inc., 2023-24 Employee Handbook:**

Dr. Yuksel asked about the revisions compared to last year's employee handbook. Dr. Akin pointed out changes based on the schools' experiences. Dr. Yuksel moved to approve the motion, Mr. Colak seconded it, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**A 02. Request Approval of OSS, OSES, SSCS, and OSCS 2023-24 Student Handbooks:**

The student handbooks were presented to the board. Dr. Yuksel inquired about the revisions compared to last year's student handbooks. Dr. Akin pointed out some changes based on each school's experience. Mr. Sabuncu moved to approve the motion, Mr. Colak seconded it, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**A 03. Request Approval of OSS, OSES, SSCS, and OSCS budgets:**

The budgets were reviewed by the board. Board members asked their questions, and Mr. Celik and Dr. Akin answered the questions. Dr. Yuksel moved to approve the motion, Mr. Colak seconded it, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**A 04. Request Approval of School Security Officer Service Agreement with EGPS for OSCS and OSES:**

The School Security Agreements were reviewed by the board. Dr. Yuksel moved to approve the motion, Mr. Colak seconded it, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**A 05. Request Approval to authorize the Board Chair and Executive Director to execute opening documents of OSS K-8 Charter School:**

Dr. Akin explained the progress of opening of the K-8 campus in August 2024, which requires engagement with third parties, including insurance paperwork and campus lease agreement. Board members engaged in a discussion about the timeline and projected number of students of the new school and personnel hiring timeline. Mr. Sabuncu moved to approve the motion, Mr. Colak seconded it, and the motion was approved unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATES**

**ED 01. ED Updates**

- The new school year was prepared for by conducting the New Teacher Summer Institute in the last week of July. This program was designed to support both recent college graduates entering the teaching profession and educators new to our system.
- The commencement of the new school year is eagerly anticipated, with expectations for a productive and positive academic year filled with accomplishments.
- Official pre-planning activities were initiated on August 2nd.
- The first day of school for students occurred on August 10th.
- It is reported that a successful start was achieved on all our campuses. Notably, the high school's 2nd-floor renovation and Lynx campus lobby renovation projects have been completed. There remain a few minor items to be addressed in the Lynx campus lobby project, which will not disrupt regular operations.
- Presently, around 3900 students are served across four schools and five campuses.
- It is noted that the overview, which is part of the board package, has been updated to reflect these recent developments.
- Spring Compliance Letters for OSS and OSES have been received, with both being rated "A" according to the district/state's compliance reporting system.
- Accountability reports are required to be submitted to the Florida Department of Education. The submitted reports can be found in the board package.

- Progress is being made on the audit of the schools as scheduled.
- Progress is being observed in the realm of Cognia Systemwide Accreditation and STEM Certification. Participation in Cognia's pilot program for Systemwide STEM certification is ongoing, with the aim of becoming the first school systemwide STEM-certified institution. Significant effort has been expended by our team to ensure a successful process. It is firmly believed that the strategic plan will drive the institution into another phase of excellence. The external team's review process is set to commence in February, during which they will meet with board members and other stakeholders.
- Advancements are being made in our expansion plans for Seminole Science and Orlando Science K-8 Schools. Engineers and surveyors are actively engaged in their tasks, and the commencement of the traffic study for Seminole Science is imminent. Finalization of site plan options is underway, and discussions with our lender regarding borrowing options are in progress.

These updates provide insight into our current progress and the exciting developments that lie ahead for our schools.

Mr. Fortna asked Dr. Akin about the upcoming charter renewal of Osceola Science Charter School. Dr. Akin explained the process and mentioned that the school is fully prepared for the renewal as a high-performing charter school.

Mr. Fortna also highlighted the upcoming Florida Governance Conference for charter schools in Jacksonville. The event is sponsored by Building Hope, and there is no registration fee.

#### **I 01. Board Workshop**

The Board Workshop is scheduled tentatively on October 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:30 am with the board members and board attorney Mr. Shawn Arnold.

#### **I 02. Organizational Charter – DES**

Dr. Akin presented the current organizational chart of DES and the Central Office. Mr. Fortna ask the names of the Directors. Dr. Akin provided the information.

#### **A 06. Closure of the Meeting:**

- Dr. Yuksel moved to approve the closure of the meeting. Mr. Colak seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

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David Fortna, Board Chair

Date: \_\_\_\_\_