

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 SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, October 30, 2025

5:30 PM

at Orlando Science Middle/High School – Lynx Campus

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. Public Remarks
4. Board Member Remarks

ACTION ITEMS

Non-Consent Agenda Items

- A01. Approval of DES Election of Directors and Officers Policy
- A02. Approval of the draft response to the OCPS letter

5. Closure of the Meeting

Items Discussed and Voted by Governing Board Members:

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

1. Call to Order

- Mr. Fortna called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda Items

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

3. Public Remarks

- Mr. Adil Beroual, parent of two children attend Orlando Science Elementary made a public remark. He expressed concerns regarding alleged Sunshine Law violations related to a board member election held on January 30, 2025, and called for a fair and transparent process. He thanked two board members for recognizing the issue and voting against the action. He also raised concerns about some board members declining to sign the Conflict-of-Interest Policy and affirmation letter at the August 21, 2025 meeting, stating that this created doubt about transparency and accountability.
- Mr. Zafer Demir, DSS service provider employee, made a public remark. He reminded the board that he was able to talk against the rushed decision in January and he does not believe their action violated anyone's right to be heard since the board does not publish the agenda and the change did not affect anyone especially if they did not attend the meeting. He also said that the error does not negate the election and suggesting otherwise puts doubt on Mr. Colak and Dr. Brindala's election as well. He suggested that they should consider letting the court process decide whether the election should stand or not.

4. Board Member Remarks

- Mr. Akdeniz reminded all attendees of the recently adopted Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy, which has been signed by all board members. He also stated that he is proud to serve on the governing board. He also mentioned about a contract awarded to a third party consulting company, YSBL LLC for the 24-25 school year.
- Dr. Brindala stated that COI is not an issue.
- Board attorney Mr. Arnold commented on the COI policy, noting that he and Mr. Akdeniz met to revise the policy and that the revisions have strengthened it.

ACTION ITEMS

Non-Consent Agenda Items

A01. Approval of DES Election of Directors and Officers Policy

- Board attorney Shawn Arnold made some comments on the policy. Dr. Brindala moved to approve DES election of directors and officers policy. Mr. Akdeniz seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

A02. Approval of the draft response to the OCPS letter

- Board members discussed key concerns and provided related comments. Board attorney Mr. Arnold presented the proposed letter and assisted board members by answering their questions. The board then discussed possible actions in response to the OCPS letter (do nothing, redo January vote, or vote on the vacancy where others may be nominated), and the letter was finalized. Dr. Brindala requested that Mr. Aksu send out a board member interest survey to the school community from November 7th to November 21st to gather data and share the results with the board prior to the December 4th meeting.
- Mr. Sabuncu requested adding an action item to the next board meeting agenda to vote on amending the bylaws to increase the number of board members to seven.
- Dr. Brindala requested adding the following action items to the next board meeting agenda: approval of the revised bylaws, and review and vote on board candidates.

5. Closure of the Meeting

- The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.