Discovery Charter School

1100 Camino Biscay
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Board of Directors
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 15, 2026
5:30pm
Auditorium

MINUTES

I. Opening Procedures

A. Call to Order at: 5:30pm

B. Roll Call
Members Present: Rochelle Carroll, Morgan Appel, Sara Roa, Priya Naidu

Members Absent: Graciela Flores

Others Present: Neil MacGaffey, Erika Alamo, Sarah Hughes, Rubi Palomares

C. Pledge of Allegiance led by Miguel Ley Sainz

D. Grade Level Presentation: 2nd Grade

- Second grade teachers and a group of their students presented to the Board. The teachers began by introducing themselves, followed by students sharing information about their current unit of study. Students discussed their participation in Grandparents Day, including what they learned about the importance of grandparents across different cultures and in their own lives, as well as the history and significance of the celebration. The presentation concluded with the students performing a song titled *"You Are Our Grandparents."*

II. Approve Agenda (Action)

Motion: Appel *Second: Roa* *Vote: UNANIMOUS*

III. Approve Minutes from the August 18, 2026 Regular Board Meeting (Action)

Motion: Naidu *Second: Appel* *Vote: UNANIMOUS*

IV. Approve Minutes from the August 25, 2026 Special Board Meeting (Action)

Motion: Roa *Second: Naidu* *Vote: UNANIMOUS*

V. Public Comment: Persons wishing to address the Board of Directors on any item on the agenda or non-agenda items should do so during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. No action or discussion shall be undertaken by the Board of Directors on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. Speakers are requested to limit their comments to no more than five (5) minutes.

A. Public Comment – Items on the Agenda - None

B. **Public Comment – Items not on the Agenda** – Corey Curtis, parent, addressed the Board regarding transportation services. He shared that he is a regular user of the school's bus service and referenced comments made at the previous Board meeting about transportation. Mr. Curtis encouraged the school to increase community awareness of the bus program and its benefits before considering any reductions to the service.

VI. Executive Director's Report (Information/Report)

- Mr. MacGaffey shared highlights from recent classroom observations, including exemplary artwork created by a fifth-grade student during a unit on the Aztecs. He emphasized the value of the school's visual and performing arts programs, noting that art serves as a powerful equalizer by providing all students with opportunities to express themselves and succeed.
- Mr. MacGaffey reported on the recent PTC Fun Night, describing it as a well-attended event that brought students and families together and strengthened the school community. He also shared that the PTC Book Fair was taking place during the week and continues to be a popular event that students look forward to each year.
- Spring 2026 assessment results were presented, including four-year trends for CAASPP ELA, Mathematics, and CAST Science, as well as local assessment data from Achieve and i-Ready. Mr. MacGaffey noted a decline greater than 3% overall in performance; however, Dual Immersion students continued to perform exceptionally well. Science results remained strong, with the school ranking third in the district. He also highlighted positive outcomes for English Learners, including a significant number of students reclassifying, and recognized the academic success of fifth- and sixth-grade students.
- Mr. MacGaffey shared that the Be Kind initiative remains a strong and impactful program and will continue during the current school year. He identified students with disabilities, low-income students, and students performing below grade level as key

areas for continued growth and support. Writing has been established as a schoolwide instructional focus.

- Four teachers are participating in GLAD professional development training this year. Additional areas of focus include strengthening teamwork and collaboration among staff, increasing students' understanding of rubrics and expectations, and reinforcing foundational writing skills to support the schoolwide instructional goal.
- Mr. MacGaffey noted that Discovery is collaborating with the district's other charter schools to share ideas, strategies, and best practices around common areas of focus and continuous improvement.
- Mr. MacGaffey and Mrs. Alamo engaged in a discussion with the Board regarding instructional practices in Dual Immersion and English-Only classrooms. The conversation centered on identifying effective strategies used in Dual Immersion classrooms and exploring ways to replicate those practices in English-Only settings to help close achievement gaps and improve student outcomes.

VII. Approve Consent Calendar (Action)

All items listed under the Consent Calendar are considered by the Board to be one action. There will be no discussion on these items prior to the time the Board votes on the motion unless members of the Board request specific items to be discussed and/or removed from the Consent Calendar.

A. Approve Drama Club Fundraising Request

Purpose of Fundraiser: To support future Drama Club productions by generating funds for costumes, set pieces, props, technical equipment, and other production-related expenses. Drama Club will be selling show tickets and star grams for Finding Nemo Jr.
Dates: November 16, 2026 – December 5, 2026
Description of Fundraiser Discovery's Drama Club will raise funds through ticket sales for its production of Finding Nemo Jr. Tickets will be sold online through the OnStage ticketing platform. Supporters may also purchase commemorative merchandise, including shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, and mugs, and make optional donations. Concessions and Star Grams will be available for purchase prior to each performance. Proceeds will be used to support future Drama Club productions and related program needs.

B. Approve Drama Club Fundraising Request

Purpose of Fundraiser: To support future Drama Club productions by generating funds for costumes, set pieces, props, technical equipment, and other production-related expenses. Drama Club will be selling show tickets and star grams for High School Musical Jr.
Dates: April 26, 2027 – May 15, 2027
Description of Fundraiser Discovery's Drama Club will raise funds through ticket sales for its production of High School Musical Jr. Tickets will be sold online through the OnStage ticketing platform. Supporters may also purchase commemorative merchandise, including shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, and mugs, and make optional donations. Concessions and Star Grams will be available for purchase prior to each performance.

Proceeds will be used to support future Drama Club productions and related program needs.

C. **Approve 6th Grade Student Fundraising Request with Amended Dates**
Purpose of Fundraiser: To raise funds so families can help cover the cost for 6th Grade Camp.
Dates: September 8, 2026 through September 12th, 2026
Description of Fundraiser: Sell commercially prepared popcorn through Double Good Popcorn's online sales. Students can earn 50% of the proceeds from their sales to put towards their 6th grade camp balance.

D. **Approve 7th Grade Field Trip to Linda Vista Innovation Center (LVIC)**
Location: SDCOE, LVIC Lab
Dates: 3 visits in total, one per Quarter: 9/3/26, 10/8/26 & 1/14/27
Rationale: Opportunity for 7th graders to be exposed to the Innovation Stations the County has to offer for learning and career exploration experiences. The program develops student awareness of career pathways through experiential learning and industry collaboration to strengthen workforce readiness by integrating RIASEC rotations and real-world problem solving. 56 seventh grade students are set to attend
Total Cost: $3,300 not to exceed $3,500
Funding Source: Unrestricted Charter Funds

Motion: Appel *Second: Roa* *Vote: UNANIMOUS*

VIII. Approve Expanded Learning Opportunity Program (ELOP) Plan for 2026-2029

(Action)

Motion: Roa *Second: Naidu* *Vote: UNANIMOUS*

IX. Approve Prop 28: Arts & Music in Schools Funding Report for Fiscal Year 2026-27

(Action)

Background Information: On November 8, 2022, California voters approved Proposition 28: The Arts and Music in Schools (AMS) Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act. The measure required the State to establish a new, ongoing program supporting arts instruction in schools beginning in 2023-24. Discovery is projected to receive approximately $112,000 for 2026-27 and is using those funds to pay for most of the salary and benefits of our Theatre Teacher. Attached for the Board, is the 2025-26 Proposition 28 Annual Report.

Motion: Appel *Second: Naidu* *Vote: UNANIMOUS*

X. Approve Student Support Professional Development Block Grant Plan for Fiscal Years 2026-2029 (Action)

Background Information: In 2025-2026, State of California passed Section 81 of Assembly Bill (AB) 121 (Chapter 8, Statutes of 2025) which authorized Student Support and Professional Development Discretionary Block Grant (SSPDBG) funds. Discovery received $286,206 in SSPDBG funds that can be spent between 2026 - 2029 school years. The funds are intended for discretionary purposes, which include professional development, teacher retention strategies and addressing rising costs. Attached for the Board is the 2026-2029 SSPDBG Expenditures Plan.

Motion: Appel *Second: Roa* *Vote: UNANIMOUS*

XI. Approve i-Ready Reading and Math Online Curriculum (Action)

Rationale: Approval is requested for the 2026-27 renewal of the i-Ready Reading and Math online curriculum and assessment program provided by Curriculum Associates. The license will serve approximately 800-1,200 students and includes access to Teacher Toolbox instructional resources.

Total Cost: $40,000, not to exceed $41,000.

Funding Source: Restricted Lottery

Motion: Roa *Second: Appel* *Vote: UNANIMOUS*

XII. Approve Revised Board Policy Professional Boundaries: Adult/Student Interaction (Action)

Rationale: Approval is requested for revisions reflecting updated legal requirements and guidance on this policy. The revised policy incorporates required regulatory updates and establishes clear expectations for maintaining professional boundaries between adults and students.

Motion: Naidu *Second: Appel* *Vote: UNANIMOUS*

XIII. Board Announcements

- Mrs. Naidu thanked Mr. MacGaffey for his reports and expressed appreciation for his reflections on the Fine Arts program and the Be Kind campaign. She noted that these initiatives help develop well-rounded students and also commended the school's positive assessment results.
- Dr. Appel shared his appreciation for the Grandparents Day presentation and reflected on fond memories of his own grandfather. He also expressed his support for Discovery's commitment to multilingualism and language learning.
- Mrs. Roa expressed appreciation for the variety of programs offered at Discovery, particularly the Fine Arts program. She noted that these opportunities allow students

to discover their talents and strengths, which is an important part of their educational experience. She also thanked Mr. MacGaffey for the information provided during his report.

- President Carroll thanked Mr. MacGaffey for presenting the student achievement data and commended his thoughtful reflection on areas for continued growth and improvement. She echoed the importance of providing students with opportunities to discover and develop their unique gifts, expressed enthusiasm for the school year ahead, and thanked the teachers in attendance for their dedication and commitment to students.

XIV. Adjournment (Action)

- A motion was made by President Carroll to adjourn the meeting at 6:26pm

Motion: Roa *Second: Naidu* *Vote: UNANIMOUS*

The next regular meeting of the Discovery Charter School Board of Directors will be on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 5:30pm.

Rochelle Carroll, Board President

Neil MacGaffey, Secretary to the Board