



# Discovery Charter School

Receiver Meeting

Meeting Minutes

---

John Haynal, Receiver of Discovery Charter School, conducted a public meeting on Tuesday, October 24, 2017 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Hillpointe Campus, 3883 Mesa Vista Way, Las Vegas, NV 89120.

DISCOVERY CHARTER SCHOOL RECEIVER JOHN HAYNAL WAS PRESENT.

DISCOVERY CHARTER SCHOOL STAFF PRESENT:

Dr. Deniece Nohara  
Mrs. Amanda Kettleon  
Johnny Marin

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:02pm by Receiver John Haynal.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by students of Discovery Charter School.
3. **Public Comments #1-**Dawn Boutellier spoke regarding her issues with Discovery Charter School and why her family chose to leave. Monika Boros spoke about her issues with Discovery Charter School and why her family chose to leave. Sterling Peterson shared his appreciation for Discovery and staff. Jennifer Wilgar spoke about her experience at Discovery this year and that it has been wonderful. Tasey Shaul spoke about her children's positive experiences this year and how the changes made this year have been great. Hashem Karoum thanked the administration and staff for the changes made. Todd Shaul spoke about the changes that have occurred this year and how they were inevitable if we intended to stay open. Chai Tetirick spoke about his request for transparency and that Discovery Charter School follow the rules required under the laws of Nevada ensuring transparency.
4. **Acknowledgment of Discovery Board Meeting minutes of June 22, 2017.** Receiver Haynal acknowledged the Draft Minutes from the Discovery Governing Board meeting that took place on June 22, 2017. Receiver Haynal stated that he was not a member of Discovery's Board. Copies of the Draft Minutes were available on the school's website and at the meeting for everyone to review.
5. **Reports-**
  - a. **Welcome and Introduction of Receiver John Haynal-** Receiver Haynal discussed that one of the biggest misunderstandings could be that he is perceived as being the

principal of Discovery Charter School. He explained that he is a court appointed Receiver with other responsibilities. Receiver Haynal explained his compensation terms that were included in the Receivership Order. Receiver Haynal announced that Dr. Deniece Nohara and Mrs. Amanda Kettleson are the administrators for Discovery Charter.

- b. Current Fiscal Year '18 Budget-** Receiver Haynal announced that as of October 23, 2017 Discovery's checking account contained \$163,657. There will be carry over into the month of November which will be more than a sufficient amount to start with. Receiver Haynal also announced the addition of a Special Education Services account. This account was started with \$27,000 and so far \$3,000 has been spent towards a school psychologist for testing and a school SIEF. The funds in this account are used specifically for special education services. Receiver Haynal announced that he placed \$240,000 in a savings account for year end use as Discovery works towards finding a larger facility to replace our Henderson campus.
- c. Current Enrollment of Discovery Charter School-** Receiver Haynal requested Dr. Nohara update attendees regarding enrollment. Dr. Nohara stated that current enrollment at both campuses is 377. Currently at the Hillpointe campus enrollment is at 236 and Mesa is at 141. This is a decline from enrollment on August 23, 2017 which was 403.
- d. Staffing Trends and Class Size Ratios-**Receiver Haynal asked Mrs. Kettleson to report on this. Mrs. Kettleson reported that class sizes in the middle school grades are in the mid 20's. Hillpointe Kindergarten is at 25 and Mesa Kindergarten is at 18. Mesa 1st and 2nd grade is sitting at 17 and 18. In conclusion we are in the upper teens for K-5 and in the mid 20's for middle school. Receiver Haynal explained the hold harmless status for monies received from State.
- e. School wide math and reading student program using the i-ready and ST Math curriculum-**Dr. Nohara reported that the iReady program was purchased for 1st-8th grade to address the reading foundational skills which are phonic and phonemic awareness. Kinder will be using the iReady program for math only. We have also purchased Haggarty Phonemic Awareness and Reading Eggs for our K-1 students. ST Math was purchased for students in K-8. We rolled it out two weeks ago with the middle school students at Mesa and the 4th/5th blend at Hillpointe. The reason for the limited roll out is we had a designated teacher at each campus who was familiar with the program. We like to have them run the program, work out any logistical kinks before we roll out to the rest of the staff. Last week all students in 1-8 worked through ST Math. Students like it. Middle schoolers are pleased with the program and we will continue using it. We have incentives built into the ST Math as well. Mrs. Kettleson discussed the IReady diagnostic data. Mrs. Kettleson reported that overall in reading 34% of our students are at grade level, 34% of our students are at one grade level below and students at risk (two grade levels and below) is at 31%. Reading is our strongest area. In math we have 20% at grade level, 48% at one grade level below and 30-31% of our students at two or more

grade levels below. In November we will conduct growth monitoring to see how students are progressing. Mrs. Kettleson shared that when students take the IReady diagnostic tests it accesses them on all standards they should have had up to that point. We can see from reports any gaps. We can see back into kinder standards for a fourth grader and determine where any gaps are. This is a great tool for teachers. We just started ST Math and do not have any data at this time. Receiver Haynal added that ST Math was a solid acquisition. It's a non-linguistic math application program. It gives students the opportunity to grow two grade levels. Receiver Haynal also recommended that each night students read for a half hour and work on these programs.

- f. School wide Science and Writing student progress using Foss and Thinking Maps curriculum-**Dr. Nohara reported that for writing we are focusing this year on Thinking Maps which is not specific to writing, it is applicable across all content areas, and that really builds the students cognitive skills. It teaches the student how to organize information, how to compare and contrast, and how to classify. These are all important skills, not just in writing but in reading, math and science. Just like all of our other curriculum we have identified a lead teacher. That is something we typically do because we believe in number one, empowering the teacher but also to provide that professional development from someone who is familiar with the curriculum and is using it everyday in the classroom. Last Friday, all of our teachers and specialists, including PE, received training in Thinking Maps. We were pleased to walk through classrooms on Monday and see bubble maps and circle maps being used. Teachers are enthusiastic about this program which will help build on our foundational writing skills. In Primary grades you will see early writing skills such as constructing a sentence and moving on to one, three and five paragraph essays. In science we have purchased FOSS kits for all grade levels. Discovery has kits at each campus. Once teachers complete a kit they will switch them across campus. FOSS (Full Option Science System) kits come with all of the tools necessary for students to engage in science exploration and experiments.
- g. Options for Athletics for Elementary School Students and Middle School Students-**Coach Johnny Marin reported the completion of our Cross Country season. He spent time with the students and the coaches, the overall review of the season was awesome. Coach Johnny thanked Mrs. Caballero and Mr. Espinoza for taking on the cross country teams. We had a Discovery student make all star ranking. Coach Johnny announced that basketball season will begin the first week in December. An informational meeting is scheduled for those interested in playing basketball to sign up. Coach Johnny asked if anyone knows of facilities to conduct basketball practice in please share that information with him. Coach Johnny wanted parents to be aware that the league we play for is not our league, we are part of the Nevada Charter Sports League. We do not set the schedule or determine the locations, so please bear with us as you have done in the past.

- h. Extra-Curricular Activities**-Receiver Haynal reported that there was insufficient funding to provide Drones and Lego Robotics. Receiver Haynal announced that we will be writing grants to acquire those programs. Receiver Haynal announced that Discovery is still an approved school for the Facebook Project Based Learning and a team will be traveling to California for training. The biggest shift we are making is that teachers are going to a growth mindset vs a fixed mindset. This model focuses on a shift in language, complimenting students on their effort and encourages students to take risks.
  - i. National Honor Society Chapter**-Receiver Haynal reported that we will be adding a National Elementary Honor Society Chapter. The elementary charter will start first and then it will follow up with the Junior Honor Society for middle school students. There are only sixteen chapters of the National Elementary Honor Society in Nevada. Mrs. Wilbourne and Mrs. Ongbongan will be in charge of the screening process and we will need parents help to do this. We will also need the help of our parents to plan the induction ceremony.
  - j. Start up of Parent Advisory Group**-Receiver Haynal announced that email requests will be accepted for those interested in participating in the Parent Advisory Committee.
6. **Public Comments #2**- Rikki Garate Poll spoke about her concerns regarding transparency and communication and feels that parents are not being heard. Speaker, Sandy Hakans, opted out. Mary Jacobs spoke about the positive changes with communication from administration and that she encourages additional training for new teachers on how to communicate with parents and work with parents volunteering in the classroom. Dawn Boutellier spoke about the amount of students leaving Discovery says a lot about the culture. Dawn shared why she is upset with the principal and why she is glad she left Discovery. Erin Fox spoke about her two girls that attend Discovery that are very happy here. Chai Tetrick spoke about the positive things he heard during the meeting. He is however confused that there is no supporting documents for anything.
7. **Adjournment**- 7:05pm