

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL Community Meeting MINUTES

January 16, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Carl Sandburg Lower Building

The meeting commenced at 6:35 PM.

WELCOME - Shannon

- ♦ New Start Time for Steering Meetings ~ 6:30 pm ~ effective as of February meeting (January 31st!) Shannon reminded the community that all are welcome to attend Steering Meetings.

PRINCIPAL/VP REPORT - Toby

Toby shared that he was pleased with the attendance on the recent "late-start" snow day. He continues to appreciate the open communication and dialogue between parents and staff.

TEACHER'S REPORT - Monica

Monica shared pictures from the December 6th grade Outdoor Ed excursion. Studies included salmon observation, a survival course, and small farming techniques.

PARENT EDUCATION: Focus for this month is the math curriculum. The Olders focus on decimals, fractions and percentages. They are encouraged to understand the connection between these 3 entities, and learn to convert one to another, e.g. convert decimals to percentages. Students need to show their work and demonstrate their understanding with pictures or words.

- **Carol** gave a brief overview of the recent Native American simulation project in the Middles class. The students have been going through a "time tunnel" to study the history of WA State coastal and plateau Native Americans. A learning journey to Olympia is planned for 2/26/08 to study Washington State legislature.

PARENT EDUCATION: The Middles math curriculum emphasizes multiplication. They focus on different strategies for addition and conceptualizing problems vs. the traditional algorithms. They also utilize mental math techniques.

- **Diane** shared about the science unit on bugs in the Youngers. There is a "Bug Safari" learning journey planned that will complement this unit. The students are observing bug larvae and will identify them as they go through their metamorphoses.

PARENT EDUCATION: The math investigations program for the Youngers class stresses flexibility, confidence, fluency and proficiency. Students are encouraged to invent their own strategies. Diane clarified the definition of an algorithm as being a series of steps that can be applied to all math problems. The curriculum also emphasizes the concept of place value, and uses techniques such as "jump strategies" to solve problems.

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL STATEMENT - Marc

Marc distributed the income and expense report dated January 3, 2008. The treasurers are still

accepting contributions. There will be a letter sent out shortly to all families with their current contribution status. The updated Reimbursement Form and Authorized Signature Form will be available on the website.

VOLUNTEER REPORT - Anne

Anne informed the community that letters will go out to families who have less than 32 volunteer hours at the end of January. Anne is available to assist families who need suggestions for volunteer hours.

OTHER BUSINESS

Parent Education Opportunity - Cris

- ♦ Ruth Parker, an expert at the Investigation Math Curriculum will be the speaker. The event will take place Tuesday, February 5th from 6:00 to 9:00 in the Sandburg gym. This speaker will help parents understand the benefits of investigational vs. traditional math. Volunteers are needed to help set up/clean up. There will be an announcement in next Tuesday's mailer. This event is open to other schools in the district, and Keller, Juanita and Thoreau Elementary have been specifically invited. Parents are encouraged to arrive early for this event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE - Tom

No comments at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS - Dawn

The DCS bookmark was recently completed and is available for distribution, with thanks to Laura R.

- ♦ New DCS Website Tour! Dawn showed the wonderfully updated DCS website. The website was revamped with the needs of prospective, new and older parents in mind. The website can be accessed through the LWSD website by selecting "Schools" and then "Discovery". Dawn thanked Diane, Shannon, Pete and Frani for their hard work on the text, and Holly for the technical work.
- ♦ Information Night is February 21st. Do you need brochures to share with family or friends?
- ♦ Email lists – time for questions

No questions at this time on the DCS-community and DCS business email groups. As a reminder, the DCS business email can be used for urgent and important business. If the business is not too urgent, one can email Dawn who will post the announcement on PO.

FACILITIES - Open

No comments on Facilities.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Susan/Christi

Susan shared a thank you note from the Food Lifeline where the Community went in November to help package food. Community Outreach is planning an Earth Day project in the spring with an environmental emphasis - details to follow.

Women's Homeless Luncheon - Nancy

- ♦ **March 1st, 11 am – 1 (ish) pm**, Church of Mary Magdalene, Seattle
- ♦ Donations, servers (women only and children; middles and older), and cooks needed (**Friday, February 29, 10 – 12 pm**). Sign-ups available at Community Meeting. Rice and chicken casseroles will be prepared at Nancy's on Friday morning.
- ♦ Children will be asked to donate a very gently used beanie baby or similar stuffed animal. **February 29th, 2:30 – 3:30** kids will be making decorations for the table (help needed for this project). Community Outreach will help coordinate the table decoration project.
- ♦ Questions, issues or especially volunteers please contact Nancy Whittaker, 425-823-9848, or nancywhittaker@hotmail.com.

ENRICHMENT - Amy/Nadine

- ♦ We will not be having a Winter session of Friday Special. We hope to make the 3 originally scheduled topics (Origami, Chinese dance, photography) available through other enrichment activities (possibly "Discovery Time") or in another Friday Special session.
- ♦ We still plan to conduct the Spring session of Friday Special (April/May).

COMMUNITY BUILDING - Pauline

- ♦ DCS Family Pool Party to be held at Juanita HS. Unconfirmed date: March 16, 12-2. Will send confirmation via PO. Free of charge!
- ♦ Elections: Overview and timeline for April elections of 2008-09 officers. Nominations will be opened next month (February). Available positions are Chair, Assistant Chair, 2 Treasurers and 2 Secretaries. Usual protocol has been a 2 year treasurer position and a 2 year Chair/Assistant Chair position, with staggered terms to add one new Treasurer/Chair per year. The Community is encouraged to think about who they might want to nominate. Members may nominate themselves for positions.

NEW BUSINESS/Q&A

-A suggestion was made to put the thank you note from Food Lifeline on the "News" portion of the website.

-A suggestion was made to put some information on Community Outreach efforts on the website. Christi offered to write a piece on Community Outreach activities done in the past for this purpose.

-Patty announced the annual summer camp dates for this year: August 7 - 10, 2008. This is a non-district, non-DCS, non-parent group sponsored event. It is a non-structured camp time with swimming, tennis, mini golf and biking available. Ron and Patty will send out information about registration closer to the event time.

-Spring camp dates were reviewed: May 9-11, 2008. The event will be mostly catered this year.

-February Open House was reviewed. This evening will occur on the night of the February Community Meeting (2/21/08). Prospective families attend and will come to the beginning of the meeting. Shannon will give an introduction, and then the families will have a tour of the facility and an informational session in the classroom with the teachers. This night is a requirement for being a part of the lottery. It is not required for siblings entering DCS-1st grade. We will use nametags that evening. Chairpersons should write their name and position on their nametag. The community was reminded to share this information with interested contacts. It is also important to promote DCS for the older grade levels as well. This will keep the classrooms at full capacity which helps ensure continued district funding for DCS.

-Mark S. reminded the Community that he needs photos for the Memory Pages. Photos on disc can be sent to Mark at home. He is looking for photos of all school events.

-A PTSA finance committee has been formed to spend the \$24,000 raised in the fall. Pete is on this committee. Community members were advised to submit ideas for the use of this money as soon as possible. Next Tuesday is a deadline for submitting proposals. Proposals can be turned in to the front office.

ADJOURN - The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 PM.