

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL Community Meeting MINUTES

September 18, 2007, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Carl Sandburg Lower Building

The meeting commenced at 6:30 PM.

WELCOME/STEERING MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS - Shannon/Pete

Shannon began the meeting with comments about the positive aspects of volunteerism. She introduced members from steering that were not present at the ice cream social for introductions.

PRINCIPAL/VP REPORT - Toby/Mark

Toby reported that all is running smoothly thus far at school.

TEACHER'S REPORTS - Diane, Carol, and Monica

- ◆ Youngers Curriculum Night for parents, 9/19 at 6:30 pm
- ◆ Middles Curriculum Night for parents, 9/19 at 7:15 pm
- ◆ Olders Curriculum Night for parents, 9/20 at 6:30 pm
- ◆ 6th Grade Outdoor Education Meeting for parents, 9/20 at 7:15 pm

Diane reported the Youngers class has been running smoothly, recognized and thanked parent volunteers for their help thus far.

Carol shared information about class meetings, the fly lady organizational program, class snack and parent docents. More details to follow at curriculum night.

Monica reported that things are going well in her class, with 6th graders providing modeling for the 5th graders. First field trip is to the Burke Museum on 9/27/07, Pauline Thompson organizer.

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL STATEMENT - Marc

- ◆ Sara processes checks written to DCS /Marc handles reimbursement requests

Marc reported that the deficit in budget is less than previously thought due to an amended calculation.

Marc encouraged the community to check with their employers for corporate matching. Also gave a reminder that a committee chair needs to sign off on reimbursement requests.

Reimbursement forms are available on the website or in the office with Janet. It was also noted that parents may submit for reimbursement for mileage for field trips. Currently the rate of reimbursement is 24.25 cents/mile (1/2 IRS rate).

VOLUNTEER REPORT - Anne

- ◆ volunteer hour expectations (avg per month, sign up now, etc)
- ◆ org chart openings (tech docent, etc)
- ◆ upcoming DCS events
- ◆ whom to contact for questions (Janet, Anne, room reps, teachers)

Open positions include photographer for org chart (filled by Shashi Jade at the meeting) Tech docents for the Youngers and winter event coordinator. Average 6.5 hours/month is a good guideline to follow. Volunteers should sign in and out of the Sandburg office when on school grounds. Contact Janet, Anne, Room reps, teachers with questions.

PTSA REPORT - upcoming PTSA events - Shannon (for Marlene)

- ◆ Sign-ups for PTSA membership
- ◆ Next PTSA meeting Sept 27th at 7pm
- ◆ Oct 1-5th Walk to school week
- ◆ Oct 5th – FUN RUN
- ◆ Skate King Night Oct 18th 6-8pm Bellevue

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE - Tom

- ◆ DCS - fundraising programs - Corporate Matching, Shopping cards: Albertson's, Safeway, Sign-up, Box tops, Eco-recycling, Ink Cartridges (printer and fax), Cell phones.

Need to use certain brands at the food stores in order to get funds for school. A list of brands can be found at escrip.com.

COMMUNICATIONS - Dawn

- ◆ Parent Organizer postings:
 - ❖ Via email – 48 hours in advance dawngrant@comcast.net
 - ❖ If needed sooner – please email dawngrant@comcast.net AND call cell phone 206-696-0733. I must receive the call and email by 6pm the evening prior to the announcement being made.

Guidelines for announcements: Put time sensitive announcements on community email system. Forms or documents, as well as calendar items, should go onto PO.

Stuart Donaldson should be sending out further etiquette guidelines for community email list use in the near future.

Ron Richter is planning to train future PO administrators. Interested parties should contact Ron regarding training times.

Child profiles should be updated to reflect their grade level.

FACILITIES - OPEN

Facilities chair is needed. Jim Overton is overseeing the grounds, but someone is needed to oversee

building maintenance needs.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH - Susan/Christi

Discussion: Donations of school supplies collected went to Hopelink in Kirkland. Saturday, November 3 from 1-4 PM will be the Food Lifeline event in Shoreline. We will help sort through donated food as in years past. Nancy will be heading up the homeless women's luncheon on March 1st (Saturday). Another event in the works is an "earth day" theme; input is welcomed. The Community outreach team (along with the teachers) is making it their goal to educate the kids about the relevance and significance of all planned events.

ENRICHMENT - Amy/Nadine

- ◆ This year, Friday Outreach will again be in a "Friday Special" format.
- ◆ Review of Friday Special (for new families):
 - ❖ Friday Special is implemented by DCS parents on Friday afternoons, 2:20pm-3:20pm.
 - ❖ We have 3 sessions, 3-5 weeks each (October, January/February, and April/May)
 - ❖ All students participate and choose 1 of 3 topics offered each session (designating their 1st and 2nd choices)
 - ❖ Philosophy:
 1. Promote fun, positive multi-age experiences and cooperation - grouping by interest
 2. Let individual students experience or "shine" in activities not typically offered at school
 3. Enrich classroom with DCS parents sharing their real world expertise and passions
 4. Learn by doing fun, hands-on activities
 5. Let students choose their topic, trying something new or pursuing an interest in more depth
- ◆ Enrichment Chairs (Amy and Nadine) will maintain the DCS Friday Calendar (attached). Calendar will be updated as other activities are scheduled for that Friday time slot (Community Service activities, Winter Event, special visitors or presentations...)
 - ❖ Note: Friday Calendar distributed at Steering meeting had incorrect date for Spring Camp. Corrected date and adjusted April/May session dates are on updated calendar.
- ◆ **FALL FRIDAY SPECIAL IS COMING!**
 - ❖ 4-week session: Oct. 5, 12, 19, Nov. 2
 - ❖ 3 choices: 1) Healthy Cooking, 2) Cartooning, 3) Outdoor & Playground Games
- ◆ **VOLUNTEER NEEDS FOR FALL FRIDAY SPECIAL** (Amy and Nadine will send an e-mail/PO request for volunteers)
 - ❖ "Guest chefs" and assistants for Healthy Cooking
 - ❖ Assistants for Cartooning (Ron Richter, Lead)
 - ❖ Lead(s) for Playground Games (or Lead for 1 week of Kickball, New Games, Jump ropes, etc.)
- ◆ **DCS ANNUAL THEME: "DCS: LIGHTING THE WAY"**
 - ❖ How to use this theme to "enrich" our school?
 - ❖ How is this theme reflected in our Life Skills? Examples:

- ✦ Helping others (community service) – Youngers
- ✦ Learning/Teaching - Understanding our world - Middlers
- ✦ Role Modeling (who are you, how do you set an example, leadership) – Olders

Community Building - Pauline

- ◆ Announce new 6th grade family of Christian (Sherri and Dan)
- ◆ Announce Pie Share/Learning Celebration plan and rationale
- ◆ Ask for PNO host

Discussion: The community was split down the middle regarding having pies at the Learning Celebration. The plan is to have the Olders class make pies (24 pies) as part of their curriculum, as in years past. There will be healthy food provided by the Youngers and Middles, with water as the beverage. The community consensus was that we did not need to provide coffee at the event. The event balances the showcasing of the children's work with the community building aspect. Jill sent out a sign-up sheet for bringing snacks to future community meetings.

STAFF APPRECIATION - Susan

Staff appreciation week will be May 12-16. The community will provide special treats for the staff as well as help in the staff appreciation breakfast.

OTHER BUSINESS

FALL CAMP - Sunday, October 14, 12:00 – 5:00 pm - Nancy/Karen

- ◆ Cost TBD (probably around \$15/kid)
- ◆ Registration (w/cost) will be available around 10/1
- ◆ Volunteers needed for pre-cooking at Nancy's house Saturday afternoon (10/13)
- ◆ Questions, issues or concerns: nancywhittaker@hotmail.com 823-9848, mitchest@comcast.net 823-4824

Discussion: The event will include a one hour tour at the South 47 farm. This will be distinctly different from the farm field trip planned. After the tour we will go to St John Vianney for some healthy cooking instruction and stations, then share a meal together as a community. Chili will be pre-made the day prior to the event (3-4 volunteers needed).

SPRING CAMP – Friday, May 9 - 11, Save the date! - Dawn

- ◆ Camp Indianola – <http://www.campindianola.org/>
- ◆ 3 catered meals Saturday (no volunteer hours for meals this year – plenty more available with crafts, rope swing supervision, etc.)

Discussion: Sudie and Cory will be helping coordinate camp.

NEW BUSINESS/Q&A

Denise B requested that families let her know if they are weeding certain areas of the school grounds as

she is coordinating this effort.

It was recommended that the hospitality team should be given plenty of notice if they need to be assisting at events.

Hospitality requested that people sign out hospitality items from the portable. There is a sign up list in the portable cabinets. They recently took an inventory of cups, plates, gloves, etc.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM.