

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Steering Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2008 6:30 PM
Carl Sandburg Teachers' Lounge

The meeting commenced at 6:40 PM

In Attendance: Dawn, Sherri, Cameron, Pete, Nadine, Mark Ba Shannon, Diane, Mark Bl, Christi, Janet, Sara, Linda

Welcome Pete/Dawn

No additional comments at this time.

Principal's Report Mark Bl

Mark reported that the Seattle Kids Marathon was a fun event and several families from Sandburg/DCS participated. Mark learned that flame weeders should not to be used in the herbicide free program because they are illegal for school use in our municipality. Mark has received requests for more information regarding our herbicide free grounds program, so it appears interest in this approach is growing.

Teacher's Report Diane

Janet has prepared an outline for Information Night which will be Tuesday, Jan 13, at 6:30 – 8:00PM. Mark has reserved the room for the evening. We plan to show a power point presentation prepared in the past by Mark S. PCC will be coming tomorrow to allow children to rate healthy foods. They will bring samples of various foods. All classes will participate.

Treasurer's Report Sara

Income has slowed down which is typical for this time of year. Some categories that are not being utilized greatly are Science, Library and Art. Total Income \$8778.14, Total expenses 5,469.70.

Volunteer Report Anne/Sheryl

Anne sent word that she is working on coordinating Information Night. Hospitality has been contacted.

Craft Fair Dawn/Becca

Craft Fair is greatly in need of volunteers. A sign up sheet was circulated.

Finance/Grants Cameron

Cameron sent out a questionnaire to gather parent information about a language program. Findings from the survey showed Spanish/French as most preferred, with Chinese/Japanese following. 30% stated that payment for program might be a barrier. The questionnaire did not get distributed to DCS families by mistake. Cameron will distribute the questionnaire to DCS families and will bring this information back to the PTSA. She will also investigate more about the requirements of a language program. The program may get set up in the spring of 2009, or possibly later.

Mark stated that he is on a district committee investigating a dual language program possibility. They are in the beginning stages of gathering information. At this point it appears that language study will be a part of enrichment vs part of the curriculum. Our school's long term vision is to have a sustainable language learning model. This is part of the vision to see all students involved in extracurricular activities. Mark suggested thinking through capacity available before offering the classes. A suggestion was made that high school students may want to use their service hours to volunteer. Mark suggested that we should investigate what languages are being offered by the Junior High for the sake of continuity.

Action item: Cameron

Send out questionnaire to DCS regarding language preferences.

Follow up with PTSA and continued research.

Communications Mark Ba

Mark announced that po@dcscg.org is now operational. This generic email address can be used by the Community for requesting assistance with PO. Mark will send out an announcement about this. Mark talked with a rep at the district who stated that they are hoping to offer SharePoint systems for each school next year. Launch date and functionality are not yet determined. Mark offered that our school would be glad to try it. Mark Bl stated he will support and advocate for this process. DCS mailing lists had some problems earlier this week. Mark Ba and Stewart will discuss possibly switching to another web hosting company if there are continued problems with the mailing lists.

Community Outreach Christi

The Breakfast in a Bag event for Homeless Women is coming up on Dec 12 during Friday Special time. The event requires more individually wrapped baked goods than are currently volunteered for. Dawn will take care of amending this announcement for PO.

Action Item: Dawn

Fix PO post about the Breakfast in a Bag volunteer needs.

Community Building Nadine

Nadine has researched possible venues for an ice skating activity /winter event. Highlands has a small rink, is low cost, and appears to be the best option. Cost is \$13/family plus \$3/person for skates. Nadine suggested a possible date of Sunday, Jan 25th from 2-4 PM. Helmets would be recommended. Nadine suggests subsidizing the cost by \$8/family to make the expense per family just \$5. Families would pay their own skate rental costs. A proposal was made to subsidize the event for \$8/ family (maximum of 30 families) from surplus funds. The proposal passed.

Enrichment Sherri

Tlinket dancers will be coming to perform on the last Friday special of the winter rotation. Dates for the winter series will be Jan 23rd, 30th and Feb 6th. Enrichment is considering sending an invitation (to those Sandburg classes that are studying a Native American unit) to join DCS for the Tlinket Dance performance.

Offerings for Jan include Cooking, Collages by Justin, and study of Tlinket culture. The Collage group will present their art at the last Friday Special/Tlinket performance. It was suggested that the cooking group should have a part of the presentation as well in some way.

Caring committee—Jill, Justin, Frani

Other Business

A meal plan is in process for Jill following her injury.

Action item: Linda will follow up with meal plan for Jill.

The issue of Community Meeting attendance was brought up. Inconsistent attendance has been an ongoing issue. A suggestion was made to devise an attendance form for meetings. Members would sign in on this form for accountability. Families who are not represented at the meeting more than 3 consecutive meetings would receive an email reminder from the co-chairs about attendance. Members would be asked to notify the co-chairs if they are unable to attend a meeting due to a circumstance outside their control. Pete will send out an email before the next Community Meeting to explain this new process. A suggestion was made that child care may be an issue. Mark Ba offered to send out an email to create a resource list of babysitters available in the Community.

Action Item: Shannon - Create an attendance form and send to Dawn and Pete.

Action Item: Dawn/ Pete, Diane, Mark - Discuss the email announcement and will send out to Community.

Action Item: Mark Ba - Send out an email to find baby sitters in DCS and create a list as a resource.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

ACTION ITEMS FOR DECEMBER STEERING MTG

Action Item: Shannon - Create an attendance form and send to Dawn and Pete.

Action Item: Dawn/ Pete, Diane, Mark - Discuss the email announcement and will send out to Community.

Action Item: Mark Ba - Send out an email to find baby sitters in DCS and create a list as a resource.

Action item: Cameron - Send out questionnaire to DCS regarding language preferences. Follow up with PTSA and continued research.

Action Item: Dawn - Fix PO post about the Breakfast in a Bag volunteer needs.

Action item: Linda - Follow up with meal plan for Jill.