

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Community Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2009, 6:30 PM
Location: Carl Sandburg Lower Building

The meeting commenced at 6:30 PM.

Welcome Pete

Principal Report Mark

Mark noted that efforts are being made towards promoting excellent behavior among students at school. Class meetings and planning for structured playground activities are two examples. Principles of Truth, Beauty and Goodness (from Author Howard Gardner) are being integrated in various student activities.

Mark acknowledged his appreciation for parent participation in school activities such as school grounds care and classroom volunteering.

He announced that changes are coming for the WASL; more information to follow.

Teacher's Report

Monica

The Olders have been studying Ancient Egypt in group activities. This theme has been integrated throughout the curriculum.

Parent Ed- Math

Students are encouraged to use multiple strategies to solve problems. Monica demonstrated examples of hands on learning she uses in the classroom. The students are given the opportunity to do ground work and exploration prior to the introduction of principles/algorithms. The goal is true understanding of math principles.

Carol

The Middles are studying crayfish and Bess beetles in their Science module. The Valentines party was a success. The planning and enactment of the party was a cooperative effort between student reps and room moms.

Parent Ed-Math

Students are able to explore groupings in a concrete way to provide a foundation for multiplication.

They study groups of arrays to solidify math facts in multiplication. Arrays are also used for division problems.

Diane

The Youngers took the city bus successfully on their last Learning Journey to the Kirkland Performance Center. They will be going to the UW greenhouse next week to

complement their plant studies. DCS/Sandburg is entering a contest to have a greenhouse donated to the school.

The students are studying the life cycle of plants and are observing the growth of brassica in the classroom. They are also studying animal classification with a take-home journal and classroom puppets.

Parent Ed-Math

The goal of math study is true understanding of concepts.

A major focus in the Youngers is on combinations of ten and doubles. There is a focus on place value also. They use manipulatives and games to explore math facts. Diane also shared some concepts from Howard Gardner's book "5 Minds for the Future".

Gardner emphasizes that students should approach each topic in a number of ways, a principle implemented in the Youngers.

Treasurer's Report/Financial Statement Sara

Sara reported that \$16,305 is DCS's projected income for 2008-09. We have received \$11,880 in donations thus far.

Scholarships for parent contributions are available and are confidential. Sara requested that if a parents wish to receive a scholarship, they should speak with the treasurer as soon as possible.

There is approximately \$16,000 in budgeted expenses, with spending \$4,500 below this level thus far.

Sara presented the need for new walkie-talkies for the instructional aides to use during recess. They are critical during emergencies and new ones would have enhanced communication with emergency services. The current walkie-talkies are outdated. A proposal was made to use money from our excess funds (which now have a balance of roughly \$7,000) to pay for the updated equipment.

A motion was made to use \$ 1,164.95 for new walkie talkies, to be taken out of DCS excess funds.

The motion was seconded and passed.

Community Building Nadine/Pauline

A Family pool party is scheduled for Sunday, March 22 at Mountlake Terrace Pavilion Pool. This pool has many amenities for all ages. Check their website for more information.

Time: 3:45-4:45 PM. 3:30 arrival is encouraged.

The Party is funded by DCS and families are invited; siblings are welcome.

Elections are to be held in April. 5 open positions include 2 Co-Chairs (Chair and Assistant Chair), 1 Treasurer, and 2 Secretaries. Nominations will be opened on March 1st. You can nominate yourself or other people. Nominations can be accepted or declined. There are other Chair positions that are non-elected positions such as the Enrichment Chair, etc.

Volunteer Report Anne/Sheryl

Anne encourages turning in volunteer hours so that she has an accurate record. Anne can be contacted if you need help in coming up with ideas for hours.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Cameron

Boeing credit union offers grants biannually. Cameron would like to apply for a grant for an enrichment opportunity, such as an author coming in to speak. Cameron requested input regarding ideas for enrichment. The application will be made in March and the grant would be awarded in May. Suggestions included: Terra Forma, Foreign Language classes, and money management curriculum. Cameron will follow up with the teachers regarding their input.

Language programs—Cameron has explored ways to grow a sustainable language program. French is offered now. Spanish is also desirable, as is Mandarin Chinese. Cameron has been working with the PTSA. Cameron is looking for volunteers to assist with the program. Contact Cameron at casadjo@hotmail.com if you are interested in helping.

Communications Mark

No report at this time.

Facilities Denise

No report at this time.

Community Outreach Nancy/Susan/Christi

Nancy circulated sign up sheets for the Homeless Women's Luncheon 2/28. A PNO will precede the luncheon on Friday, 2/27 for food preparation and socialization.

Enrichment Jill/Sherri

No report at this time.

Spring Camp Ingrid

Spring Camp will have the theme of "DCS Amazing Challenge". The camp will be held May 8, 9 and 10th (Mother's Day weekend) at Camp Indianola on the Peninsula. It is intended for the whole family. Cost is unchanged from last year. Registration will be in April. Catered meals will be provided on Saturday. More information and volunteer opportunities to follow.

Other Business

Shannon reported that the Memory Pages are on a new software system. Pictures can be downloaded to directly to the system with the following:

User Name: DCSMemoryPages

Password: D1sc0v3ry

Any questions can be directed to Shannon.

Shannon requests that you send her pictures as soon as possible. They can also be emailed to: Barnespsme@msn.com or sent via kidmail/Youngers.

Patty announced the Summer Camp dates of Aug 7 – 10. This event is low key time of camping for the entire family. More information will follow. This event is neither DCS-sponsored nor LWSD-sponsored.

Stella offered to keep the discussion going regarding ideas to continue the Summer Camp tradition in 2010 and onward. Input can be directed to Stella.

Frani communicated that her daughter C has ongoing serious health issues. C has missed many days of school and may not be feeling well when she is at school. Parents are advised to encourage their children to show kindness and understanding with C. Frani would like to be notified of any unusual behaviors if your child should notice these in C at school.

Frani welcomes recommendations for a handyman or housecleaning help.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.