

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Community Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2008, 6:30PM

The meeting commenced at 6:40 PM.

Welcome Pete

Pete noted that the next Community Meeting will be in January. Pete also introduced a new parent, Gail Zimelman with a 5th grade student, Baily Biggs, who will be joining the Olders on December 1st.

Principal Report Mark

Mark acknowledged that parent volunteer hours make a great difference for each child in the school. Mark is looking forward to the Learning Celebration next week. He noted that teachers spent the most recent LEAP day reviewing integration of technology in the classroom. Goals include finding the best fit for the curriculum and ways for students to actively participate. Teachers also reviewed new math standards set by the State and the instructional practices that are required by this. Dr Kimball also shared the vision "20/20" which emphasizes preparing children for the future. Teachers will use Wednesday afternoons to apply this information to the classrooms.

Mark noted that we are entering the recruitment and registration season for the next academic year. Mark also highlighted the family math nights which are new this year. They are an interactive time for parents to play computation games with students Grade 1-3. The goal at Sandburg/DCS is to continue to increase the offering of extra-curricular activities.

Teacher's Report

Diane

Diane would like to send math computation games home with the children for use with parents. The Youngers are checking their compost experiment monthly and students are observing changes in composted materials. The recent Learning Journey to SAM was a success. The students participated in an art project / ink print. They also toured an exhibition on the Salish tribe. Students followed up with an art project in the classroom.

The Learning Celebration will feature an air and weather unit on display in the classroom.

Parent Education: District Report Card

At the beginning of DCS there was no formal reporting system. About 9 years ago, a reporting system became required by the district. DCS views the Report Card as a good communication tool. It is one component of a complete reporting system which includes other feedback such as corrected papers and conferences. Report cards are distributed in November, March and June. This may change next year, along with changes in the conference schedule. Diane reviewed the areas on the report card that are graded by the teacher.

Carol

Parent Education

The latest revision on the Report Card was to separate the life skills from academic performance scores. Life skills are now described in a clearer manner. They are graded on a scale from 1-3.

Subject areas are measured by a set of standards for each particular grade level. Marks are on a scale of 1-4. Written narratives are unique to DCS. These are a personalized summary of the student's academic and social growth from the teacher's perspective with a focus on the whole child.

Carol stated that while the narratives and comments on the report cards are time consuming, they are a benefit to teachers and a useful communication tool. Carol cautioned that a "2" score does not carry a negative connotation regarding the child's behavior. Scores are standard-based.

Monica

Monica spoke about Formative Assessments which are day to day "snapshot" measurements. These take on different forms and are used to help guide teaching.

Summative Assessments are formal "tests" that sum up the learning and demonstrate the student's understanding after practice and feedback. Efforts are being made to standardize these assessments across the district.

Artist in residence Susan Johnson is coming in weekly and is emphasizing water color.

Students will be using measurement skills to bake pies for the Learning Celebration next week. The second week in December will be Outdoor Ed camp for the 6th graders.

Monica also announced her engagement to be married.

Treasurer's Report/Financial Statement Stella

Copies of the latest expense report are available to review if desired.

Some proposals have been made for use of excess funds. These are described as follows:

#1-Ken Nesbitt's return for a Poetry Corner at DCS which would cost \$1300 plus approximately \$300 for travel. This would include 5 hours of classroom time. This is planned for March.

A discussion followed regarding the cost. It appears that Mr. Nesbitt's fee is comparable with other published authors' fees.

A motion was made to accept this proposal and was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#2-DCS to pick up the remaining \$300 for a dance program that the PTSA will be providing a \$1500 scholarship for (total cost is \$1800). Dance is incorporated in PE and music times and finishes with a Friday night dance. The dance instruction is very comprehensive and is combined with music appreciation. The family oriented dance will be held on 3/27/08.

A motion was made to accept this proposal and was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#3-Purchase of \$300 worth (about six yards) of mulch for the Herbicide Free Project in the garden beds of the school to keep down weeds without using herbicide spray.

A motion was made to accept this proposal and was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Volunteer Report Anne/Dawn

Learning celebration sign ups—Sign up with your room rep if you can bring a snack or help with clean up.

Microwave Clean-up—A sign up sheet for cleaning the Microwave was circulated. Volunteers would sign up to cover a month of microwave cleaning. The microwave should be cleaned on a weekly basis.

Information Night—Volunteers are needed; see Dawn if interested.

Memory Pages Shannon

Shannon would love to receive pictures throughout the year as you take them. Pictures can be emailed or sent via CDr. A single CDr may be reused to prevent waste. Contact Shannon for more details.

Photo release forms are necessary for the use of pictures and need to be on file to use students' photos. Photos are used throughout the year for the website, bulletin board, memory pages, possibly for newspaper articles. A photo release form needs to be on file for each family. Janet will send these home with students tomorrow.

Bulletin Board Cameron/Susan

A new vision for the Bulletin board outside the classroom was presented. The top half will contain information for parents and the bottom half will be kid-friendly. Susan requested parent testimonials to highlight what we like about DCS. The board will be used as a promotional tool for DCS.

There will be bookmarks available to take with contact information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Cameron

DCS received an environmental grant of \$750. The green team will discuss how this money will be used.

Communications Mark B

Mark announced that there is a new PO administration email address available which is PO@dcscg.org. This email will forward automatically to whoever is managing the PO announcements, and can be used by the Community to request posting announcements to PO.

Facilities Denise

Denise announced that the next Herbicide Free Weed Meet will be on December 13th. If you are interested in helping with groundskeeping/gardening tasks at another time, contact Denise.

Community Outreach

Susan

Food Lifeline Event is this Saturday, November 22 from 1-4 PM. About 50 volunteers have signed up. If you arrive late, make sure you have some cell phone contacts to facilitate entry into the building. Families should bring consent forms, wear solid shoes, and dress in layers. Susan encouraged families to talk with their children about the meaning of this event.

December 12 there will be an in-classroom event from 2:40-3:30. Children will prepare brown bag breakfasts that will be delivered to the homeless women's shelter on Dec 13th. A sign up sheet for some of the items needed was circulated. Hopelink has some recommended reading for kids on homelessness on their website.

2/28 is the date planned for the Homeless Women's luncheon event.

Nancy invited the Community to contact her if interested in a Tent City Dinner planned for Jan 2nd.

Enrichment

Jill

Jill reported that the Fall set of Friday Specials was a success. January plans are in progress.

Community Building

Pauline

The PNO this fall was a success. Pauline requested a volunteer for a January PNO.

Peggy is looking into a swim event for March. Winter event planning is in the research stage.

OTHER BUSINESS

None reported.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.