

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Community Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2008
6:30 PM Sandburg Lower Building

The meeting commenced at 6:40 PM.

WELCOME Pete

Pete called the meeting to order and welcomed all present. He welcomed a new family to DCS. Faye Chow has joined the Middles. Her parents are Chingshan and Jessie Chow.

PRINCIPAL REPORT Mark BI

Mark highlighted the following upcoming events:

Ice cream social 9/18 from 6:00 – 8:00 PM, a time to connect with teachers as they serve ice cream to the kids.

Curriculum nights: Youngers on Weds 9/24 6:30 – 7:15PM, Middles 9/24 on Weds 7:15 – 8:00 PM, Olders on Thursday 9/25 from 6:30 – 7:15PM.

Immediately afterwards there will be a meeting for the 6th grade parents regarding the Outdoor School planned later in the fall. This event is 50% school-funded and takes place in Brackendale, BC, north of Vancouver, CA. This outdoor, mountain setting is home to a remarkable bald eagle population.

The Fun Run kick off was today. The Fun Run is an all-school fundraiser with raised monies used for the Sandburg/DCS curriculum. The plan is that the Fun Run will be the only fundraiser for the year.

Mark noted that the Herbicide-free school work party will be on 9/28 11AM – 12PM or longer. The efforts of those participating are greatly appreciated.

TEACHER'S REPORT

Carol

The Middles class has been focusing on the "Fly Lady" organization program to get kids into routines and procedures, such as checking the calendar nightly, keeping the binder organized and using the Communication Folder.

At Curriculum night there will be an opportunity to sign up for volunteer positions. Carol is looking for assistance with Math in particular.

Wednesday, 10/15, will be the Middle's first field trip to Salmon Hatchery in Issaquah. Goal setting conferences will be held in October; more information to follow. Carol offers the choice of a parent-student-teacher conference or a

parent-teacher conference. The Middle's portal site can be accessed from the DCS website. Carol welcomes feedback and suggestions regarding the site.

Diane

Diane reported that she has sent out a volunteer sign up sheet on email.

Particular needs for the Youngers are as follows:

Volunteers in class from 9:00 – 9:30 to help with the handwriting program. This is a new program that was developed by an Occupational Therapist.

Volunteers in class from 10:45 – 12 to work with Reading Workshops. Diane is open to the idea of parents helping for part or all of this time.

Diane is enjoying the classroom and things are running very smoothly. She is having second and first graders work together more this year and is impressed with how the second graders are rising to the occasion.

The Youngers have Air and Weather for their Science theme with an environmental emphasis. They will be doing a year long experiment to see how different items decompose over time such as packing peanuts, biodegradable food tray or plastic items. Jill is organizing Field Trips. The first field trip will be to the South 47 Farm on 10/16. Nick Allard will be coming into the classroom to discuss weather.

Monica

The Older's first field trip will reinforce their Science theme on environments and will be at Jubilee Farm. The Olders planted seeds recently in terrariums. These terrariums will be expanded upon as the year progresses.

FINANCIAL REPORT Sara

Sara reminded the Community that the \$200 suggested donation /child can be directed to Stella. Sara reported that the 2007/08 budget had a surplus last year in part due to corporate matching. Corporate matching forms for this year can be submitted to the treasurer. The expense reimbursement form is available online on the DCS website (parents-official documents). Mileage reimbursement will increase to 29.3 cents/mile to reflect the IRS rate increase in July. Expense reimbursement forms need to be signed by a Committee Head. Unbudgeted expenses need to get Steering approval. If an unbudgeted expense exceeds \$250, it to be voted on by the Community. Expenditures should be determined in discussion with Committee heads. Please submit reimbursement forms in a timely fashion. All forms can be submitted through Janet in the office.

\$20,000 has accumulated over the last few years as a budget surplus. It was not felt necessary to reduce the parent contribution level, especially since employee matching can vary widely from year to year. Sara would like to gather

input from Community and staff to see what needs might be met through proposed ways to spend this surplus. A form is available and will be posted on the Website. The form guides members through a process of consideration regarding proposals to spend this money. Steering Committee will review suggestions and they will likely be brought to Community for approval. Sara recommended reserving 50% of this budget surplus. Current yearly budget is \$16,305.

Bainbridge Island's IslandWood Camp was suggested as a possible use of surplus funds. Some literature describing IslandWood Camp was circulated at the meeting.

Sara stated that the amount of money our budget currently has in surplus does not violate any rules of 501c3 organizations.

VOLUNTEER REPORT Sheryl

Sheryl is working with Anne this year on Volunteer Coordination. The Root Beer Social counts as 1 hour of volunteering. Parents should also record hours spent at Community Meetings.

Sheryl reported the following openings currently on the org chart:

Spring Camp: A chair is needed for Spring camp. Also needed are leads for activities and volunteers for spring camp.

Graduation organizer

Olders Art Docent

Olders Tech Docent

Hospitality needs more help.

Monica commented that Susan Johnson taught art last year and likely will return again to assist with the Olders art instruction

The Olders Tech docent could take on a special project such as animation.

Janet will send out emails to remind parents to submit hours.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance/Grants Cameron

Cameron can assist with cost-analysis for proposals.

Fundraising Peggy

Peggy commented that routine fundraising programs remain in place and include boxtop collection, company matching, toner cartridge and cell phone collections, WA Mutual Wamoola program and the Safeway Club Card program. Office

Depot and Target's Visa program also will contribute a percentage of member expenditures to DCS. Community members are encouraged to sign up with these programs especially if they already shop/bank at participating businesses. Boxtops, cartridges and cell phones may be brought to the DCS office.

COMMUNICATIONS **Mark Ba**

Mark introduced the Communication Committee members as follows:

Website Holly
Parent Organizer Paulette
DCS Group Email Organizer Stuart
DCS Bulletin Board open

Mark noted that one or more volunteers are needed to manage the bulletin board outside of the DCS classrooms. In years past, pictures of the Steering Committee have been posted on this board. A new format is envisioned with the top half for parent information and bottom half with pictures of student activities. This may serve as marketing tool as well as an informational site. Interested parties may contact Mark.

DCS Calendar Tomomi
Election Coordinator Sheryl
Handbook/Policies Shannon
Roster/Org Chart Shannon
Publicity Pete
Risk Management Liason Pete (assures compliance with LWSD policies)
LWSD Liason Pete, Dawn, Angela

It was noted that there are currently multiple calendars in use at DCS, including one on PO, one on the website, one for each classroom with the snack schedule, and a calendar posted in the Youngers classroom that Janet maintains. A shift towards greater use of the website calendar is planned in the future.

Ron demonstrated how to update student profiles on PO. It is highly recommended that parents update student profiles. Ron also gave instructions on how to sign up and register for PO. Many families still need to update or sign up. Families may register multiple emails for updates. They should choose "daily updates" from PO.

FACILITIES Denise

Denise thanked those that signed up on Handyperson list. She noted that the next grounds maintenance work session to spread mulch is planned on 9/28 11AM – 12PM.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH Susan and Christi

Susan reported that collected school supplies were brought to Hopelink and very much appreciated.

The introduction of UNICEF trick or treat boxes is planned for October. Students may collect donations while trick or treating. More information will follow.

A possible December event is in the planning stages for an outreach to the Homeless Women’s shelter. Students may be preparing “ breakfast in a bag” for the women.

A food sorting event is planned for 11/22. Students and parents will work at the Food Lifeline Shoreline Warehouse to assist with food sorting. This warehouse is utilized by many Food Banks. Sign up sheets will follow. Susan showed pictures from last years work day at Food Lifeline.

Community Outreach will assist with student education regarding each project They may invite speakers to the classrooms or assist with activities in to introduce the projects.

The Homeless Women’s luncheon in Seattle is planned for 2/28/09. This has been a DCS tradition for over a decade and has been organized by Nancy in past years. It is a very moving experience for adults and kids. Men are not allowed, but male students are welcome. Middlers and Olders may participate. The women have been very welcoming and warm to the kids. This project provides a way to build in children a sense for living in and sharing with the greater community.

Planning for an April Earth Day event is in progress. More information will follow.

ENRICHMENT Jill/Sherri

Jill talked about plans for upcoming Friday Specials and explained what these sessions have typically been like. Jill welcomes volunteers and ideas for Friday Specials. There are 3 sessions of Friday Specials currently planned as follows:

April

Play/Drama Diane

Singing and sign language class Jill and Sherri

Winter

Collage Justin

Dancers from Native Tlinket Group from Alaska

May include Art and Culture instruction and a possible performance for the Community -- TBD

October Session 10th,17th,24th

Healthy Foods Sherri

Outdoor games Old and New Jill

Need suggestions for a third session

Possibilities include Knitting, Debate, Fall Crafts

Friday specials provide a way for students to be exposed to a variety of teaching styles, interact with other adults, and to have a multiage experience. It is an opportunity for adults in the Community to share their expertise with the students. Volunteers can help at one or all sessions, and assistants are needed as well as teachers for the classes. Friday Specials take place from 2:15 – 3:15 on designated Fridays.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Nadine/Pauline

Pauline noted that if new parents need some one-on-one assistance, they are welcome to contact Nadine and Pauline. Pauline encouraged attendance at Curriculum Night(s) to get a good sense of what's going on in classroom. Fall Event is planned at St Edwards Gym on October 12 from 1–5 PM. This will be headed up by Nancy and Diane, is a family event (siblings welcome), is free of charge, and snacks will be provided. The event will be geared towards building Community and is family oriented. Pauline asked for volunteers to host a Parent's Night Out (PNO) with more information to follow.

OTHER BUSINESS

Music Lovers Unite Kathleen

Kathleen presented an idea to get a group to get together to make music together. This would be open to adults and children and all skill levels would be welcomed. Details to follow.

Caring Coordinator Linda

Linda presented the concept of the "Caring Coordinator" to the Community. She will serve as a point person to coordinate help for families that may need some extra help, such as meals or rides to school. Examples would be a new baby in the family, an extended illness or surgery, or death in the family. Please contact Linda if you become aware of any situations such as these, and she will contact the family.

Student pictures are tomorrow, 9/17/08.

Ice Cream Social is Thursday, 9/18 from 6 – 8PM.

PTSA General Meeting is on 9/30/08.

There is a PTSA Board Meeting next Monday 9/22 at the LWSD Resource Center.

An Organization specialist will teach a Parent Education class on Thursday, 11/06/08 in the Sandburg gym.

The Community should RSVP when the Fall Event announcement comes out on PO for planning purposes.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.