

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Steering Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2009

Location: Teacher's Lounge

The Meeting commenced at 6:40 PM.

Present: Mark Ba, Jill, Cameron, Linda, Dawn, Pauline, Anne, Pete, Shannon, Stella, Diane, Mark Bl, Angela, Susan.

Welcome Pete/Dawn

No comments at this time.

Principal's Report Mark Bl

Information night is scheduled next week on 1/13/08, 6:30 – 8:00. The Youngers class will likely be smaller next year. Projected numbers (subject to change) for classes for next year are Youngers 24, Middles 26, Olders 25. Cameron offered to advertize for DCS through a work email group. Mark Bl feels that a smaller Youngers class is appropriate and the issue of attrition in the Olders can be addressed in other ways.

Teacher's Report Diane

Diane reported that plans are set for Information Night. Prospective parents should be encouraged to sit up in the front. Diane distributed an Agenda for the evening. Events include a Welcome from Mark Bl, a Student Panel and Student Alumni Panel (with time for questions), Background of DCS by Shannon, a Power Point presentation, and tour of Carl Sandburg and the DCS classrooms. A suggestion was made to print out copies of frequently asked questions as a resource for prospective parents.

The lottery will be held on February 6th.

Action Items:

Check for sound on power point presentation	Dawn
Check on signs for information night.	Dawn
Make copies of frequently asked questions.	Dawn

Treasurer Report

Sara was not able to attend. Financial report is attached.

Volunteer Report Anne

Anne will follow up with hospitality for Information Night.

Volunteer hours follow up will start during the first week of February. Families with less than 32 1/2 hours will be contacted regarding their hours.

Finance/Grants Cameron

Cameron reported that the work on the bulletin board is in it's final stages. More pictures are needed, especially from Spring Camp. Cameron plans to investigate more about the LW foundation for grants. The bulletin board will be completed for Information Night.

Action Items:

Gather photos for the bulletin board. Cameron

Investigate LW foundation for grants. Cameron

Cameron analyzed the Parent Survey information regarding a foreign language program at DCS/Sandburg. Spanish/French were most preferred by parents with Chinese/Japanese being second most preferred. Cameron investigated Junior High language offerings which were found to be primarily French and Spanish. High school offers Japanese as well. Cameron noted that Mandarin is not offered in the LWSD.

Per the Parent Survey, cost may be a barrier for 1/3 of parents. This indicates a need for scholarships.

Cameron recommends continuing the French program in place already, adding Spanish and possibly Mandarin over time. Reevaluation is then recommended to see what additional levels and languages might be added.

The possibility of a language lab was suggested.

Action Items

Share information regarding language program with PTSA. Cameron

Start working on finding a teacher for Spanish. Cameron

Recruit volunteers for language program. Cameron

Communications Mark Ba

Mark reported that po@dcscg.org continues to be operational.

Facilities Denise

Denise rescheduled the grounds work party for January 18th.

Community Outreach Susan

Susan reported that the Women's Breakfast, led by Nancy, went well. She encouraged families to pursue the children's reading list on homelessness when it is re-distributed in February. Women's Luncheon is coming up in Feb with a cooking party beforehand as a PNO.

The possibility of a school garden was discussed.

Community Building

Pauline

The Highline ice skating party on January 25th (2-4PM) will cost \$5 per family with the subsidy from DCS. Families will pay for their own skates. The next PNO in February will include a cooking party for Women's Luncheon.

Some volunteers are coming forward for Spring Camp. Pauline suggested keeping Spring Camp and other events simple to reduce the burden on the event coordinator. Spring camp will be on Mother's Day weekend again, as it is virtually impossible to find availability on another weekend. Shannon suggested renewing the enforcement of the childrens' clean-up schedule.

Enrichment

Jill

The Winter Friday Specials will be on Jan 23, Jan 30, and Feb 6. The last session will be the performance scheduled by the Native American Tlinket group. Likely there will also likely be sessions with a Tlinket storyteller / entertainer in prior sessions. The winter rotation will also include a Food group and possibly a Craft group.

The Spring Friday Specials will culminate with the Play and a Singing group at Spring Camp. These performances may serve as a replacement for the class skits.

New Business

A concern was raised regarding interactions among the Youngers boys. The issues at hand seem most prominent at recess. Mark Bl recommended setting up a forum with staff and parents to discuss problems and solutions. This issue has already been discussed at length by the staff. One intervention might be to make the parameters for free play smaller at recess. Also the possibility of parent volunteers on the playground was raised. Mark Bl suggested balancing unstructured play with some structured activities. This could be coupled with working with students on life skills as applied to recess time. Mark Bl and Diane will offer to meet with parents with concerns. Training for parent volunteers on the playground (if utilized) would be needed.

DCS can be attractive for students who are not fitting in a traditional setting and thus may result in extra challenges. A suggestion was made about a peer program where good behavior is positively rewarded and there are older students who supervise the playground. Mark Bl stated that the Social Curriculum is just as important as the Academic Curriculum, and that these issues are the school's top priority at this time.

It was noted that a PTSA proposal was recently submitted for an anti-bullying student curriculum. This curriculum includes video presentations.

Action Items

Offer to set up meeting for parents with concerns in the Youngers. Mark Bl/Diane

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Action Items – January Steering Meeting

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Check on signs for Information Night.	Dawn
Make copies of frequently asked questions.	Dawn
Gather photos for the bulletin board.	Cameron
Investigate LW foundation for grants.	Cameron
Share information regarding language program with PTSA.	Cameron
Start working on finding a teacher for Spanish.	Cameron
Recruit volunteers for language program.	Cameron
Set up meeting for parents with concerns in the Youngers.	Mark Bl/Diane