

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Steering Meeting Agenda

6 February 2011

Location: Carl Sandburg Portable

Attendees: Pete, Cris, Stella, David, Kim, Nadine, Mark, Tom, Jill, Diane, Dawn, Jill, Shannon S, Cameron, Cindy Peggy, Setty

6:30 **WELCOME** *presented by Laura*

Jumped right into meeting

6:40 **TEACHER'S REPORT** *presented by Diane*

A discussion about the need for headphones for the netbooks due to both the distractions to others and the use of items that have sound. Need for individual headphones due to health issues. Agreed to purchase 25 through the technology budget.

Have had 18+ classroom visits. Have 8 openings in 1st grade and over 42 applicants; applicants in the other grades as well, but currently no openings.

6:48 **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT** *presented by Mark*

District is looking for consistency around the schools (where the breaks are {6th grade and 9th grade}), so questions and discussion about the configuration for DCS.

Issues with having all day kindergarten due to requirement to pay the district for that, but half-day kindergarten also presents problems due to staffing issues (teacher having only a half class half of the day).

Discussed other issues such as larger class every other year that rotates through the classes; two half time kindergarten classes (to avoid fees); contacting other districts nationwide to see if others have overcome this.

Open to others to come up with ideas, but Mark will come up with a series of ideas that we can discuss.

7:07 **TREASURER'S REPORT** *presented by Pete*

Monthly financials & Budget review

Got in more contributions; balances look good and budgets are on target or not being used.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

7:10 **COMMUNICATIONS** *presented by Dawn*

There is a main calendar available on the website, and there is the ability to have a private calendar.

Constant Contact (<http://www.constantcontact.com/index.jsp> and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constant_Contact) has abilities to cover some of what has been asked for, but we need to decide:

- What do we want? – do we want a private calendar or a registration? Subscribable calendar?
- What is the budget?
- What can we really spend? Our budget for Parent Organizer was \$195/year as well as \$100/year for the email server.
- Hannah is taking the lead on this

- Some members of the Community mentioned that they have used this service through other organizations and have found it useful.
- There is a 60 day free trial, and will try it for Spring Camp.

7:19 COMMUNITY OUTREACH *presented by Setty*

Rummage Sale will not work at Finn Hill due to a lack of participation, may due it at Susan V's house with a smaller number of households.

Other items are still in the discussion phases.

The Luncheon is planned for Saturday 5 March in the morning

7:21 WINTER EVENT *presented by Cris*

Currently is going on smoothly.

Still need a co-chair.

Cameron is looking for some help with the Parent Flash Mob for setting up the routine.

Could use one more chaperone for the Student Flash Mob practice.

The date for the Winter Event is 6:30 – 8:30 on 11 March.

7:31 ENRICHMENT *presented by Tom*

Friday Specials start tomorrow, and is all set.

Have leaders set up for everything, but could use a couple more bodies.

Everyone got their 1st choice or 2nd choice.

7:33 COMMUNITY BUILDING *presented by Peggy*

20 March 4:20 pm will be the Spring Swim Event until 5:20 at Montlake Terrace.

7:34 PTSA LIAISON *presented by Dawn*

All the grants that were suggested to move on by the finance committee did.

Surplus Fund Grants Passed:

- Pencil Grips for Kindergarten and First Grades
- Healthy Plate Club
- IXL Online Math for 3 classes
- Wheelchair
- Tillicum Village for Third Graders
- Book Sets Proposal

Surplus Fund Grants Not Passed:

- Parent Ed Night for Kids Nutrition
- Playground Improvements

Upcoming goings on in February:

- 3rd - Kindergarten Registration (1 pm -7 pm)
- 10th - Skate king family night (6 pm - 8:30 pm)
- 17th – 21st: No school
- 25th - Book Rodeo
- Tricia will be planning a 5th grade parent meeting concerning Outdoor Ed 2012 for sometime at the end of Feb
- PTSA Nominations the forms are out and due March 8th

OLD BUSINESS

7:39 RECONFIGURATION GRADUATION ISSUES *presented by Laura*

Update from district level – bulk of change in the middle schools (moving from 7 – 9 to 6 – 8) decisions are being made on what will be district wide and what will be made at each middle

school.

Discussion on items that 2011 – 2012 6th graders will experience since it will be the last year at Sandburg/DCS and how will 5th graders be “treated” since 2011 – 2012 will also be their last year.

Currently not planning to have Outdoor Ed for the 5th graders after the reconfiguration. Outdoor Ed has issues outside the school reconfiguration due to changes in academic pressures on the kids and the counselors and price increases. Discussion of should the 2011-2012 5th graders (those in the same class as the last group going) go with the 2011 Outdoor Ed class, or a continuation for DCS 5th graders to do this in the future, or other options (like going to Islandwood on Bainbridge Island - <http://islandwood.org/>).

Should be noted that they have trying to how to make these students in 5th grade in 2011 – 2012 having a special last year at Sandburg/DCS.

Discussed that the 2011 – 2012 budget for end of the year celebrations for those leaving the school will probably need to be doubled.

After the meeting the following was discussed among the 5th and 6th graders graduating next year (this year's 4th and 5th graders). The 6th Graders typically participate in Outdoor Ed, do announcements in the mornings, and have a graduation ceremony at the end of the year, as well as a graduation party, and enjoy lead roles in the DCS play. The desire expressed by parents of “future 5th Graders” is that, as DCS Olders next year, both the 5th and 6th Graders will fully participate in normally 6th Grade activities since both grades will be graduating together next year.

Mark said that the decision has been made that the current 4th graders (5th graders next year) will not be attending Outdoor Ed next year with the 6th Graders. Options were proposed by parents for consideration, including:

- 1 – Sending the DCS 5th and 6th Graders to a separate camp from Sandburg, with Monica, either to Outdoor Ed, or a closer venue that Peggy has information about. The deadline for applying to this closer location is February 14th.*
- 2 – Sending the DCS 5th Graders next year to a separate camp at a closer venue while the 6th Graders attend Outdoor Ed.*

Mark said he will consider and discuss these options with teachers and others, and will coordinate back with Peggy on this.

OTHER BUSINESS

8:10 **NEW BUSINESS/Q&A** presented by Laura

New Building (Mark) – portables will be around for the 2011 – 2012 academic year. They will be taken out in June 2012. The pod for the DCS area includes a space for Janet, a common area, and another area.

Looked through some of the items in the portable to figure what items are keep able.

8:24 **ADJOURN**

No Reports this month:

Volunteer Coordinator Kim

Finance Cameron