

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Steering Meeting Agenda

January 6, 2011

Location: Carl Sandburg Library

Attendees: Jill C-F, Laura, Diane, Mark, Janet, David, Shannon S, Susan V, Kim, Shannon B, Pete, Nadine, James, Cris, Cindy, Hannah

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

6:32 **TEACHER'S REPORT** *presented by Diane*

Mid-year assessments/conferences in January is unique, so a bit of a challenge; this is coupled with the perspective parent observations, but working ok.

Space for 8 1st graders, but otherwise full for all the other grades. There have been more phone calls with people interested since the new year.

Discovery time is back, five weeks are planned with this Friday starting things off where the classes will mix together to get the kids working across age groups.

6:40 **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT** *presented by Mark*

All school dance is tomorrow night at 6:45 in Henry David Thoreau Elementary until 8:45. Report cards/conferences this month, which is new, and using some new processes. For example, the Life Skills section has changed (new name and some different definitions). The days of conferences will be half days of school.

The new school building is moving along – have a meeting with the architects tomorrow.

The current building will be getting new internet access points for wi-fi as the new netbooks were found to really tax the current configuration. This will also allow the whole school to do the MSP (3rd – 6th graders) online.

My Access (writing program for Monica) is approved, but there are technical issues that are preventing the deployment of this in elementary schools. The math program still needs to go through the vetting by the Instructional Needs Meeting and is on the docket for this month.

The Stability Balls are on hold right now while the Risk Management group for the district wants to take a look at them due to some studies that state long time usage can cause issues. The decision has come through that these now need to be used for intermittent usage rather than all day long, and this means need to re-evaluate how to meet that usage.

Asked to see if there was anything that can be done for staff appreciation during the conference time or for informational night.

Kindergarten informational night is coming up.

Information about next year's outdoor ed program should be decided by later this month.

6:57 **TREASURER'S REPORT** *presented by Pete*

\$3,600 in checking, \$15,000 in savings. The bags were over budget (they were in the apparel budget), but more money came in today so that may no longer be the case.

We are a little behind in the contributions, **so we need folks to get theirs in as soon as possible.**

We don't have any trend data set up to see if we are behind from the typical plan or if we are on target.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

7:01 **COMMUNITY OUTREACH** *presented by Susan V*

Hopelink tags went very well, there were only a couple left.
12 February: Rummage Sale to benefit Water for People at the Finn Hill Jr High Cafeteria from 9 – 12. Reaching out to the entire community at Sandburg.
Have other things on the plate in regard to projects (luncheon for women in March)

7:03 VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR *presented by Kim*

Eleven families are behind (most just by a few hours), but there are some that are quite a bit behind. We have some 6th grade families that are behind and they have no other ties that bind them to future years – is there some carrot that can help rectify this issue? There will be monthly check-ups starting in January, as well as official documentation for those who are not meeting the requirements.

Discussion on how the hours commitment work and the value that it provides. Continued with discussions on other ideas on handling this and the philosophy behind the hour commitment.

7:30 COMMUNITY BUILDING *presented by Nadine R*

Spring Swim Event looking at a date late in March. Winter event is the 11th of March, and 6th March is the Luncheon. There are basketball games on Saturdays, so Sunday may be better. Doing this for one hour due to cost of the pool (\$225 per hour). Based on discussions the 6th seems to be the best date.

7:40 WINTER EVENT *presented by Cris*

11 March is the date of the event. Cris is looking for a chairperson, and has openings for volunteers to help with cleanup and other duties around the event.

Winter event is an art venue/show for the kids where they display work from Friday specials as well as things made at home. A relaxed evening for everyone to experience this work in a gallery like experience. Alumni and other family members are welcome to participate in this as well. Maybe in the future we embrace adults from the community as well, but not this year.

The Friday special (4 & 11 February and 4 & 11 March) tie ins to this include play (set design, costumes), photography, and another to be decided on. All events will be Winter event friendly. The play is not for the Spring Camp due to logistics – this Friday specials are too far before the Spring Camp and the last set of Friday Specials will be starting before Spring Camp and carrying on past it.

7:47 INFORMATIONAL NIGHT *presented by Janet*

This is next Tuesday (11 February), and it looks like there are enough people to cover everything. If you are interested in helping, they will find a way to utilize your talents. Could use some alumni or current students to talk.

OLD BUSINESS

7:56 COMMUNITY MEETING ATTENDANCE *presented by Jill*

Should we have a policy about community meeting attendance/lack thereof?

In the by-laws there was no mention that attendance at the Community Meeting, but the sign up pages do say that the meetings are mandatory.

There should be some allowances to accommodate folks who cannot always make it. Maybe there is a set number of meetings that you have to come to (including Steering and Community). Do we follow up with families who miss meetings immediately after the meeting?

Discussion on how to communicate to folks the value of this meeting, as well as discussing with

the folks who are not coming to find out why. In addition, discuss ways to make sure that folks are aware of the policy.

Kim will follow up with those who have missed many meetings and are short on hours to make sure that they realize these meetings are there and it can help them catch up on their hours.

8:33 **ADJOURN**

No Reports this month:

Communications	Dawn/Hannah
Enrichment	Tom/James
Finance	Cameron
PTSA Liaison	Dawn