

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL Community Meeting MINUTES

October 17, 2007, 6:30 p.m.

Location: Carl Sandburg Lower Building

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.

Shannon/Pete - **WELCOME**

Toby - **PRINCIPAL/VP REPORT** - Toby thanked all who participated in the Fun Run. Also thanked everyone for following proper procedures in the parking lot, adhering to safety guidelines and being prompt. On November 5th (Monday) DCSCS is hosting the district board meeting. The meeting room will be decorated with the children's school work. The meeting will be televised.

Diane, Carol, and Monica - **TEACHER'S REPORT**--Monica reported recent curriculum highlights including introduction of computer animation, line art, learning journey to seismology lab, incursion by Geology Bob. She presented a 'parent education' (continuation of 'destination excellence' from last year) segment on homework. The Olders use agendas to write down daily assignments, which are also used in Junior High. Communication folder is used for mail and homework.

Carol reported that parent teacher conferences went well. Kids will be bringing home their goals. The Middles have had a recent unit on Kirkland Heritage with guest speakers. November 7th the class will take a walking tour of downtown Kirkland on the Metro bus. Also scheduled is a field trip to MOHAI 10/29/07. Carol also presented a homework parent ed piece. The Middles are encouraged to use techniques from "Fly lady", such as a "launch pad" where they lay out items needed the next morning at school and use of a timer when doing homework. They also use the communication folder.

Diane reported that the Geology Bob incursion went well. They are also learning the parts of the skeleton in their science unit. Homework for the Youngers is corrected by a parent helper. Diane personally reads all comments sent in by parents. The emphasis on homework is learning the life skill of responsibility.

Marc - **TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL STATEMENT**--Income and expense report was distributed. Reimbursement forms should be sent in to Marc. The reimbursement process will be discussed at the November steering meeting with particular attention given to the signature requirements.

Anne - **VOLUNTEER REPORT**

- 1 THANK YOU to all the parents who have done such a great job stepping up whenever there has been a need!
- 2 Volunteer hour sheets for each family have been sent out with the total amount of hours completed so far
- 3 Halloween class parties are coming up. Please check with your room rep on your class time for the party and the specific activities or needs. Each class is different this year due to early release.
- 4 Halloween all school parade will be at 11:15. Kids need to bring a costume to school

that can be easily changed into. No blood, gore or weapons.

- 5 Pictures for the hallway org chart will continue to be taken during the meeting tonight in the hall.
- 6 Picture retakes will be done on November 7th.

Shannon: **Historical perspective**--Shannon realized recently that a historical perspective might be helpful to present to the community. 20% of families are new this year to DCS and 22% are starting their second year. Very few communities have such a high turnover rate, which equals a state of perpetual change for DCS. DCS is always getting new ideas and talents of incoming families, and the importance of getting input from all families is acknowledged. 1 1/2 years ago there was an extensive survey done to help understand the needs and desires of the community. Much time and effort was put in to developing the survey and going through the results. Some of the results: development of the parent ed during Community meetings, New Parent Coordinator position, evaluating the way that meetings are conducted to be more interactive, distribution of the agenda prior to the meeting. Community members are encouraged to read the agenda prior to the meeting so that questions or discussion pieces can be prepared in advance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nancy - Fall Camp Event Evaluation Forms--Nancy thanked all who helped with fall camp. She requests that evaluation forms be sent in to the office. Evaluation forms were distributed.

Tom - **FINANCE** - nothing new to report

Dawn - **COMMUNICATIONS**- NO COMMENTS

OPEN - **FACILITIES**

Susan/Christi - **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- Our Food Lifeline trip is coming up on **November 3rd!** We will be going to their facility in Shoreline WA to sort food for hungry people in Western Washington.
- ♦ This is going to be an **awesome opportunity** to work cooperatively together, help our neighbors in need, and also help a worthy organization. Here is a little bit of information about Food Lifeline:
 - ❖ Food Lifeline is Washington's largest hunger relief agency. Food Lifeline is working to provide nutritious food to hungry people in Western Washington. Each year Food Lifeline rescues and distributes 21 million pounds of food to its food bank network of Western Washington in 17 counties feeding 560,000 hungry people. If you would like more info, please check out their website at <http://www.foodlifeline.org/>
 - ♦ Volunteering to help -- and talking with our children about hunger & why we volunteer -- is a wonderful way to build appreciation in ourselves & in our children for the goodness & abundance in our lives. This kind of activity & discussion also educates the kids about the value of our help, and what it means to those who need & receive it.
 - ♦ Here are some talking points from the Food Lifeline Web Site, if you are interested in bringing the lesson home:

<http://www.foodlifeline.org/hunger/index.html>

- ◆ We truly hope you can join us! A lot of people expressed their interest in this trip, which will make it a *really* fun time. We'll be asking you to confirm your participation at Community Meeting on Wednesday this week. So, check your calendars! **Saturday, November 3rd, 1:00 to 4:00 PM**, Shoreline. Map & address will be sent out to those confirming their participation

Please respond to Susan Vossler by email to confirm interest in participating. No children under age 6 are allowed.

Amy/Nadine - **ENRICHMENT**

- ◆ Friday Specials are underway and going great!
- ◆ Thanks for all the parent support!

Pauline - **COMMUNITY BUILDING** Pauline acknowledged the work and organization that went into Fall Camp by Nancy W and Karen W. PNO will be at the Dierkens--date and time to follow. Also an announcement soon will follow about a new parents evening event.

Kelli - DCS T-Shirts

- ◆ Order forms for apparel will come home via kid-mail on **Thursday, October 18th**. Please return your order forms by **Tuesday, October 30th**.
- ◆ A variety of items will be offered: short- and long-sleeved cotton tee-shirts, crewneck sweatshirts, hooded pullover sweatshirts, fleece vests, baseball-style caps.
- ◆ This year, items can be viewed online for color options and sizes. Links will be provided through Parent Organizer.

NEW BUSINESS/Q&A

Chris P reported on a Parent education event to be held on 11/13/07. The speaker will be Melanie Miller, topic: Positive Discipline. Parents from Thoreau, Keller and Juanita are also invited, and the event is open to others as well in the district. This will be the first in a series of three parent education events. LWSD offers \$1200/school for such events but these funds are often not completely used. Upcoming events: Ruth Parker 2/06/07-Math Investigations Specialist and Carolyn Shelton in April of 2008 on children safety issues. Community members are encouraged to spread the word to other parents about these events.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 PM.