

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Steering Meeting Minutes

October 4, 2007, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Carl Sandburg Teacher's Lounge

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM.

Meeting attendees: Dawn G, Toby B, Diane J, Sara S, Anne C, Shannon B, Pete S, Marc B, Cameron A, Tom C, Christi D, Linda M. Per speaker phone: Yvonne H.

Welcome! - Shannon/Pete

Staff Report - Toby/Diane: Diane reported that parent teacher conferences are going well with good attendance and communication. Toby reported that WASL scores and safety net service information was sent home. The school is required to make a student learning plan tailored to specific needs of students. Support is available particularly for math and writing. There was minor confusion with the timing of these reports/info sent home. Toby states he appreciates the open communication with DCS.

Treasurer's Report – Marc: The DCS checking and savings account were consolidated with a present balance of \$20,267.00. Marc is investigating possibly transferring to another account with better interest. Reimbursements may be a bit slower as a committee chair signature is now required as folks get used to this process. This was presented very clearly in the Community meeting. Marc had available for distribution an income/expense report for those attendees interested.

Volunteer Report – Anne: No concerns at this time. Plans to have community photo calendar up by the end of October.

Committee Reports

Enrichment – Amy: No comments from enrichment at this time.

Finance – Tom: No concerns or comments at this time.

Community Outreach - Susan/Christi: Christi reported that the food sorting is planned for November 3rd from 1-4 in Shoreline. 19 families expressed interest in this activity at the Community meeting. Christ and Susan plan to look for books for availability in the classroom on hunger issues. They are also continuing to think about an activity for a spring Earth Day emphasis. Current ideas include doing a fundraiser such as a coin drive to help worthy environmental causes, and/or coordinating an activity such as weed pulling of invasive species. Planning is ongoing.

Community Building - Pauline: No report tonight.

Communications – Dawn: PO announcements are going smoothly. Stuart is unable to locate the guidelines for use of the community emails. Members are asked to see if they have these guidelines stored in their own files, and let Stuart know if they are located.

The field trip permission form on PO is currently outdated, and should be changed by Ron R in the near future.

Shannon distributed a rough draft for a DCS bookmark that summarizes the DCS philosophy. Discussion of possible revisions to the bookmark text followed. Multiple suggestions were given including the following: a concern that new parents may get the impression their child receives extended one on one attention from teachers from the word "individual", a concern with the meaning of the word "cooperative", a rewording of the bullet point about concern for the social/emotional aspect of the classroom, and the background of Hodding Carter who is quoted on the front. Shannon will give all of this feedback in more detail to Laura R who is working on the bookmark.

Other Business

DCS Website – Shannon: Had a productive meeting last week. The website changes will come to steering soon for final review.

Grant Writing – Cameron: Cameron is willing to work on grant writing. She needs a list of ideas/needs for the school, another list of grants that are available and then can move forward on what the community wants to pursue in terms of grants. Needs of school should be tied to the school's mission and vision. Current ideas include an art teacher, foreign language instruction, tools and resources for the grounds. Cameron will bring more ideas and possible grant options to the next meeting.

Winter Event – Yvonne: Per speaker phone, Yvonne described a proposal for the winter event.

This would be a performance by Seattle Early Dance company. They would do a performance of about 45 minutes with dancers(4 dancers, male and female) in period dress and also instrumentalists of the 16th-18th century. The music would be of the Baroque and Renaissance period. There would be a Q and A time afterwards. The cost to DCS would be \$487, as the \$975 fee would be subsidized 50% by the Early Music guild. Yvonne would also foresee having snacks and a social time following the performance. More information about the group may be found at Seattleearlydance.org. Discussion of the pros and cons of this event followed. It was decided that the decision to present the possibility to the community would not be voted on at the meeting, but rather by email votes. This will give members an opportunity to learn more on the website. Shannon will send out an email asking for votes about this next week. 7 votes are needed to bring the discussion to the community meeting.

Action Item Follow-Ups:

FROM AUGUST STEERING MEETING

Janet	DONE	Booster Seat Forms
Marc	DONE	Spring Camp Expenses
Dawn	DONE	Get Spring Camp Attendance Numbers from Sudie
Diane	DONE	Check on Contribution Amounts at Other Choice Schools
Shannon	DONE	Work w/Marlene to Locate PTSA Rep for Parent Ed Funding
Christi	DONE	Talk w/Cris about Publicity

FROM SEPTEMBER STEERING MEETING

Diane	DONE	Check with teachers regarding their ideas surrounding Learning Celebration and Pie Share and report to Pauline.
Diane	DONE	RE: Theme for the year: "DCS: Lighting the Way" - Talk to teacher's to see if they could do or have.
Tom	DONE	Contact Gabriel S regarding bringing laptop to sign people up for Safeway, etc.
Stuart		Give what he sent out last year regarding email etiquette to Steering list.
Shannon	DONE	Ensure with Holly that signed permissions on file for anyone who is in the website.

New Business

New Action items from today's meeting:

Shannon: Check on quote from Hodding Carter.

Shannon: Give feedback on bookmark from meeting to Laura.

Cameron: Prepare list of possible grants available, as well as possible programs/ideas for the school that the grant money would be used for.

Shannon: Send out email asking for votes about Seattle Early Dance as a possibility for winter event to be presented at community meeting.

Steering: Check files for etiquette guidelines for use of community emails

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM