

DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Steering Committee Meeting Agenda

May 6, 2010

Location: Carl Sandburg Library

ATTENDEES: Dawn, Jill, Pete, Shannon B., Laura, Stella, Kim, Diane, Nadine R, Cameron, Susan V, Janet, Mark, David, Shannon S. Aaron, Tom

6:37 **WELCOME** *presented by Jill*

6:37 **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT** *presented by Mark*

- Decision has been confirmed that the school district will reconfigure for fall 2012. K – 5; 6-8; 9-12 – see district website for more information on this at <http://www.lwsd.org/News/News-and-Announcements/Pages/Changes-to-Handle-Growing-Student-Population.aspx>. How this affects choice schools will be decided over the next two years, but there will not be a different configurations for choice schools.
- Reconfiguration will start the same time as moving into the new building (not a rebuilt building). There was an initial architectural meeting today on the new building plans. Nice that there was a strong sense of community, and that the new building needs to reflect this. Tried some different configurations. Big take away is that they are listening to this committee (The MOD Team); there is not preconfigured plan.
- MSP testing starts Wednesday.

6:53 **TEACHER'S REPORT** *presented by Diane*

- A rehearsal for Spring Camp play occurred today, and things went well.
- More comments on the MOD Team meeting including how environmental this project is going to be and how the work crews are willing to meet and work with the classes. Grant opportunities (like for Solar Panels) are being looked at. Next meeting is on Wednesday.

7:01 **TREASURER'S REPORT** *presented by Stella*

- Budget updates are available if you want to look; just want everyone to know that things are looking really good.
- Did use more money for the bag lunches than we anticipated. This was a first time doing this sort of thing, so the need for this was just not as well known. Need to get approval for going over (no more than \$400) - Shannon/Nadine R. motion - approved. This will also need to be approved by the whole Community.
- Diane spent \$225 for books for the Youngers for the Women in History project, can she get this budget addition approved – David/Stella motion - approved

7:07 **VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR REPORT** *presented by Kim*

- Sent out letter to families behind in hours; most everyone is fairly close and has sent mail with how they are dealing with this. There are a couple of families who are pretty far behind, and these families have not replied. Discussed the volunteer commitment and the policy and procedures that must be followed if these hours are not met.
- Discussion about emphasizing the important contributions we make to our children's education more than just filling in a log. Should we emphasize more that it is about finding a place where you can help out the education? We might also think about how much of the Org Chart should be filled out ahead of time? Perhaps a little more hand holding for the new folks as well as having the Org Chart going to Summer Picnic and new family meetings.
- next years org chart

7:28 **PTSA LIAISON REPORT** *presented by Jill*

- Women's Day Assembly went well as did the Carnival.

7:29 **FIELD DAY** *presented by Nadine R.*

- Field Day is 11 June. There are lots of complications due to Third grade swim, K – 2 having issues with Scavenger hunt, so need to work out how to handle this. Might split up the classes by the grade level to solve this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

7:35 **COMMUNITY BUILDING** *presented by Nadine R.*

- Janet has sent out letters to the new families. Someone will also call them, and Janet will send out a mail with the events that are coming up over the summer.
- Ten families are leaving (and two families are moving), we will say goodbye at the May meeting.

7:45 **HERBICIDE FREE** *presented by Susan V.*

- The last set of work went great. Lots of plants went in, and hope they are well established so they can move with the new school.
- The next one is on 6 June.
- Ingrid Salmon taking Herbicide Free next year!!!

--- **FINANCE/GRANTS**

- No updates

7:46 **COMMUNITY OUTREACH** *presented by Susan V.*

- Susan V willing to step down if others want to step up here – especially the new families. Suggested putting extra spots in the org chart for “interns/apprentice/shadowing”, basically a spot for a person to learn and participate. An additional idea was having the committee chairs actually having a committee – these folks would be the first called to help out on something (not necessarily leading it) rather than spamming the whole community.

7:53 **COMMUNICATIONS** *presented by Dawn*

- While there is no new person picking this up, when Dawn asked for help she got three people who stepped up.

--- **ENRICHMENT**

- No updates

OTHER BUSINESS

7:55 **NEW BUSINESS/Q&A** *presented by Jill*

- Brainstorming session about encouraging attendance to the monthly community meetings (which is stated as a requirement for attending DCS in the Family Participation Commitment sheet we all signed at some point), possible ways to make up absences, and consequences for consistent absences. What are the biggest stumbling blocks for attendance, what do we as a community most need our families to get from these meetings, how can we do to make them better? Do many families feel they are optional or even unnecessary? We get about 60% attendance at most meetings. 25 families (out of 54, I think) have missed three or more meetings. Numbers are based on the log-in sheet laid out by the agenda at each meeting.
- Might think about how will DCS grow/change over the future with the new building and the new configuration. Maybe that will bring people out.
- Are we covering enough new material to be meeting every month? Can we cover the same amount in fewer meetings? Is there something we can accomplish (work sessions)? Special topics to discuss?
- Need ways to make the meetings relevant. Currently much is brought up through email and recaptured after the meeting in the minutes. Perhaps by having them break up into committees during the meeting to work on the committee.
- Does a discussion need to take place about what this school stands for and what we want to see?
- How about varying the meeting? Different format of meeting each month, varying days of the week to meet, other ideas thrown out.
- More discussion about volunteer hours and procedures?
- Creating a list of multiple talents, and then use that as a basis for getting folks involved in regard to their specific talents.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Recommend that every committee chair write up what your committee does; what skills that are useful for it; and the load needed to help out with that committee.

8:35 **ADJOURN**