

## DISCOVERY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

### Steering Meeting Minutes

Location: Library

September 3, 2009

**Attending:** Dawn G, Jill C-F, Mark B, Diane J, Janet Z, Shannon B, Pete S, Stella B, Nadine R, Leo S, Denise B, Sherri P, Kim H, Courtney R, Nadine R, Susan V, Cameron A-S, Cris P, Shelley G, Katherine R, Pauline T.

#### Welcome – Jill and Dawn

- Justin is resigning as Secretary
- Replacement will be made at the next Community Meeting if someone steps up
- Will send out an email to the dcs-business email list tomorrow

#### Principle's Report – Mark

- Welcome back to school – been lonely around the school without the kids
- Curriculum Night – September 17
  - Schedule will come out on Tuesday in Mark's newsletter (forwarded by Angela)
- Ice Cream Social – September 24<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- School reconfiguration plans. Chip Kimball and the district have been looking into the feasibility of four year high schools. They did approve this August and a levy will come out to purchase the buildings. There will be further information coming from the district soon. There are also possibilities of looking at other school configurations including K-12.
- It is possible that Juanita High School may make the change earlier than the rest of the district because of the extra space. There is much hope from the community that the district will take this opportunity to align all the choice schools to start and end with the same years so we do not have kids leaving school a year early and/or not having a real school to go to
- We will not have the WASL this year – we will instead be giving the MSP – Measurement of Student Progress and will be held in May rather than April. This will be a shorter test and will still be given to third grade and higher students.
- DCS/Sandburg is trying to measure progress throughout the year and be able to support them in greater ways during the year using this new MSP test.
- WASL results from last year will be sent out in the next month or so.
- Staff changes at the school:
  - New 6th grade teacher at Sandburg Robin MacDonald
  - Pat Pietersen is now working at a different school
  - Margaret Bauer - library IA retired this year – worked from the beginning of Sandburg
  - Mona Chandler took a job outside of education
  - Sandy Hill is now a Instructional Assistant
  - Paul Lang is now working in our Computer Lab

#### Teachers Report - Diane

- Enjoying the first few days
- Focus on social aspect early this year – great ideas started already
- Teachers all took the Denny workshop – a high trust workshop (this is where the “dogs” came from at the Root Beer Social).
  - First heard, best remembered

- Last heard, second best remembered
- Things in the middle – not remembered as much
- Helps to make kids successful – do it well and feel good
- Talked about not talking about the behavior that has happened – but focus on the solution (don't focus on what has been done – but help the person who has been wronged move on.)
- Will use “The Story of Ruby Bridges” as a great way to help reinforce the above lesson
- Look for the rubies in the classroom – just in case they need a “Ruby Reminder”
- Research around bullying is shown that giving the victims to overcome the bullying is more important than to give the attention to the bully
- Will talk more about this at the October Community Meeting

#### **Treasurer's Report – Stella/Pete**

- Budget hasn't really changed since June
- Pete would like to change the format of the spreadsheet
  - At the current time – you need to enter both negative and positive numbers
  - They would like to change it to make it to where it can make more sense to the community members
  - The spreadsheet is a tool to present to the community – there are also books that are kept
  - They will bring a new document to the new steering meeting next month

#### **Volunteer Coordinator Report – Kim/Anne**

- Fall event needs a new leader – looking into “Wide Games” and possibly St Edwards – tentative date of October 10<sup>th</sup>
- Do we really need Hospitality? If we do without the food at community – the rest of the functions are self sustaining – the room parents can help with the Learning Celebration.

#### **PTSA – Angela**

- Nothing to report

#### **Communications – Leo**

- Find out what the role is
- Like to find out if what we're doing for communication is actually working
- Are we really getting the correct information
- If you didn't get a phone call from the “Skyward” system (Mark) at the end of the summer – you need to talk to Betty in the front office

#### **Enrichment – Sherri/Cris**

- Friday Specials coming – African drummers, dancers, and mask making
- Will need to look at where to take out of the budget

#### **Finance/Grants - Cameron**

- Grants season is in full swing – early fall is a very busy time for the grant writing

- Community members please keep an eye out for grants at this time
- The French program will continue this year
- They would like to expand Spanish and Mandarin this year – not official but would like to try and offer three sessions of language this year. It would be “on demand” and more information to come.

#### **Community Outreach – Katherine/Susan**

- Hopelink supply drive ends tomorrow – will delivery by Tuesday
- Food Lifeline has been a successful event and Fall is a good time to do it – trying to get a date locked in – early November
- Nancy will head up the homeless women’s luncheon
- Open to new ideas – send them to Susan

#### **Community Outreach – Pauline/Nadine**

- Good feelings for new parents
- New parents should now be signed up with Parent Organizer

#### **New Business/Q&A**

- **Jill C-F:** Energy savings in the budget – the result of this is that they took away PERSONAL heaters, fans, and microwaves. How does this affect DCS? It does not – because these are used by the school. If it would help transition to purchase a lower energy microwave – let us know.
- **Jill C-F:** Is the Facilities Chair really needed? This was created by Beth Angelo long ago when it was needed for the herbicide free. At this point and time – we do have a line item in the budget so we need to keep this chair until further discussion has happened.
- **Susan/Denise:** Does herbicide free need to be in the DCS structure or do we transition this to the PTSA like we do for Green Team and Wellness and have this go to the PTSA? Marlene and Tricia (PTSA Presidents) are willing to take them and this would help to involve the rest of the Sandburg school needs to feel welcome. We should keep the line item of herbicide free in the budget, but we would pass the herbicide free to the PTSA so we can get volunteers from Sandburg as well. Denise and Susan are going to talk to PTSA before we move forward.
- **Kim:** knows parents, knows kids, does not know which parents go to which kids. Is there a way to put together a family photograph? Something to think about...anybody want to volunteer? Isn’t this what Fall Event is about? A big meet and greet? Pauline is going to work with Kim to give everyone an opportunity to send out.

#### **Meeting Adjourned 8:24**