

**Discovery Community School  
Steering Meeting Minutes  
Location: DCS Library  
October 7, 2010**

**Members Present:** Jill, Laura, Mark, Pete, Shannon S., Setty, Cris, Dawn, Nadine, Peggy, James, Shelley and Hannah

Jill and Laura welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Principal's Report**

- The Fun Run will be 9/8. The ribbons have changed this year. Everyone will get a white ribbon and the number of laps will be written onto their ribbon. The fund raising is going well.
- Mark met with the Architects on 10/6. This is the first phase of them meeting with Mark to show a glimpse of what the new school will look like inside. All of the playground space will be used next year for building. The architects are in the planning stages on how to make a play space during construction. The teachers visited Robert Frost Elementary for a workshop and were able to see the size of the new classrooms.
- The teachers recently met with other schools for a math workshop. They worked in groups of grade levels to problem solve ways to teach various part of the new math curriculum.
- Skyward System went live on 10/4. It is meant to be used as a tool to communicate with parents. Mark explained the grading system briefly. Trend Grading is the new method they are using. Mark will explain in depth about the process at a later date.
- Mark asked if anyone went to the LWSD parent input meetings. Shannon B reported that she went and the attendance was not that good. Shannon B voiced her concern that Northstar and Renaissance Choice Schools do not have a building starting in 2012. One proposal Shannon heard was for multiple choice schools housed in one building.

**Treasurer's Report**

- Pete reported that the teachers are using the discretionary funds.
- \$130.00 extra funds received from printer cartridges.
- \$3,900.00 in checking
- Just over \$16,000.00 in savings.
- A new printer is needed for DCS. Janet will work out the specifics with Mark for purchasing. Dawn suggested that this will end up coming out of DCS budget. The price is unknown at this point.

**Community Outreach**

- Setty asked for suggestions on ways to keep the momentum going for the coin drive. Some ideas were to incorporate the "fill your bucket" theme such as we fill other people's buckets through our coin drive for fresh water, having the kids count the coins one time/week and placing a container in each classroom to increase the visibility.
- Men's Transitional Shelter. This is a shelter for men who have recently lost their jobs; it is not for homeless people. All the men there have had background checks done and there are no confidentiality issues. Setty asked if anybody was interested in volunteering there. No final decisions were made.

- Possible rummage sale after the holidays. Mark does not think it would be a problem to have it on school grounds. There was a question as to who would be sponsoring the event, DCS or Parent Group for liability reasons. Setty will continue to work out the details.
- Cori will be heading up the Homeless Women's Shelter luncheon this year.

### **Staff Appreciation**

- Cris asked if there could be a policy that every year the teachers may order one DCS apparel item and DCS covers the cost. It was decided there did not need to be a policy, but that it would be made a line item for next years budget to include DCS apparel for teachers.
- Cris asked if anybody was interested in canvas shopping bags with the DCS name on them. There were several people interested, so she will let Amy know to add that item to the apparel order form.

### **Communications**

- A lengthy discussion was had about if we should keep using Parent Organizer (PO). It was decided to continue with it for this year as we have already paid for it and it appears to be fixed now.
- Dawn will talk with the field trip coordinators to see if PO is working for them and leave up to their discretion whether they use it or not.
- Dawn will ask the teachers to include their weekly snack schedule in their weekly updates.
- James made a suggestion for next year to have the field trip permissions slips be made in to a mail merge document.

### **Community Building**

- Nadine reported the Fall Event is on Oct. 17.
- Nov. 6 is the next PNO at John and Shannon S.

### **New Business**

- Surplus Funds Request #1. Dawn reported that Homework Club needs \$250.00-\$500.00 depending on the number of late registrants. They need up to \$500.00 in order to pay the teachers to keep it going. A lengthy discussion was had about the purpose of homework club and if should even continue. Laura suggested polling parents to see which days work best for them for Homework Club. Shannon B. made a motion for DCS parent group to pay\$250.00 to support homework club for the fall session and Dawn seconded and Cris abstained. The motion was passed.
- Surplus Funds Request #2. Jill reported that Diane purchased the IXL Math program and needs a one time \$200.00 subscription fee. Diane reports the program is great as it challenges the kids at their individual level and keeps one grade busy working on the computers doing math while she instructs the grade on their math lesson. Laura moved to approve the \$200.00 request and Cris seconded. The motion was passed. Carol and Monica are interested in the IXL Math Program as well, so Jill will talk with them about submitting their surplus funds request. Laura motioned to approve up to \$400.00 to purchase the IXL math program for middles and olders. Cris seconded the motion. This will request will be taken to the next community meeting.

**Adjourn: 8:05**