



Discovery Community School
<http://dcs.ourschoolpages.com/Home>

DCS Community Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2021
Location: Zoom

Presiding: Chris Barrows

Minutes: Erin Moreland

Opening – 6:34pm

Welcome - Jose Ruiz & Chris Barrows

Teachers' Report – Diane Jewell

Nothing to report. Appreciation to families for patience and support. Available for any questions.

Spring Retreat Update - Chris Barrows

2021 spring camp will be moved to August 27-29 (tentatively) and will follow up in June to confirm if it's going to work.

2022 dates are filling up so he penciled in May 20-22, 2022: no objections to the date.

Community Building/Winter Event - Sophie Lalazarian Truman

Tomorrow (Friday) is the last day for the book fair (mark money to go to DCS)

Room parents are coordinating crafts for Valentine's Day - keep an eye out for emails

Enrichment art activities are coming

Winter Event will be virtual: aiming for March - planning for video submissions from Readers'

Theater Friday Special; other video skits can be submitted; collect images of art and look for

requests for virtual art show submissions

Shirt ideas ideas to discuss down the road

Friday Specials - Adrienne Yang

Readers' Theater is set, need folks to submit ideas for Friday Specials. These can be wrapped into Winter Event (Origami, skits). Timeline is up in the air but thinking late Feb into early March, prep for virtual Winter Event.

Speaker Reminder- Melissa Benaroya Feb 25 2021

She will speak at our next community meeting: Motion Coaching for Kids (geared towards parents).

Treasurers' Report- Jason Ahlf

Treasurer's report was emailed out to the community.

Checking: ~ \$11k, savings: ~\$14k

32 out of 72 student dues have been paid (44%)

Reminder to contact treasurer if you need assistance/waiver.

New Business / Walk on Topics

Parent question: deadline for new families to accept their spot at dcs? Jan 26

Quick reminder to youngers families to sign up for conferences next week - check your email from Ms Jewell.

Principal's Report/Pathway Forward Update - Erin Bower

District email came through at 7:00 pm with an update on Pathway Forward/return to school plan. District is delaying return of K/1 until Feb 18, 2/3 until mid March, 4/5: end of March

Thank you to Jose and Chris for their support and helping with communication and survey structure. Goal of the school survey is to help figure out what will happen with DCS specifically, but your response is not a commitment. Choice schools follow District for the most part but there are aspects of DCS that don't fit the broader district plan.

- One survey for each student at DCS
- Most important question: What is your priority for your student for the remainder of the school year?
 - Stay with teacher no matter what
 - remain remote: if DCS returns, you'll go to neighborhood school, unless dcs stays remote then nothing would change
 - in person: that may mean placement in neighborhood school or possibly Sanburg (back to DCS next year)
 - Can also add comments - these will be taken into consideration (ideas that would work for your family, concerns, priorities) and shared with the district.
- Choosing something different from your teacher is not going to result in pressure on the teacher to do the same
- This survey is not a commitment - it will help inform the school's next step. Erin will take this info and work with the teachers to put together a plan that will be intended for the rest of the year, understanding that may still change. The goal is to reduce disruption to the kids.
- Homeschool option - please add to the comments section so she can follow up with the district.
- Survey will come out tonight, after tonight's meeting.

Parent question: no info on mask requirements

- medical exemption required to not wear a mask
- concern over glasses fogging - they're looking at what other options may be.
- Decisions are made at the district level but haven't yet been made.

Appropriate play at recess

- Still in planning stages
- this hasn't been defined or determined

Snack protocol

- looking at covered outdoor options (no eating in classroom)

- determining with teachers how this will be approached (small groups, class)

We will not have that information before completing the survey.

Parent: if teachers remain remote, and a few dcs students want to stay remote, will they stay with their teacher? EB: DCS teachers will stay at DCS. DCS is being given some additional flexibility to figure this out for the community.

Parent: If we select in person - can we request Sanburg rather than neighborhood school? EB: please put that on the survey, so she can share with her supervisor. She would allow for that if there's room. She's a creative problem solver - she needs family input to come up with solutions that will work for families.

Parent: when can we expect next steps. EB: depends on survey results. Expect an update next week on where they are in the process (meeting with teachers, district, have plan to share).

Parent: Big picture - what are the requirements for regular back to school (all adults vaccinated? all kids vaccinated?)--what's the chatter at the district. EB: hasn't heard any discussion beyond this school year.

Parent: Special services - how will that work. EB: will work with staff on those schedules. Hope is to keep kids with the same provider - these services may likely remain remote for continuity and reduced exposure (one service may meet with 20 kids in different classes/schools)

Parent: Information on building ventilation, air exchange rate? Might help parents decide. EB: someone has been tasked with sharing this info with the staff but they haven't yet, which is why they're planning to eat outside. Information is now on FAQ site: Typical airflow exchange rate for a classroom: 7 ACH (Air Changes per Hour).

Parent: Sounds like district doesn't intend to change course (unless things get worse). EB has been told the same but anything is subject to change.

Parent: Help with parenting/family anxiety? EB recommends sharing challenges (social/emotional) with teachers during conferences. remembering that you're not alone. It's okay to have days when nothing gets done--you don't need to be perfect, your child doesn't need to be perfect. We're all building more resilience and character. E Subcleff: let us know and we can help - tell your teacher--we can definitely help.

Parent: Is there a summer school plan to help catch kids up? EB - doesn't know of a concrete plan, but anticipates something like that will be coming through.

Survey results can be discussed at the next steering meeting on Feb 4.

Adjourn 7:55pm