



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

DCS Community Meeting Minutes

Date: January 18, 2024

Location: Online via Zoom

Presiding: Danya Kelberg & Jaclyn Senekerimyan

Minutes: Robin Desilet

Opening: 7:03pm

Welcome / Ice Breaker – Danya

Welcome back to our fully online Zoom meeting! Thank you for your flexibility.

The icebreaker looked at goals and intentions for the year. Those who had a similar intention/goal gave a virtual thumbs up, and intentions included walking more, running, completing a marathon, eating more junk food, eating less candy, learning a new skill, etc.

Principal's Report – Erin Bowser

Snow Days

It's been a strange couple of days with the snow and ice but we do anticipate a regular school day tomorrow. Our district is so large that snow and ice can be in one location and not in others. The district has to make a holistic decision when determining snow days and it is a very hard decision. We understand that it can cause frustration if you do not have any snow or ice. Safety of students, staff, and family is the top priority. The question was asked as to when the snow days would be made up. Right now, the Tuesday after Memorial Day (May 28th) is already a built in school day. The second day will typically be added at the end of the school year, but that is not confirmed yet and could change. Substituting out other days already scheduled on the calendar is not common, and has to be worked out with the various unions.

iFly - Middles Learning Journey

A big thank you to Ms. Subcleff for helping to reschedule the iFly Learning Journey for the Olders and communicating with students.

Conferences

Conferences are next week. Be sure you sign up to meet with your child's teacher.

Ms. Stanley

We are very excited to share that Ms. Stanley will be here through the end of the school year.

Appreciation

Thank you for the very generous gift card that was given by DCS over the holidays.

STEAM Night

Next week, there will be a STEAM night sponsored by the Sandburg/DCS PTSA.

Teacher Report – Ms. Subcleff

The Teacher's Report was given by Ms. Subcleff and the following was reported:

- iFly for the Olders Learning Journey has been rescheduled for February 29th.
 - Jaclyn recently did iFly and recommends that any children with long hair be sure to pull it back and braid it. Also, shoes must have laces and no jewelry is allowed.
- Teachers are looking forward to conferences.
- They are very pleased to hear that Amber will be here the rest of the year in the Youngers classroom.
- This year there is not going to be a Valentine's day party in the classrooms (no cards, etc.) but instead there was a schoolwide decision to instead have a spring celebration on March 7th.

Treasurer's Report: Dues + Matching – Ramya & Lindall

DCS holds the following balances:

- Savings: \$12,452.46
- Checking: \$13,180.17
- PayPal: \$733.59

32 families have paid their dues/donation (\$250 per child, per year) broken down in the following categories:

- Youngers - 12 families paid
- Middles - 11 families paid
- Olders - 9 families paid

You can pay your dues online by selecting the red "Donate Now" button on the [DCS webpage](#). It was suggested that maybe we should have some type of class competition as an incentive. As of right now, announcements to pay dues have only been in the DCS community meetings, not via email. Once we get closer to the deadline there will be more targeted emails to families.

Ramya has been working hard on the company matches. Anyone who donated last year should receive an emailed receipt from DCS for their taxes. If you don't receive it, please check your junk mail. All families need to pay the full amount of your dues (\$250) even if you receive a

company match. The company match is on top of your donation, and it is only equitable that all families pay the same amount. Please email the Treasurers at treasurer@dcscg.org with any questions.

PTSA Update – Danya

- The Book Fair is next week, January 23rd to 26th. Hours are listed below, including new evening hours on Wednesday night. Volunteers are still needed and can sign up via [Sign Up Genius](#). [Online book shopping](#) is also available. Also, consider [making a donation](#) to All for Books which allows all our students the opportunity to purchase a new book, no matter their financial situation.
 - Tuesday, January 23rd: 11:45am-4:00pm
 - Wednesday, January 24th: 1:45-6:30pm (new evening hours!)
 - Thursday, January 25th: 11:45am-4:00pm
 - Friday, January 26th: 11:45am-4:00pm
- Be sure to sign up for teacher conferences next week if you haven't yet.
- The PTSA provides lunches for teachers and staff the week of conferences. Please [sign up](#) if you want to help provide food for the lunches. Typically all the slots fill up, but right now there are a lot of open slots.
- STEAM night is next week, Jan 25th, 2024. You can [volunteer](#) to help with table activities.
- Be sure to read the new January PTSA Scoop that came out via email.

Volunteering - Jeremiah, Katherine & Jaclyn

Submitting Volunteer Hours - Jeremiah

There is a [new link](#) for submitting volunteer hours. The past method allowed for the collection of hours in a variety of formats (how time was entered, child reported under, etc.). Some families haven't been entering hours in the old system, partially due to Covid, and also DCS needing to find a new way to track hours. Submitting volunteer hours will be new for a lot of families. It's important to our school to track volunteer hours, especially if we are applying for grants. The new system will make it much easier to track families volunteer hours and it requires you enter an email address, along with the duration, and type of volunteer activity. Families are encouraged to enter multiple hours at one time. You will also receive a receipt after you submit your hours.

The following questions were asked:

- It doesn't have a place for a child's name. So if spouses have different last names will it connect to the child?
 - Answer: Yes, we can connect it on the back end. As long as the email is connected to My School Pages.
- Could you clarify your preference for single clump submission or multiple submissions per volunteer opportunity?
 - Answer: Submitting either way is fine, but it does make it easier for us to sort by volunteer activity if you do submit it all at once.

- If you submit new hours, will it also show the old hours?
 - Answer: We have all the old hours from the 2023 school year.
- Do you want us to submit hours from the beginning of the year?
 - Answer: No you do not have to resubmit hours, we have them.
- Will we have a way to check our hours?
 - Answer: Yes, you will have a way to do this. There are some privacy concerns with a dashboard.
- Please remind me how many hours per family is required?
 - 65 hours are strongly recommended per year.
- Where is the link to submit volunteer hours?
 - Here is the new [Volunteer Hours Link](#) You or you can find it on the [DCS webpage](#).

Camp Food - Katherine

We are still looking for someone to help with camp food this year (May 31 - June 2nd, 2024). In the past the camp has provided the meals, but this year they are not providing us with meals and the community must take responsibility for the food. This includes 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, and 1 dinner. In the past the camp has done tacos, oatmeal, etc. The committee would be very well supported by additional volunteers during camp to help with cooking. The question was asked if people can cook their own food. While this may be possible (especially for families with food allergies or gluten intolerance) the goal right now is to find someone to help us run the kitchen, and having the meal plans incorporate options for those with food allergies and sensitivities. Though, each small cabin does have its own kitchen, it is a later discussion. Several community members volunteered in the Zoom chat and Katherine will send a follow-up email. The question was asked as to whether or not we needed a food permit. Danya plans to get one, but she does not believe we need a special permit.

Board Positions - Jaclyn

We have several open DCS Board positions that need to be filled for next year. They include the Co-chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. The elections are in April and we are looking for some newer families to fill these spots. Feel free to reach out to committee members via email to learn more about the backend work of the position. Email addresses are available on the DCS cheat sheet.

Reminders / Upcoming Events / Cheat Sheet – Danya & Jaclyn

The Sandburg/DCS PTSA will be hosting a guest speaker on February 22nd from 7-9pm. The topic will be about anxiety. It will be a hybrid meeting where participants can attend in person in the upstairs library or via Zoom. The Zoom link is provided when you submit the Google form. We will need assistance monitoring the online chat during the meeting. The guest speaker replaces our regular DCS community meeting.

Winter Art Event – Danya & Chrissy

The Winter Art Event is coming soon on Saturday, March 2nd, from 3-5pm. Chrissy will be visiting classrooms next Monday to talk with the kids. Watch for a form to be coming home soon. It is very important that students attend the rehearsal on Thursday, February 29th from 4:15 - 5:30pm. Parents/Guardians must be present if your child is staying after for the rehearsal, as there is no childcare.

At the end of the performances, there will be a slideshow with videos, photographs, etc. if your child does not want to go on stage. We will not be promoting this option to students but we wanted to make sure that parents are aware.

Volunteers will be needed to make this event happen. We especially need volunteers to help setup on Friday, March 1st from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. The kids are very proud to display their artwork, but it's a lot of work to set up. The question was asked if the art was only from school or home too. Due to limited space on the art boards (which are rented) we need to limit it to work from school. Students who have artwork from home could take a picture and have it added to the slideshow.

There will be a raffle at the Winter Art event to support the Outdoor Ed Program for Olders. Last year about \$800 was raised to help offset costs. We are also hoping to get items donated from corporations. We are asking 3rd and 4th grade families if they can help put together a basket for the raffle. If anyone else in the community has an item they can put in the raffle that would be greatly appreciated. Please note, we can't raffle alcohol as children are allowed to buy raffle tickets. Danya will send a follow-up email to the community.

Walk on Topics - All

- The email addresses for all DCS Board members are available on the DCS cheat sheet. Jaclyn will email out an updated copy. Ms. Subcleff also offered to add it to ParentSquare.
- Please remember to donate blood.

Adjourned: 8:07 p.m.