



Discovery Community School

<http://dcs.ourschoolpages.com/Home>

DCS Community Meeting Minutes

Date: November 16, 2023

Location: In Person - DCS/Sandburg Commons & Online via Zoom

Presiding: Danya Kelberg & Jaclyn Senekerimyan

Minutes: Robin Desilet

Opening: 7:05pm

Welcome & Moment of Thanks – Danya

We had great turnout for DCS Info Night and there are a lot of new families interested in applying.

This month we want to focus on giving a moment of thanks to thank others in our community. Some of the shout outs included:

- Chrissy Barrows and Phoebe Greenman for all their hard work planning the fall event.
- All the parent who supported the last two Olders learning journeys.
- Everyone who serves on the Steering Committee and the extra hours that they put in.
- The Volunteer Coordinator, classroom organizers, and those planning parent nights out.
- Jaclyn Senekerimyan for all the reminders she sends out to the community.
- Karen Taha for being a silent hero when it comes to volunteering and how extremely helpful she is with everything she does.

Everyone helps make this community function and make everything happen.

PTSA Updates

At DCS we are very thankful for all the PTSA's support.

Grant Requests

At the recent PTSA Meeting, members approved \$20,000 of surplus be moved into the Grants budget line. This line item is reserved for grant requests that come from the school body for the school. They have already helped to fund:

- Gaga Ball Pit
- Classroom Materials
- Music Room Instruments
- Watch D.O.G.S.

If you have an idea, fill out a Grant Application in the main office or follow the link from the [PTSA Homepage \(Sandburg DCS PTSA Grant Application Form\)](#).

Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students)

The Watchdog Program is set to offer an array of opportunities for male role models to get involved in the school community. Some of the activities include mentorship, campus involvement, community building, and educational support. To learn more about the Watchdog program, the upcoming events, and how to get involved reach out to Mike Connachan at mconnachan@windermere.com. More information can also be found in the [PTSA scope](#).

PTSA Fundraising

The PTSA is hosting several upcoming fundraising events which include:

- **Snapdoodle:** Shop at any Snapdoodle location Dec 3rd - 7th to get 20% of your purchase donated back to our school. Be sure to mention Sandburg/DCS PTSA at check out.
- **Bellevue Ice Rink:** Skate at the [Bellevue Ice Rink](#) between Nov. 17 – Jan 15th and mention “Sandburg” at admission. They will donate \$3 for each admission to the PTSA. More information is available in the [PTSA Scope](#).
- **Harvest Food Drive:** Last day for foodbank donations is Nov. 17th. Only unexpired shelf stable food can be accepted. Collection bins are in each class
- **Pantry packs:** These packs provide weekend food packs to food-insecure students in the LWSF. Learn more about the Pantry Packs program at: <https://www.lwsf.org/our-work/pantry-packs/> and how to donate.
- **Helping Hands:** All gifts are due by December 12th and should be unwrapped. There is a [signup genius form](#) so you know what kinds of gifts to be purchasing.

Math/STEAM

There is a free school wide math enrichment program. More information can be found at: <https://www.mathinaction.org/carl-sandburg.html>.

There is also Math Kangaroo which is an annual International Olympiad in mathematics. The competition takes place after school hours in the classroom on Thurs, March 21, 2024. There are only 25 spots. Early registration discount (\$21) ends on December 15th. Starting Dec. 16th it will be \$35 and registration closes on Dec. 31st. Financial assistance is available by emailing info@mathkangaroo.org. Visit <https://www.mathkangaroo.org> to find out more information and register. Be sure to use registration code “sandburgdcsmk2024”.

STEAM Night is January 25th. Students will take part in various experiments and explore our world and minds in this fun evening of experiments and learning. If you'd like to volunteer, please signup using the [link](#).

Yearbooks

PTSA extended the early purchase price for the yearbook until Nov. 30th. As a reminder this is different than the DCS yearbook that is paid for from our dues.

Next PTSA General Meeting

The next PTSA General Meeting is on January 11th at 7pm.

Principal's Report – Erin Bowser

Ms. Bowser expressed appreciation for letting us do the DCS Information Night before the general community meeting.

As a reminder, next Wednesday school is out at 11:40am and it is also the DCS Learning Celebration. It's always a great event and the students show great pride in their work.

The school is getting a gaga ball pit. Aditi Jain has been working on this for a long time. The Sandburg/DCS PTSA grant was submitted and approved for this. We are now looking at locations and Mr. Sandbo in P.E. will be teaching a unit for the kids on how to play it.

November is really a time of thanks and I wanted to give a huge thanks to our community. We started our year in a very different place than other years. Thank you for all of your support. The staff feels your support and love, and we are sincerely thankful for that. With the loss of Diane, our community has really pulled together. There was a lot of sadness at the beginning of the year. We are now more in a place of peace, memories, and celebration. Our new families have brought so much joy to our school.

Treasurer's Report: Dues + Matching - Ramya

Thirty-eight percent of families have paid their yearly dues.

Our current BECU balances are as follows:

- Checking: \$11,497.43
- Savings: \$12,442.51

Our PayPal balance is: \$0.

If you are doing a company match, we've had a few issues with the tools we've been using and have not been able to confirm the match yet but will be doing so in December. As a reminder Discovery is a 501(c) (3) non-profit and our tax ID # is 91-1647003.

If you are submitting your reimbursement requests, it would be very helpful for our Treasures if you would put all the receipts together.

Learning Journeys - Jaclyn (on behalf of Aditi Jain and Larissa Sannikova)

We are very thankful for all the drivers. There are 8-10 Learning Journeys planned for Olders and Middles, and about 6 for youngers (as long as it can fit within the budget). We want to make sure that parents are aware that it is not always first come, first served when choosing drivers. We are looking at how many children can fit in the car, cost of the trip, etc. Parents always have the option to drive their own kids but may have to pay for their own ticket/admission. We are working to get upcoming Learning Journey dates out further in advance and smoothing out a few other details.

Upcoming Speaker - Feb 22, 2024

Sandburg and DCS will host a joint community guest speaker on February 22nd (time TBD). It will probably be hybrid, but details are still being worked out. This year it will be Dr. Lynda Hernandez who is great, engaging speaker. It will be recorded if you are unable to attend. Please take the [Guest Speaker Survey](#) to rank your preference for speaker topic which include:

- Recognizing and responding to anxiety
- Talking to your kids about friendships
- Effective ways to connect with your kid/fostering healthy parent-child relationships
- Getting emotional: Getting into “the feels” with your kids

Reminders / Upcoming Events

Volunteer Hours:

We are working to make the process for submitting volunteer hours in the future smoother and allow you to be more independent in knowing how many hours have been completed. Right now, one change that has been made is that when you submit volunteer hours you can add your email address to receive a confirmation message of your submission. If you don't want to get an email confirmation, then enter email@email.com in the email line.

Teacher Gifts:

Each year we collect money for teacher's gifts from the whole community. The amount given ranges widely, and it is completely optional. Aditi Jain will be sending out a reminder email soon and the last call will be on Tuesday, November 21st. It is then evenly distributed among the teachers. Please feel free to still give teachers and staff your own family holiday card.

A Youngers parent reported that they are still not on the Youngers email distribution list. We will work on sending a paper home with the kids to make sure that all Youngers families are receiving the emails.

Learning Celebration:

Next Wednesday, Nov. 22nd is the DCS Learning Celebration at 10:40am. School dismissal is at 11:40am. Extended family and friends are welcome to attend. It is a time to see students projects in all DCS classrooms.

Upcoming Dates

- No School, Nov. 23rd and 24th
- Our next DCS Community meeting is January 18th at 7pm. There is no meeting in December.
- The Steering Committee's next meeting is December 7th at 7pm.
- Winter Break is from December 18th – January 1st (2 weeks)

Friday Specials

Winter Friday Specials will start after Winter break. Kara Sullivan will be sending out an email for track leads. The tracks are mainly arts based in the winter in preparation for the talent show.

Walk on Topics

- Jaya is the Sustainability Lead at Carl Sandburg. We were one of the few elementary schools that is herbicide free. The group meets once a month on Sunday mornings from 10 am-12 pm to work on the school grounds (weeding, pick up trash, mulching, etc.). Please come out to help. They have lots of gloves you can use but please bring your own clippers.
- Consider donating blood to Blood Works (Bloodworksnw.org). Holiday are a tough time for blood donations and there is always a need. You can donate every 56 days.
- We are still working on calculating fundraising efforts for outdoor ed. Due to receiving a grant this year, camp should cost between \$300 - \$400. Thank you to those who bought Bundt cakes.
- A community member is looking into Girls on the Run. It is an empowerment organization for girls.
- The school is looking for an art docent. There is a kiln on site.
- The following volunteer positions need to be filled:
 - Youngers and Olders Room Rep
 - Community Outreach Chair (to get community projects going)
 - Hospitality Coordinator (example: bring refreshments to community meetings)
 - Tech backup for hybrid community meetings
 - Coordinator for the Moving Up Ceremony (typically a 4th grade parent)
 - Assistant to help with cleaning up the website.

These volunteer openings will also be posted on Facebook. Please reach out to the Volunteer Coordinator (Katherine Allshouse, volunteer@dcscq.org) if you are interested in filling one of these positions.

Adjourned: 8:02 pm