



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

DCS Community Meeting Minutes

Date: March 21, 2024

Location: Sandburg/DCS Library and Online via Zoom

Presiding: Danya Kelberg & Jaclyn Senekerimyan

Minutes: Robin Desilet

Opening: 7:06pm

Welcome / Announcements - Danya

Welcome to the big budget meeting. A shout out for the fabulous winter event. Chrissy Barrows did an amazing job along with the rest of the volunteers.

Principal's Report – Ms. Kusunose

No announcements to report. Available for any questions.

Teacher Report – Ms. Subcleff

- We had our first combined DCS Spring party. It worked really well combining all three classes and there were a lot of great volunteers.
- Ms. Payette will be having a baby in May and going on maternity leave. She will have Mrs. Watilo as her amazing substitute.
- For the next DCS Learning Journey in April, all three classes will be going together to the Opera.

Treasurer's Report – Ramya

Current Balances

DCS holds the following balances:

- Savings: \$12,463.19
- Checking: \$12,050.07

We have received dues/donations (\$250 per child, per year) from 46 out of 71 students, which means that 64.7% of families have paid. We request that other families start making their payments as it's essential for all of the extra activities our kids get to participate in at DCS. Starting in April the treasurers will send out reminders to families who have not paid yet. If you receive an email in error, please reach out for a correction.

Budget Approval

The Steering team reviewed the budget at their last meeting and are now bringing it before the community for their feedback. We must have at least 20 people for a quorum at time of voting. Currently we have that number between in person and online community members.

Ramya reviewed the budget items in yellow that needed changes for next year or further discussion. Below are the main budget items that were discussed.

- **Membership Dues:** For the 24-25 school year, membership dues will still be \$250 per child. The community should consider increasing dues for the following year (25-26) because we have higher expenses due to inflation and can no longer continue to spend down surplus funds.
 - The question was asked if we could leave the dues at \$250 and allow anonymous donations above \$250. The issue is we can't count on anonymous donations in the future and it would be difficult to budget for.
- **Corporate Matching:** Please don't forget to submit this if your company is able to match.
- **Hardship Allowance:** This money is set aside if someone is unable to pay their membership dues. Previously it was set at \$1,750 but we would like to lower it to \$750 because the total amount is not being used. It would still cover three hardship allowances.
- **Learning Journeys:** It was determined to keep it at the same budget level as there is no iFly this upcoming year for Olders, and Karen and Aditi said they can work within this budget for next year.
- **Art - Art** was listed as a separate line item at \$200 per class. Teacher preference is to not have a separate line item for art and instead move it all to the discretionary fund for all classes. It is easier to have it under one larger umbrella.
- **Room Repts:** Originally it was budgeted for 2 classroom parties at \$250 per classroom, but now there is only one classroom party in the spring because the halloween party has moved to a Fall festival that is sponsored by PTSA. We have reduced the budget to \$150 for each classroom.
- **Transportation:** We have \$700 currently set aside for bus transportation. We learned that swimming is not coming back and buses are very expensive. It is much better to use money for parking reimbursements. It is helpful to have a budget line item that can be used for Learning Journey parking so that the coordinators don't have to factor in this additional expense in their budget.
- **Discretionary Funding:** This will now include art and be a combined discretionary account for all classes.
- **Graduation Gifts:** The budget is currently at \$800 but want to increase it to \$1000 because of inflation. The title should be changed to 5th grade party (off campus) and graduation gifts.
- **Moving Up Ceremony:** The budget will stay at \$500.
- **Summer Picnic:** Traditionally the shelter costs \$120 and DCS provides burgers, with

everyone bringing a side. Last year a last minute issue came up and pizza was served instead. Previously \$300 - \$350 was spent total for the event. We could do burgers again but would need more volunteers to help. The budget will be set at \$300 and additional funds can be approved later if needed.

- **Swim Event:** Last year it cost \$575. This year we have the main pool reserved for 1.5 hours for \$290 on Saturday, July 13th from 7-8:30pm. Christine OConnell has the reservation time slot before DCS. She is willing to pass it along to DCS to combine it with our rental. Will also try to reserve the wading pool. We will leave the budget as is for now.
- **Ice Cream Social:** Increased the budget to \$150.
- **Spring Camp Deposit:** The deposit is lower because the place is no longer doing food for us. It is now set at \$2,500.
- **Camp Supplies:** Lowered to \$750.
- **Spring Camp Food (Meals and Snacks):** Increased to \$3000, as families will be reimbursed for the meals.
- **Camp Lodging:** This is only lodging. This will be reimbursed by families for the cost of attending camp.
- **Olders Camp Teacher Expense:** Set at \$0. Ms. Subcleff said she will not be using it.
- **Staff Water:** Keeping the same for now.
- **Insurance:** Going up to \$2,100 from \$1,900.
- **MoneyMinder Subscription:** It went up this year and we expect it to go up the following year. Planning for \$275 next year.
- **Hospitality for Community Meetings:** Lowered to \$150, from \$200. We are not currently doing it because we do not have a volunteer.
- **Herbicide Free:** Reduced budget to \$100 from \$200.
- **New Teacher Spiritwear:** We want to make sure that the newer teachers are able to get spiritwear at the beginning of the school year.

Overall, we have a deficit of around \$2,000. Our projected income is \$32,475 and our expenses are \$34,915. During COVID we had a surplus, but now we are getting to where we don't have as much wiggle room with our reserve. This is one of the last years we can really be negative. We will most likely have to raise dues because of inflation. It would not be effective until the 25-26 school year.

There was time for follow-up budget questions which included:

- Can we have PTSA memberships for our teachers and Ms. O. We did it last year and it was \$11 per staff member, for a total of \$44. It will be added as a \$50 line item.
- Is there a district rule about only being able to have two classroom celebrations per school year? Yes, each school gets to decide. The Fall Festival and Spring Celebration were the two that Sandburg/DCS decided on.

A vote was taken for the 24-25 budget with 28 approving, 0 disapproving, and 0 abstentions. The budget is approved for the 24-25 school year.

Reminders

1. Please pay your dues (\$250 per child). Email the treasurers if you are unsure if you've paid your dues or if you need to request a hardship. Also, don't forget to do company matches.
2. At our next community meeting we will be voting for Steering Roles for next year and need to make a quorum.
3. At our next meeting in April we will go over family camp. Also there will be a call for volunteers soon. Email Jenn if you have any questions. Save the dates of May 31st to June 2nd.
4. The next Steering Meeting is Thursday, April 4th at 7pm.

Adjourned 8:07pm