



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

DCS Steering Meeting Minutes

Date: October 5th 2023

Location: Zoom

Note-taking Secretary: Kiran

Attendees: Jaclyn, Kiran, Danya, Erin Subcleff, Alissa, Kristen, Nami, Erin Bowser, Ramya, Lindall, Aditi.

Opening: 7:05 pm

Announced that there were gifts given to Ms. Chang and Ms. Stanley (Youngers) from the DCS community. Requested retro approving to reimburse room parents \$260 by raising room parent budget by that amount. Seconded by Danya. Motion passed. Jaclyn discussed need to buy a camera/equipment for hybrid meetings to stay with DCS for future use. Danya asked for approval for \$200 budget to buy a camera and speaker. Seconded by Kristen. Motion passed.

Principal's Report.

Ms. Bowser noted that the Fall fair was a great success with great weather and lots of volunteers. This event is replacing Halloween parties to make sure all kids are included. Parents in planning session recommended that students with sensory concerns got a chance to explore the event ahead of everyone so that they could manage their participation without getting overwhelmed. There was some learning about how to make it even better next year and for the event in March. October 6th is the PTSA Ninja Course fundraiser. Participation consent forms were sent via parent square and paper copies for sent to families that hadn't signed the online forms.

In the Youngers classroom: Ms. Stanley started this week and there was some transition time for Ms. Chang and Ms. Stanley to overlap and work together.

Conferences will be set up for later in October for families to meet with Ms. Stanley and have Ms. Chang as a substitute to cover the classroom.

It is time for DCS applications again. Application deadline is December 1st. Information night needs to happen before that. Ms. Bowser asked if potential families could join the November 16th community meeting on zoom and those wanting a tour could come in person. Ms. Bowser could do an overview of DCS as part of the principal's report. Ms. Bowser is open to other suggestions or make a video like we have done during

pandemic times. Danya said she would need to check by laws to see if we are allowed to invite non-DCS members to the meeting. Kiran suggested if we could have DCS meeting start at 7:30 and use the 7-7:30 time frame for information night and we open DCS meeting once the potential families leave for the tour.

Teachers' Report:

Ms. Payette and Ms. Subcleff are loving working with Ms. Stanley. Ms. Stanley has had a great start to school year. Middles and olders are going on a learning journey together in October and Olders are going on another learning journey end of October.

Treasurers' Report:

Checking \$2411 and a few cents.

Savings \$16834 and a few cents.

16 families have paid dues. Lots more to go.

Aditi had emailed asking if we have money for a ball pit. Will be covered during PTSA update.

Community Building:

Parent night out: Katya has scheduled a Trivia night for October 25th in Kirkland. There will be an email coming out.

Fall Event is on November 3rd from 1 and 5 pm including set up and clean up time.

Information will be coming out soon.

PTSA update and other budget requests: Aditi

No updates. Aditi would like to have a gaga ball pit in the playground if we can get DCS funds (15% - 1000-1200 as DCS is 15% of the school community) and PTSA would provide a grant. Total cost would be about 7200-10000. Ms. Bowser suggested using old DCS funds that were accidentally routed to DCS building funds (due to past errors in the donation on Benevity) instead of getting a new budget approval from DCS. Ms. Bowser said that as per a quick check we have \$8300 left from that amount. All on steering committee meeting thanked Ms. Bowser and said that would be a great idea.

Aditi asked for increase in learning journey budget for middles by \$250 since all the admission prices have gone up.

Ramya asked if we want to move budget up for Youngers and Olders. Aditi will be discussing with Ms. Stanley to see if an increase is needed. Ms. Subcleff isn't sure if the new insurance allows going to iFly and that is an expensive learning journey. Changes to olders budget is to be determined. Jaclyn made motion to increase Middles learning journey budget by 200. Motion passed.

Jaclyn:

Community members have questions about security for smugmug, easy password for to guess. Kiran suggested changing upload password each year to increase security measure.

New location for DCS family camp:

A new site needs to be identified for 2025. Volunteers will be needed to discuss new options. Jaclyn will reach out to the community for volunteers.

Honoring Ms. Jewell:

Jaclyn bought the Hello Lighthouse book for granddaughter for students to sign. Jaclyn wants to know if we need to discuss how we continue to honor Ms. Jewell - Glassbaby candles for Ms. Jewell or donating to family fund. Lindall suggested donating to the family fund. Discussed asking for donations from DCS community. Danya will check by laws that might restrict donations made from donations to DCS.

Ideas for honoring Ms. Jewell at DCS were discussed. Ms. Bowser discussed constraints about items that are put in to honor someone: Example needing to make structural changes – painting over a mural or removing a tree for expansion, etc.

Explored sustainable options.

Examples: A tree in a movable planter or A piece of art that can be moved or a bench that can be moved.

Discussed ideas:

- Scholarships for DCS alumni
- Designating an area within DCS to honor her.

Ms. Bowser suggested maybe we do something every year so that future students have a way to know and honor Ms. Jewell. Planting seeds in a planter each year, etc. or creating a tradition to intentionally bring her into the community. Robin stated that Ms. Jewell liked honoring change in seasons and perhaps there's a way to honor that as a tradition we follow. Lindall suggested going apple picking as a community since Ms. Jewell loved apples.

Jaclyn will be keeping a list of suggestions and ask the community for additional ideas.

Updating the website.

Jaclyn asked if secretary is willing to changing old information on the website on an ongoing basis.

There will not be costumes worn at school this year for Halloween. PTSA is going to do a trunk or treat event on Friday October 27th.

Jaclyn stated that Jenn Botts wants to know about 4th grade not going to outdoor ed because of the cost. Kristen shared feedback that she has heard: some families think it's expensive for sending kids twice, or that 4th grade is too soon for outdoor ed. The group discussed challenges in making decisions for all families/future families. Everyone agreed that there is an opt out option for families that do not want to send their 4th graders to outdoor ed.

Ramya – Discussed a parent who emailed a question about whether mileage reimbursements for learning journeys are going through DCS or Sandburg. Informed that mileage or parking reimbursements go through DCS.

Room parents: It was brought up that summer playdates should be under room parents. It's already room parents job in summer.

Friday specials: No update.

Alissa: Updated attendance call line/email: Emails need to be sent to dl-discoveryattendance@lwsd.org and please cc the class teacher. The new attendance line to call is 425-936-2709

For early pick ups, main office needs to be contacted.

Master checklist covered for October and November by Kiran.

Note about taking pictures: Alissa updated that when we take pictures at DCS/Sandburg events we need to take block faces of Sandburg kids in case we don't have photo permission for their kids. Jaclyn will email Smugmug coordinator.

Motion to adjourn at 8:39 pm.