



Discovery Community School

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

DCS Steering Meeting Minutes

Date: August 30, 2023

Location: In Person, Danya's Residence

Presiding: Danya Kelberg & Jaclyn Senekerimyan

Minutes: Kiran Neelarambam

Opening: 7:05 pm

In attendance: Danya, Jaclyn, Caro, Kristen, Ramya, Robin, Chrissy, Erin Subcleff, Alissa Osborne, Nicole Payette, Erin Bowser, & Kiran.

Danya opened meeting by reading the land acknowledgment. Round of introductions followed by Jaclyn passing around a draft of a cheat sheet to help answer FAQs from families. Will work with new family coordinators on adding terminologies.

Moment of silence to honor Ms. Diane Jewell: Jaclyn shared about a book called To the Lighthouse and brought in a candle atop a lighthouse. Group made decision to bring this candle in to all meetings as a way to remember Ms. Jewell.

Principal's report:

Youngers will start the school year with Ms. Chang, a substitute teacher who is familiar with DCS. She has the ability to work with multiple ages seamlessly, is familiar with DCS and Sandburg, and all the classrooms have had her as a substitute. We have her for at least the first two weeks. A long-term substitute position will be posted and check in will happen at the half year mark and discuss if they will continue with the same person or post for the job again. Ms. Chang and Ms. Bowser will meet with the youngers at the ice cream social. Ms. Kusunose and Ms. Bowser will do the family connections with 1st grade students. Once there is a longer-term teacher, there will be another round of family connections. Mrs. Meacham is thinking carefully about how to help students in a way that feels safe and optional while also being respectful of how families might want to communicate information or discuss matters related to grief, death and dying.

Question was asked re: any non-verbal ways for kids to process grief. Ms. Subcleff shared that each classroom has a calming corner and there is a new one being created in the shared area. Books about grief have been identified to have available for kids if needed. Discussed ideas to send Ms. Jewell's family (girls and granddaughter) a sympathy gift from DCS.

School supervised drop off time: 8:25 am
Line up: 8:35 am
School start time: 8:40 am

Treasurer's report:

Ramya reported funds available:
Checking: 1831.99
Savings: 16827.92

Will remind families about donations and the right group to donate to on Benevity to avoid confusion.

Community Building:

Chrissy will find someone to co-ordinate Fall Event to include the Diwali component.

New Families:

Caro: New Families Orientation Meeting on September 9th at Kingsgate Library 11:30 am. Discussed mentor families and barriers to having that format. Another suggestion was to have a newer family and an older family pair up for volunteer roles so that knowledge isn't lost over time. Discussed various ways to communicate it to the families.

Friday Specials:

Kristen: Dates need to be confirmed. Timing will be 2:10-3:00 pm slot. Early start might impact volunteer pool. Kristen already has a new youngers family who has volunteered to pair up for Friday Specials Co-ordinating.

Other updates:

PTSA will be organizing a Fall Fair this year and there will be a call for volunteers. School pictures are coming up on September 29th.

Community meeting/Ice Cream Social:

Format: There will be no teachers skit this year. Ms. Bowser and Ms. Osborne will go back with the youngers as they meet with Ms. Chang. Ms. Bowser will address the community about Ms. Jewell. The school community is encouraged to attend community meetings in person. Reminder to families that attendance counts towards volunteer hours and is also a great way to form and maintain relationships. Zoom option will be offered to support families that are unable to make it in person.

