



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

DCS Steering Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2022
Location: Zoom

Presiding: Barb Boyd

Minutes: Erin Moreland

Opening: 6:32 pm

Barb provided a reminder that Christy Keating will be joining the next community meeting in two weeks (Jan 20) to talk about child sexual abuse prevention.

Teacher's Report – Diane Jewell

Volunteering in person has been paused due to COVID surge with the omicron variant. Concern re: Friday Specials. The District expects this to be short term. Also concern over weather - it's much colder than in the fall. Mary feels that Friday Specials can happen outside. Teachers are happy to be back in the swing of things. Appreciate everyone's patience. They're all behind on email - be patient and send a gentle reminder if you aren't getting a response.

Community Building – Sophie Truman

Winter event - with Omicron and weather, Barb proposes pushing it back to late April. Mr Nor has offered to do lights and sound. Need to know if it's okay with Omicron to hold the event outside and spread out. Seems like we can still hold it based on recent guidance (sports, group events) but unsure of how the staff feel about it. Can rent the boards for art display from the district. Discussion regarding moving Winter Event to late April (Friday Specials late Feb-Mar).

At the PTSA meeting there were questions about building ventilation in Winter. Ms Bowser contacted the district and followed up with the following: Dampers are closed when the building is unoccupied. The dampers are open and the system brings in the maximum fresh air while occupied. The district has been able to do this across all buildings and maintain temperatures so far this year and all of last year.

Treasurer's Report – Jason Ahlf

checking \$13,960.25 savings \$15,470.69 A few more donations came in over the last month: 22 of 71 donations (31%)-- a little behind last year. Will remind people at the meeting on the 20th.

Spring Camp – Chris

Chris talked to Indianola about renting the whole facility for a day (Saturday May 21). Proposing to Indianola that we rent the space on that Saturday from noon/2:00 pm -7pm or 8pm. Typically a 2 night family retreat in May. Looking at a day trip with arts and crafts, beach walks, talent show. Explore options for meals to address covid safety. There are extensive planning materials from Jennifer Pruit (previous planner of the weekend) to help ease the planning for the day. Mary suggests checking to see if folks can camp on the field and return on the morning ferry.

Master Checklist – Erin

- € **Elections:** Prepare election forms (not needed during zoom)
- € **Co-Chairs/PTSA Liaison:** Cross check calendar and master checklist against PTSA calendar
- € **Staff Appreciation:** Conferences activities? Coordinate with PTSA for Conference Teacher Lunches.
- € **Treasurers:** Mail 1099-Misc to independent contractors if any (none this year)
- € **Treasurers:** January Statements
- € **PTSA Liaison:** Enrichment Report
- € **Elections:** Distribute information about upcoming elections and positions
- € **Fundraising:** coordinate with Islandwood Committee for DCS participation. DCS Fundraising leads Raffle Effort (NA this year)
- € **Co-Chairs:** Send meeting notices to community 2 weeks before and solicit agenda. Send reminders at 1 week and at 3 days.
- € IFly or other Older's year-end trip, surplus funds request for activity + bus (ONLY in even school years, i.e. 2016-17, 2018-19, 2020-21). Identify parents for moving up post party coordinator : olivia and lindsay

Friday Specials - Mary/Kristin

Friday Special dates are currently scheduled for February 4, 11, and 25 from 2:45-3:45 each session, but these may be pushed back.

We have 3-4 tracks in planning stages. Catapults, painting objects, Kiwi crates are some of the choices. Working on building use forms with Janene at DCS tomorrow. Kristen will send out a call for general volunteers to support the tracks once they are solidified. Will pitch to students soon and work with teachers on when it would be best to do that.

Lastly - there are a lot of supplies at Mary Oemig's house. I am assuming we need to find a new house for those to be stored since Mary's family is leaving DCS at the end of this year.

There are approximately 8 bins of supplies. If there is nowhere to move it to, Mary will donate to teachers and elsewhere. Hopefully someone can house these materials. Apparently there may be some storage space for the community behind the school in a container. That might be where Spring Camp supplies are. Diane suggests having someone be responsible for keeping track of what's in the storage container and recalls it being difficult to open and so items started migrating to people's homes. Centralized location at school is preferred if no one has the space to house supplies.

Principal's Report – Erin Bowser

Everyone's a bit discouraged by the surge and subsequent clamp down on volunteers and activities. Focus is on ensuring staff are well and school can run. We've had staff shortages since the start of the year and have some emergency substitutes lined up to help. There are many things we can't control, she recommends focusing on the things that we can control to alleviate anxiety. This is good advice for adults and kids - provides empowerment and confidence. Conferences are at the end of January and are remote.

Hoping to see the surge taper off and we can get back to an almost regular place in the spring. Hopeful for "Winter Event" to be able to go on in the spring. Ms Bowser passed her thanks along to everyone for patience and partnership as we navigate all of the challenges from the weather and ongoing pandemic.

Barb - what are your thoughts on pushing Winter Event to April 30: Sounds good!

Mary - We'd like your thoughts on Friday Specials (Feb 4, 11, 25): Ern B recommends pushing them all back to start on Feb 25th and move into March.

Erin B will check on the container at school to see what's in there and see if she can identify Spring Camp supplies. Barb/Mary can help/followup.

Walkon Topics

Sophie: After the PTSA meeting there was concern expressed regarding exclusion of Sanburg families at our speaker event (as DCS is included in all PTSA events) and proposes including the broader community. This hasn't been a popular approach in the past due to the meetings being rather intimate (in person in the library) and wanting to ensure a safe space for asking questions on sensitive topics. Because this event is online, everyone is more open to having a larger group. Barb will follow up with the speaker and PTSA.

Parent question: Is there a new protocol for responding to COVID symptoms since it's hard to get tested?
Erin B - no change but hoping to get tests onsite to help families/staff. PCR tests are still required to return to school. Reach out to Janene Panek (jpanek@lwsd.org) if you need help with testing through the district.

Choice School Lottery: happening tomorrow, new families typically welcomed in the May meeting but not during zoom last year. School will pass contact onto us for inclusion in summer event invitations. Some discussion regarding including new families in the May meeting whether it's on Zoom or in person. Mary proposes doing the May meeting (which typically includes a slide show) outside in the basketball area with a projector and inviting new families. Discussion to be continued.

Adjourned: 7:50 pm