



**Discovery Community School**

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

**DCS Community Meeting Minutes**

**September 22, 2021**

**Location: Zoom**

Presiding: Chris Barrows

Minutes: Erin Moreland

*Opening – 6:34pm*

**Welcome - Chris Barrows**

Welcome to new families and introduction to community meeting structure. Eventually we'll go back to in person meetings in the library. Challenges getting families registered as volunteers. Need to show proof of covid vaccination.

Link to LWSD Volunteer Application form: <https://apps.raptortech.com/Apply/MTEyMzplbi1VUw==>

**Principal update - Erin Bowser**

Follow up on HEPA filters and ventilation. She set up a meeting with LWSD facilities and learned that HEPA filters wouldn't necessarily improve air quality in our DCS classrooms. At Sanburg/DCS, all air is flushed from the building for 2 hours before staff arrival on campus in the morning and again at the end of the day. In each classroom the air is exchanged 100% seven times per hour (not recirculated, it's fresh air from outside). Portable HEPA filter units can cover a 350 sqft space and exchange air 1-2x per hour with filtered/recirculated air. Those are best used where you don't have a MERV13 or good ventilation. Around 80% of the school's HVAC units have MERV13 filters and 20% have MERV10 filters - those are not where students are and cannot be replaced with MERV13. The vice principal's office has a MERV10 so that might be a place to consider putting a portable HEPA filter. However, the only time there's a difference between MERV13 and MERV10 is if they close the dampers to retain heat (which they never really do) which would impact the overall ventilation and lead to using recirculated and filtered air. The district hasn't had to close the dampers so this is a possible but not necessarily likely scenario.

All elementary schools will be equipped with water bottle filling stations, but this will take a while. They will open the water fountains for water bottle refilling.

Eating outside is going really well. There's space inside and outside for kids to spread out while eating. The Olders lunch is the most popular for kids to eat outside. Please encourage your kids to stay 6 feet apart while eating. They're doing great - keep up the strong communication with your kids. We have plenty of covered space to continue eating outside through the winter.

On Sept 27 (Monday) the district response to students with covid like symptoms will shift. Currently, if a student has one of the 12 symptoms, the child goes home, and if the symptom goes away within 24 hours, they can come back to school. If it lasts longer or they have more than one symptom, the nurse will work with the family to determine the appropriate process. Starting next week, if a child has one symptom, the student has to stay home and get a negative covid PCR test and all symptoms have to resolve before returning to school. Rapid tests are not adequate to return to school. The school wants to make it easy for families to get the PCR tests. The school will provide information on where to get the test - for example Bellevue College does PCR tests for free. They are also training for onsite testing and shipping samples out that same day. The nurse already does a few things to investigate common complaints from kids: stomach aches and headaches (bathroom, diet, water intake, etc) to see if it resolves before starting this process. Sometimes kids are just looking to come to the office to see the staff who are always friendly. Talk to your kids about how that could start to have bigger consequences than a short break from the classroom.

Curriculum night is tomorrow night.

Culture Corner - a place to share family traditions. Reach out to Chris, Barb, Erin B, to contribute. It's a great way to share and is also a way to connect through similarities and differences.

Volunteers will be starting very soon - possibly next week - if we can get through all of the vaccination verification. She'll be blocking off some time right after drop off and before pickup to verify vaccination status so she can help speed up the process for the district approval of volunteers.

There have not been any covid cases at Sanburg DCS. We've had two students who were close contacts outside of school and the parent's notified the school and the kids quarantined appropriately.

Parent question about how adults are confirmed to be an approved adult during pick up at the end of the day. Parents should notify their kid's teacher if there's a change and the teacher notifies the pickup teacher. If it appears that's not happening, please contact Erin Bowser directly.

### **Teacher's report - Diane Jewell**

Teachers are thrilled to be back. Jillian Stroup has been a great addition to the DCS team. The kids love her. Teachers are excited to have parents in the classroom to volunteer soon--it's really great news for the classes. The kids have been really resilient, eager to learn, cooperative, no problems with wearing masks. They have been so respectful and it reflects good parenting at home. The kids are also recognizing that it's not grownups who want them to keep space from other kids, but "that covid." Conferences will be virtual - around the second week of October.

### **Treasurer - Jason**

Checking ~ \$6700

Savings \$14,969.74

Annual donations (\$250/child) fund all of the special events at DCS. The earlier it happens the easier it is to manage spending. There's a paypal link on our dcs school pages - Jason showed a demo. You can make the payments in lump sum, monthly, however works for you. There are also hardship exceptions. So if that donation is not possible for you, reach out to the treasurers and they can help you with that.

- <https://dcs.ourschoolpages.com/Packet/Donate/SignInPacketPage/0>
- Parent question regarding companies that match donations. Microsoft, Amazon, a few others do. Suggestion for people from the companies that match to provide directions on how to set up the match so it goes to the right place. This guidance will be shared with the community.

Volunteer hours: This year we will return to logging all volunteer hours. Some companies also match volunteer hours (donating some \$ per volunteer hour)

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

Discussion of traditional pie sales fundraiser but we'll need to discuss this with Erin Bowser. We might need to do this a little differently this year.

### **Key dates - Erin M**

Sept 23 DCS Curriculum Night

Sept 24 PTSA Chalk and Talk/Fall School Scavenger Hunt 7pm

Oct 1 School Picture Day

Oct 1 Fall Friday Specials (week 1, 2:45-3:45)

Oct 2 PTSA Sustainability Committee Weeding Event

Oct 6 Walk to School Day

Oct 7 DCS Steering Meeting 6:30pm

Oct 8 Family Dance Night 6:30pm

Oct 8 Fall Friday Specials (week 2, 2:45-3:45)

Oct 11,12, 14 Conferences, Half-days 12pm Dismissal

Oct 23 Fall Event (3:00 - 5:00)

### **Fall event - Sophie & Shweta**

Oct 23rd - will send an invite - will be on school grounds. need to purchase pumpkins - hoping someone has access to purchase a large number of pumpkins (Mary suggests oxbow farms) arts and crafts - need help with craft activities. A few volunteers reached out.

### **Friday Specials - Mary and Kristin**

Friday Specials are parent led activities that run on Friday afternoons for 3-4 weeks, three times a year. The kids rank their choices of the available activities (tracks) and the organizers fill each track with kids from each class.

Fall Track Dates: October 1, 8, 22, Nov 5 from 2:45-3:45 on these Fridays  
Fall Friday Specials are all outside. Details in emails.

Teachers - how do we want to do the pitch and ballots? Diane - staff need to talk it over, but sending a ballot and blurb to the teachers and teachers can manage the pitch and completing ballots.

Four tracks:

Soccer (skills)

India Outside (two weeks of bollywood, two weeks of games other teachings: video of kho kho  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uMBIXYAaEOo>)

Battle of the Bands (kids create their own band, signage, band name, making instruments, make some music, perform -- need four volunteers for the instrument making day - week 3)

Equestriana (pretend to be a horse, dressage, vaulting, trail ride)

Sign up to volunteer to help with Friday Specials.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAYAAIRnbLhUQThWVjBQVE80SFNUOTYyRkg3TENWNzlaMS4u>

Looking for ideas for Winter and Spring Friday Specials - art, performance, culture, sport,  
2:45 - 3:45 Fridays, dates TBD

### **Walk on/New Business**

September is Childhood Cancer Awareness month. This is something that has impacted DCS. Please sign up to donate blood--counts for volunteer hours and saves lives: <https://www.bloodworksnc.org/>

*adjourned at 7:48 pm*