

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

DCS Community Meeting Minutes

Date: November 17, 2022

Location: Sandburg/DCS Library and Virtual (Hybrid)

Presiding: Barb Boyd

Minutes: Mary Ruddy

Opening: 7:05

Land Acknowledgement- Sara Passey

Welcome – Barb

Thank you to Jaclyn for the wonderful game night- it was super successful and the kids loved it!

Updates:

- March 8th will now be big budget meeting moved from the previous March date.
- For January meeting- we will hopefully have Amy Lang come and do a talk on The Birds and the Bees

Principal's Report – Erin Bowser

Big thank you to all the parents and kids that came out to the DCS Information night last week, the kids and staff did a great job speaking.

DCS Lottery Update: The lottery happens in January, applications due one 12/3. There are currently 3 openings for our youngers class.

- *Community Question-* does that include the upper grades?
- Answer From Erin Bowser: When there are openings for the olders and middles classes we pull from the current waitlist, those openings don't get counted in the lottery.

Next Wed. are learning celebrations, for the first time in person.

Questions about outdoor ed, asked by several parents...

- Do privacy laws allow for information to be shared with student "employees"
 - o Students aren't actually hired but are technically volunteers. They are required to complete several trainings in preparation for this. Many students do this as a way to gather experience for future opportunities.
 - o During trainings, the students will learn how to manage child behaviors and how to escalate issues or situations when they arise.
 - Mrs. Subcleff and Lisa Gordon (Sandburg/DCS SLP) will be attending and training student volunteers
- How does the school plan to support students that may have neurodivergent needs

- This year, returning to camp Seymour. This camp has a lot more structure throughout the day.
 - Last years camp was a little more unconventional and unstructured
- There will be 5 staff members there full-time, so ratio of parent to students will be 1:18 so a lot more structure and hands on support
- Teachers are also aware of the students that may need a little more support and can attend to those students
- Camp staff is also very well trained to manage and support all students
- 1:10 ratio for parent chaperones
- Students will be able to participate in all available activities with the exception of zip lining.

Group Question: Is there a solution being worked on about traffic during student pick-up

- Answer: yes, we are working on trying to find a resolution to move cars forward and keep the road clear in front of the school
- We also recently hired a new staff member so there will be 2 staff members moving students/cars
- Erin Bowser will work on some messaging to send out to parents with how the lines work and what should be expected
- Cars should be pulling up to all of the cones, each cone is a car pick-up drop-off

Group Question: Are parents allowed to get out of their cars in the pick-up lines?

- Answer is no.
- Idea- parents could have a large marker sign with their children's names in their front window that would be helpful for staff to have kids get to cars sooner
- There have also been quite a few issues with blocking driveways and seeing neighbors getting frustrated.
- Our major focus is that everyone is safe and that through the challenging moments we are patient.

Teacher's Presentations- Diane Jewell, Julian Stroup and Erin Subcleff- A copy of the presentation is attached here.

Treasurer's Report- Jason/Ramya

Treasury Stats:

- Checking: 4840.78
- Savings: 15985.14
- Donations received: 23/73 students have sent in their donations (~33%) which is tracking normally compared to past years

If anyone needs like a hardship exception, send an email to the treasurers

Group Question: How are we doing with matching?

- Matching typically comes in a little later but we have received some.

Logging Volunteer Hours- Barb

The website hasn't been working; we are going to start tracking on a google form made by Chris Barrows. You will need to enter your oldest child's name, enter date, and how many hours you completed and the activity. We will use these for corporate matching and potential grants for funding.

Form will be sent out in the next few days, if you would like access to link, it'll be under our restricted documents tab on the website.

Log any time you spend doing something for the school, i.e. shopping for supplies, attending community events, helping kids with projects, etc.

Community Question: is this a shared document or do we submit a single document per person?

- Answer: you can track your own hours in the sheet and then the form will automatically get submitted to Chris for tallying.
- Messaging about how to track will go out this weekend 11/19

Community Chat question: are parents allowed for the learning celebrations?

- Answer: yes, all are welcome and encouraged to come.

Community Question: Should we bring food for learning celebrations?

- Answer: follow your teacher's instructions, the middles have been explicitly asked to bring a food item.

Olders Outdoor Education Fundraising- Christine O'Connell

Event is February 24th and there are currently not many funds available. We will need about \$400-\$450/kid, PTSA will put about \$5k towards it and Mrs. Measham's hardship fund will provide some funds as well. We have also received a grant for ~\$2k.

The estimate just for buses is around \$9k. The increase in bus expenses has seemed to become a barrier for learning journeys.

Traditionally, fundraising starts in 4th grade through selling concessions at school events, however, we have not been able to do this for the past few years so the funds aren't there. Currently looking at options for other fundraising. We are planning to do an event again with Nothing Bundt the Cakes.

May put the Nothing Bundt the Cake orders online for families to order and allow for easier money handling. NBC is only charging 3%.

We will need volunteers to go and get the bundt cakes for distribution.

Barb- We should make the DCS fundraising coordinator an official Olders Outdoor Ed fundraising coordinator, along with a couple other olders parents to minimize the work for upcoming years.

Community Idea: potentially put a line item in our school budget to put towards this event for future years.

PTSA Updates- Aditi

No updates this month

Walk On Topics- All

Christine- for community sharing, I have a guild at Seattle Children's to raise money for Cancer Research, we have an event for St. Patrick's day and we are doing the event again on March 11th. I would love to get some volunteers to help with the event. At our second annual event we raised \$200,000.

Adjourned: 8:23