



Discovery Community School

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

DCS Community Meeting Minutes

Date: March 8, 2023

Location: Sandburg/DCS Library and Virtual (Hybrid)

Presiding: Barb Boyd

Minutes: Mary Ruddy

Opening: 7:03

Welcome – Barb

Reads the Land Acknowledgement.

The winter event was great, and the kids were awesome at supporting each other. Thank you to the volunteers, it was an amazing community building event. It was also so nice being back in the building after all these years.

Blood Drive happening this month at Holy Family Church with a pop-up donations, use code "Jane". Register online at Bloodworks Northwest.

Raffle raised \$820 for Outdoor Ed for next year. It was a successful trial and wasn't a huge expense to us since the gifts were donated. We will definitely look forward to doing a raffle again.

Next fundraiser option- pump it up playdate on a Wednesday afterschool, 3:30/3:45 or 6-7:15. Having two dates, 1 for youngers and another for middles/olders. Cost would be around \$12-\$15/kid. Friends and siblings would be welcome. We want to gauge interest before diving in. Please let the Steering committee know if this event would be of interest.

Principal's Report – Erin Bowser

I was able to get out to Camp Seymour this year and it was a very nice experience. I am happy that the kids got to get back there.

I got to work with the youngers and do their homophones this week. Got to do morning meeting with Middles for "Good News Tuesday" as well as some read across America. So nice to see the kids in different settings.

Reminders for olders 5th grade parents- tomorrow night at the Sandburg/PTSA meeting, the principle from Finn Hill will be giving some information about the transition.

We will have a time shift in schedule next year, from 9:30 to 8:40 (preschool too). We will get out earlier which is an upside. This decision was based off a lot of information and a lot of meetings but ultimately was decided around the transportation schedule and availability.

Q: how will this impact Wednesdays?

Unsure right now. The district recently sent out a survey to gather information about parent opinions on early release days so more information to come.

Q: effect on band/orchestra?

Unsure right now but may just start earlier. There may be general changes to this curriculum anyway so that information will come out soon.

Teacher's Report- Diane Jewell

Mrs. Subcleff introduces Ms. Amber Stanley that will be helping until the end of May.

We had a fabulous time with our friendship parties in feb. Read across America was awesome last week, lots of enthusiasm for the "stop, drop and read" was fun. The youngers had the most minutes but it was also a lot of looking at books and chatting.

All grades will be having a learning journey in March. Youngers are going to Imagination Museum in Everett. We are very excited. Olders are going to the Seattle Oprah. Middles are going to the Museum of Flight. We may still need drivers for all events.

Q: how does the learning journey affect market place

Marketplace is moved to 22nd

We are very grateful for the learning journey line item in our budget that allows us to have these experiences.

Treasurer's Report- Jason/Ramya

Checking: \$16,022.40

Savings: \$16,436.39

At a high level, we have been building a large surplus mostly due to covid. This year we have been trying to burn it down a little bit but our goal is to continue to bring down the budget and create a more matched budget of income to spend. Goal is to better balance over 3 years through incremental changes. As a community we can decide the target surplus we want to have in the budget. We had just over \$20k at the end of last year as a surplus.

As a community we reviewed the budget line by line.

Some call-out notes regarding budget changes for next year:

Hardship allowance allows for 7 families to request assistance with the \$250 annual fees

If we end up having lower student numbers then we will need to discuss the expected dues/income

Q: Is the overall recommended reduction, \$7,375 (indicated in "Spend Increase/Decrease" section)

Yes, this is the total that we currently have pulled from the budget for next year but this will change as we go through the budget tonight

Q: if we raised \$820 for outdoor ed, wouldn't those funds go directly to the outdoor ed fundraiser "fund"?

These funds are for our students but we will need to work with PTA to organize larger fundraisers for the whole group

Budget listed under "Expenditures-Classes" are the funds that volunteers get to help use to create experiences for the kids. This is a great section to pay attention to and the Treasurers can always send you a copy of the budget for your reference.

- "Room Rep" line item for class parties

Important to note that just because something isn't in the budget doesn't mean we can't approve funds. Steering can approve requests up to \$1000 and anything more than that we would take to the Community Meeting for a vote.

Q: budget for art supplies, we should take into consideration inflation. Was inflation included in the budget?

- Not something that we reflected here.

Q: what's the best place/time to bring up a spending request? Interested in a "gaga ball" court.

- Bringing up the requests with Steering would be good so the expense can be discussed before bringing it to the community
- Bowser: we have discussed this request with sandburg/ptsa and we are trying to figure out what percentage of our funds to use for this. PTSA is working on adding it to their spring fundraiser.

Q: when would we use the bus funds?

- When the middles go to the swimming pool or when we go on trips further away from the school. There is a bus driver shortage right now which is why we haven't been utilizing them.

Q: Could the DCS staff all have the same Discretionary Amount? Could we just make it \$900 even for all?

- That works. Once we see what the totals are for this year we can shift it up or down.

Graduation- it'll be important to keep an eye on these line items since prices for locations have changed drastically with the pandemic.

Q: is the graduation party for the 5th grade only or the whole school?

- Just 5th graders

Community comment: facility rentals have gone up so it would be great if we could increase Summer Picnic a bit to accommodate that.

- Increased to \$50

We have increased the budget for fall/winter/spring events since we will want to rent the building for 5 hours instead of 4 to allow for more setup/take down time.

Spring Camp: we haven't had a normal spring camp in several years so we have the opportunity to recreate this in our budget.

- Deposit listed in the budget is for the following year (2024)
- When we attend this year (2023) we will receive a bill for the remaining balance for our use of the property and food for this year.
- "Spring Camp- Family Payment" is the amount (remaining balance for this year) that we will charge families to attend the event.
- The budget already includes a \$3,600 subsidy and the community can vote more of a subsidy each year.

Teacher Education- we wanted to keep the original funds that we provided in the past but decided to get rid of the surplus because we didn't want to step into something that the district might also provide. We would rather educators have something specific in mind and then bringing it to the committee for approval rather than continuing to build up a surplus there.

- Response: we haven't used the funds in a while but we have been brainstorming some ideas on how we could use the surplus. Professional Learning Communities conference (\$2700/person- included some sub coverage and was in LA so travel included) but was an amazing opportunity and would be beneficial for all to attend.

Q: does the district provide funds for teacher continuing education?

- Not really, it is included in the teacher's paycheck so they would have to personally fund any continuing ed.
- Bowser: We have a building budget that we like to utilize to enhance the general populations education, however I am less likely to approve a person specific/ specialized training that they want to do so it would be nice to have the option.

Recommendation- increase the Teacher Education to \$3000 with the option to request funds from the community if there are opportunities they want to take.

Request for \$400 for community building to contribute to other groups throughout the year.

Q: Should we list the Spring Camp subsidy on the budget even though it changes every year?

- This is how it's listed historically and keeping it helps

Motion to Vote on Next year's budget: Quorum reached unanimously.

PTSA Updates- Aditi

General meeting tomorrow at 7pm. Family Dance night coming up on the 21st. Information in Mrs. Bowser's Scoop.

Q: will the DJ come back?

- Yes.

Walk On Topics- All

Parent's Night- Sarah

Hosting a low key parent's night out; potential "Bring your own mug" and trivia. March 18th 7:30-9:30

Spring Elections- Next community meeting in April and we will need a Co-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each role is 2 years. We are looking for nominations right now by April 1st.

- Treasurers Role- you are taking in deposits, writing checks for activities and reimbursement submissions, once a year you prep budget, answer questions. There are 2 treasurers, so we do break up the workload. We have great tools to manage the budget (MoneyMinder) and we have a BECU account. We receive money through paypal so it's smooth. Time commitment comes in waves based off reconciliations. A few hours across the month.

Spring Camp-

- June 2nd- June 4th, get there at 5pm at Camp Indianola
- Sleep in cabins, just come up for 1 day or even tent camp; lots of options if you can't stay the whole time.
- Saturday is the big activity day, Sunday we leave after breakfast around 10/11
- Camp cost includes food, lodging, snacks and activities
 - o Cabins are bunkbed style, 20-22 beds in one cabin; very "Community"
- See attached slideshow for pictures and more info about past Spring Camps
- Great opportunity to reshape the event with our new community since we haven't been able to go for a few years.
- Jenn Botts and Angela running camp this year; Carnival theme this year (food, crafts, activities);
- We ask that all attendees take on at least one 1 hour volunteer shift to assist with putting on the weekend
- Estimated Cost- Family of 4 to attend Friday-Sunday (lodging, all three meals Saturday, 1 meal Sunday, snacks)- \$200
- Price is based on how many people attend so we don't know exact pricing until we get RSVPs

Request a \$3500 subsidy for the community to approve which would ideally cover all lodging for 94 participants, so families would only have to cover food costs.

Motion to approve \$3,500 Spring Camp Subsidy- Motion passes unanimously.

Storage Room Clean-out: Kristen

Organizing a volunteer clean-out for Saturday March 25th or April 1st. Would like to pull everything out, inventory and remove anything we don't need. I will send out a Doodle poll to get a gauge on who can assist.

Adjourned: 8:54pm