



Discovery Community School

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

DCS Steering Meeting Notes

Date: 10/3/24

Location: Zoom

Presiding: Aditi Jain & Jaclyn Senekerimyan

Minutes: Robin Desilet

Opening: 7:05pm

Welcome + Announcements - Aditi

Principal's Report - Bowser

- The school year is off to a great start!
- Ms. O. would like each family to have at least one driver cleared for Learning Journeys. Even if you're not driving soon, it's a good idea to complete the process now to avoid scrambling later. Please remember to bring your own copies. Ms. Bowser will work with Ms. O. to notify families who still need to submit their paperwork.
- There was a discrepancy in DCS funds for the Gaga ball pit but it has been sorted out.
- We have a significant amount of work ahead if we want to maintain our pesticide-free campus. Ms. Bowser will be meeting with DCS/Sandburg PTSA to discuss the necessary steps. While someone at a previous PTSA meeting suggested using goats, that option is not feasible since goats don't discriminate in what they eat. We have our work cut out for us if we want to remain pesticide free. More details and plans will be shared at a later date.

Teacher's Report - Subcleff

- DCS teachers will be presenting at our next community meeting on 10/24 for Curriculum Night.
- We would like to continue offering the day camp for Olders Outdoor Ed, as we believe it is highly beneficial. It provided a great opportunity for team-building, especially at the beginning of the year. However, the biggest challenge remains the cost. Jaclyn made a motion to approve \$370 to cover the remaining balance for this year's day camp, which Aditi seconded. We discussed future funding options for the camp, which costs \$120 per student for the two-day experience. Ms. Bowser informed us that the OSPI grant previously used for overnight camp cannot be used for day camps, and they only gave us a one-time exception. The Lake Washington Schools Foundation offers grants, with

their cycle typically opening in early February, and Cindy will explore this option further. If we were to use DCS funds, it would require an increase in dues. For now, we have decided to continue fundraising, with parents covering the remaining costs. Ms. Subcleff is in the process of contacting the camp to confirm plans for next year, and we aim to keep it a two-day event

- We have been doing Discovery Time every Friday for the last hour with mixed age groups. It's been very delightful seeing all three classes come together.

Treasurer's Report - Lindall/Puneet

- We have had 26 student families (out of 71 families) pay their dues. We also had a \$200 donation in PayPal but we did not recognize the name and no company was tied to it. Jaclyn believes she may know who made the donation and will reach out to them.
- Someone asked if on the PayPal receipt, we can add the following information for mathing, "On **Benevity** and in most cases the name of our Non-Profit group (**501c3**) is named: **Community Group of Discovery Community School**, and in '**Your Cause**' it is group **91-1647003**." Currently, upon request, we provide a receipt that includes our 501(c)(3) status, but we're unsure how to update the PayPal receipts.
- We discussed needing to raise dues and what that increase might be. Puneet and Lindall will get together to look at our previous budgets and see where we have had increases. That will help us determine the appropriate amount to increase dues. We need to make sure this is approved by the community before new families start so they are aware of the dues commitment.
- Insurance has been paid.
- Annie has been sending out emails to the teachers to let them know how much their teacher allowance is for the year.
- Our current statement balances:
 - \$29,015.56 in the bank
 - \$0 in PayPal (fund recently transferred)
- The Co-Chairs would like to have view-only access to Money Minder. Lindall emailed a representative to find out if that is possible but has not heard back yet.
- We'll need a list of families who have paid their dues by 10/22, ahead of the community meeting on 10/24 for the raffle. The treasurers will send a reminder to the community regarding dues payment.

Community Building Chair - Annie

- The Fall event is confirmed for 11/16.
- Ms. O has ordered the art boards.
- We are still looking for a Coordinator for the Winter event.
- Chrissy has suggested the date of the Fall Event be changed for 2025, perhaps to late October.

Volunteer Updates - Hema

At this time, we are still looking to fill the following roles:

- 4th grade room rep
- 4th grade Learning Journey coordinator. All learning journeys have been planned, but it would be great to find someone to support and train for next year.
- Winter event coordinator
- Additional hybrid meeting coordinator
- Fundraising - Outdoor Ed fundraising/raffle for camp 2025/2026.
- Green team/herbicide free coordinator
- One note: Book orders is a very popular job with a group of moms with a passion to bring this tradition back!
- Fill out missing volunteer positions from New Families

New Family - Susan & Caro (not present)

- No updates

Friday Specials - Kara/Karen/Katya (not present, shared by Aditi)

- There was a date change due to an all school assembly. The new Friday Special dates are: Oct 25, Nov. 1, Nov. 15 and Nov. 22.

IT/Website - Anwar & Jeremiah (not present, shared by Aditi)

- They are willing to share at a DCS community meeting how to use the DCS website - family directory, volunteer hours, calendar, etc.

PTSA - Anh

- There are a variety of upcoming PTSA events including:
 - Trunk or Treat with the family dance after on October 25th.
 - Enrichment begins next week and will feature art, Mad Science, and Studio East. If you have any ideas for future enrichment activities, please send your suggestions to the PTSA.
 - Walk and Bike to School
 - Stock the Staff Lounge
 - Art Docent
 - Math Challenge
- Anh currently posts to the PTSA Facebook group but will also start posting to the DCS Facebook group.

Community Meeting - Aditi

- There will be a raffle for forms and dues at the next community meeting.

Master Checklist - Robin & Phoebe

- Robin will update the master list with school dates and ensure that meeting notes are correctly posted to the DCS website, as they are currently uploaded but not displaying properly.
- Notes about insurance will also be added to the master list, as there is a short turnaround time for coverage, and we may want to build in some cushion for Learning Journeys.

Walk-on Topics - Anyone, Cindy Chang, Aditi

- Cindy is taking on a new role focused on grants and is beginning to compile a list of potential opportunities. She could use help brainstorming additional areas for getting grants, as her current focus has been on Outdoor Ed and Learning Journeys. Cindy will connect with Ms. Subcleff to review other potential areas for obtaining grants. She plans to look into the Lake Washington School Foundation as one option for funding. She is also seeking overarching information, like the mission statement, which can be found on the LWSD website (<https://discovery.lwsd.org/about-us>).
- Ms. O is working on sibling preference for next year and trying to determine how many openings will be available next fall. Please help spread the word and Jaclyn can also help to identify families that may have siblings.

Adjourned: 8:00 pm

Next Community Meeting: Oct. 24th at 7pm, Sandburg Library & Zoom

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Nov. 7th 7pm