



Discovery Community School

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

DCS Steering Meeting Notes

Date: 4.3.2025

Location: Online/Zoom

Presiding: Aditi Jain & Jaclyn Senekerimyan

Minutes: Robin Desilet

Opening: 7:06pm

Welcome + Announcements - Aditi

Principal's Report - Bowser/ Kusunose

- Spring break is just one week away.
- SBA Testing: Grades 3, 4, and 5 will begin SBA testing in May, with 5th grade starting with a science assessment (not part of SBA). All grades will test on the same day, with a total of 5 testing days at the school, reduced from the previous 13-day testing period.
- Breakdancing Assembly: Tomorrow, with information emailed to parents. No chairs will be provided, and accommodations can be requested via email. The students have really enjoyed the breakdancing assembly, which has been a fun change from the usual dance routine dancing assembly. It's been a refreshing change from the usual dance routine.
- There were questions regarding Ms. Watillo's status with the middle school class for next year. She is currently on a leave of absence contract, so her position is not guaranteed for the upcoming school year. Ms. Payette will be returning to her role in the middle school classroom. According to our contract policies, staff can only be reassigned to a different position if there is a reduction in force, which is not the case here, and there is no vacant position available for Ms. Watillo. If she does not secure a permanent position elsewhere in the district, she will be available as a substitute. We understand how special Ms. Watillo is to the students, and we recognize that it can be difficult for them to adjust to a new teacher. Ms. Payette is going to be very excited to welcome them in the fall and be back at school.

- On Tuesday the Pacific Science Center will be hosting a fun science assembly. The day will begin with an all-school assembly, followed by various hands-on workshops for students to explore science.
- The evacuation drill will take place next week, hopefully in sunny weather.
- A special thank you to those who are balancing volunteer duties between DCS and Sandburg, such as those involved with the play. It's challenging to be a part of big events at both schools, and your efforts are appreciated.
- Dr. Holmes provided an update regarding James Madison, a First Amendment auditor who has recently visited a school site and the district office. If he arrives at our school, he will be asked to leave. Should he refuse, the police will be called, and the school will go into secure mode. Our school staff has a good eye on who is supposed to be here or not (example: someone walking their dog) and the district will keep up updated on any news regarding James Madison.
- Next year, the district will be adding 5 minutes on to each school day at the end of the day. We are anticipating the school day will now run from 8:40 am to 3:15 pm.

Teacher's Report - Subcleff

- A big thank you to everyone who helped with the tie-dye project. Some kids are already wearing their shirts to school, and thanks also to the parents who are working on the Earth Day celebration.
- The 4th graders are planning a swim day at Peter Kirk Pool on June 18th from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM, and have invited the DCS older students to join. This is a one-time event and will not replace the 3rd-grade swim program. The event will not include formal swimming lessons but will be supervised by lifeguards. A 4th-grade teacher at Sandburg will lead some activities, and in PE, students will learn water safety beforehand. The focus is on providing fun in the water, especially for those without access to swimming lessons. A parent survey indicated that students need an opportunity to have fun together and build confidence in a group setting. We need to decide if Sandburg will participate by the end of May. Aditi and Jaclyn will send a survey to older students' parents after spring break to gauge interest and check for available drivers.
- There is a first-come, first-served grant opportunity for outdoor education, but eligibility is typically limited to 5th and 6th-grade teachers. Subcleff has emailed the organization to request consideration based on our split class structure, and we are hopeful to secure the grant.

Treasurer's Report - Lindall/ Puneet

- Monthly Statement

- Checking: \$23,371.29
- Savings: \$13,816.01
- No new dues have been paid since the last meeting. Individual reminder emails have been sent, but no further payments have been received.
- Form 1099-Misc for 2024 Calendar Year: It's unclear if this has been filed yet; Puneet will check with Lindall for confirmation.
- Lindall is looking into Zeffy as a potential alternative to PayPal for processing payments. Jaclyn will follow up with Lindall for updates.

Community Building Chair - Annie

- Pool Party/Summer Picnic: The pool location may change, but Big Finn Hill Park shelter has been reserved for the summer picnic. We still need volunteers for both events and are in the process of finalizing dates.
- Farewell Gifts for Departing Families: Plans are underway for farewell gifts. Volunteers are being contacted to create the slideshow. Teachers will review the slideshow before it's shown to the community in May. A conversation has started, and Annie will reach out to Caro/Christine to coordinate the moving-up party.
- Teacher appreciation emails will be sent out soon. Plans are being finalized now, and the approach will be similar to last year, as teachers expressed positive feedback on last year's activities.

Volunteer Updates - Katherine/Hema

- We are still seeking volunteers for summer events, including the picnic, party, and pool party.

Friday Specials - Kara/Karen/Katya

- All lead positions are filled, but we are still looking for additional volunteers. The goal is to have 4-5 parents for each track.
- Spring Dates: April 25th, May 2nd, 9th, and 16th.
- For the 4th Friday Special Track: Annie, Ms. Long, and Ms. Subcleff are coordinating. Ms. Subcleff has discussed ideas with Ms. Long regarding sets, costumes, and activities for the students. The kids should have a lot of creative ideas.

Community Meeting - Aditi & Danya

- April 24th – Board Elections
- May 15th – Departing Families. This is the last community meeting of the year and will be in person.

Master Checklist - Robin & Phoebe

- **Room Parents:** Plan end of year picnic (with staff, on campus)
- **Community Building:** Departing family's recognition at Community Meeting
- **Staff Appreciation:** activities
- **New Co-Chairs:** coordinate next year calendar with Principal & PTSA (calendar needs to be approved at June meeting)
- **Volunteer Coordinator:** Report
- **Treasurer:** Remind staff and parents to submit for reimbursements (by end of May)
- **Treasurer:** May Statements
- **Spring Camp:** Pay spring camp and reserve for the next year (deposit rolls over)
- **Secretary:** File renewal of charitable solicitation with Secretary of State with new Board Members
- **Community Building:** Memory Book orders
- **Co-Chairs:** Send meeting notices to community 2 weeks before and solicit agenda. Send reminders at 1 week and at 3 days.
- **Co-Chairs:** notify all who use credit cards to pay for zoom, smugmug, website, etc to transfer account to new manager for that role.

Walk-on Topics - Anyone

- For attendance, use the discoveryattendance@lwsd.org email address. Alissa, Nicholl and Tracy have access to this DL email so we have coverage to update attendance efficiently. Please don't send it to personal email. Be sure to include the student's name, reason for absence, and date. Teachers will also send out this reminder via Parent Square.
- The 2-day outdoor education is reserved for next year, but the contract has not been signed yet. It would be helpful to send an estimate to families now, with the note that the cost may decrease if the grant is received. Ms. Subcleff will reach out tomorrow for the final cost.

Adjourned: 7:39pm

Next Community Meeting: Thursday, April 24th (7:00-8:30pm)

Next Steering Committee Meeting: Thursday, May 1st (7:00-8:30pm)