



Governance Council Minutes

Discovery Charter School, in cooperation with parents and the community, will empower students to become healthy, high achieving, life-long learners through the exploration of science and technology.

April 17th, 2012

In Attendance:

Sue Sewell - Principal

Laura Reetz - Parent

Tonya Roberts - Parent/President (via conference call)

Stephanie Beaver - Parent

Dawn Loomis-Vierck - Teacher

Paul Vande Hei – Community Member

Suzy Zietlow – Secretary/Teacher

Melody Tadych - Parent

Meeting called to order at 6:24 PM.

Correction of spelling of Paul's last name to March minutes. March minutes approved by Tonya.

No public comment

- 1. Unanimous approval of Suzy as new Council secretary.**
- 2. Updates – Sue and Teachers**

Peggy is working on Earth Day activities. They have started bean seeds and are watching them sprout. Dawn is wrapping up the woodland creature unit and the animals are being painted in art class. Suzy is wrapping up a non-fiction science-writing unit. The class has new pets including 2 lizards and more cockroaches to feed the lizards. In science they are studying energy and renewable and non-renewable resources. Jeannie has finished up the bird podcasts. Students are studying water and its properties. They are also working in the greenhouse, repotting tomato plants. Broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage will be set out this week to sell. A requested donation of \$1.00 per plant will be suggested this year.

Dawn, Suzy and Jeannie attended NSTA conference in Indianapolis at the end of March. They attended sessions on using iPads, teaching inquiry based lessons and were able to purchase books for Charter.

- 3. Event Planning Committee – Suzy reviewed the committee's earlier meeting.**
 - a. Open House** - Lacy has contacted the newspaper and the DCS Open House will be running weekly. There will be information regarding Green Team, greenhouse plants and needed summer garden help out on tables for Open House.
 - b. Arbor Day** – Jeannie has arranged buses to get the charter students to Pick'n Save for the Columbus Community Arbor Day celebration. Trees and shrubs will be planted. All DCS families and community members are encouraged to attend on Friday, April 27th.



Governance Council Minutes

Discovery Charter School, in cooperation with parents and the community, will empower students to become healthy, high achieving, life-long learners through the exploration of science and technology.

- c. **Bat Night** – Jeannie has contacted the bat people and they are willing to come on an evening to present bat information. The event will be this school year yet, and all CES families will be encouraged to attend. A specific date has yet to be determined.

4. **Green Team** -

Green Team will have table at Open House with info. Zach Ferdinand is willing to come to school and provide information about vermiculture to any teachers. Zach has been put in contact with Brenda Maier to continue and restart the composting at the schools that has recently not been completed. Zach has volunteered his expertise, should the need arise, to consult with the Facilities Committee in perhaps designing permaculture environments around school grounds. Strong encouragement from the council to contact Zach because he is very willing to volunteer his time at school. Laura will call Zach about specifics – K and 1st grades will get a vermiculture presentation, 2nd and 3rd grades will get the science behind his hobby and career, perhaps he can build a compost bin while giving the presentation.

Green Team would like to take over the responsibility of the flower planting by the Amtrak station. Laura and Melody did the planting last year. DCS teachers will discuss this at a future Late Start time.

5. **Committee Sign-Up and Calendar Review** –

Tonya led discussion of committees and volunteers.

Community Partnerships Committee members are Tonya, Suzy and Peggy. Sue volunteered to join this committee.

Event Planning Committee members are Tonya, Suzy, Lacy and Jeannie. Laura, Stephanie and Dawn volunteered to join this committee.

Executive Committee members are Tonya and Sue. Suzy volunteered to join this committee.

Strategic Planning Committee members are Tonya, Lacy, Sue and Katie. Paul volunteered to join this committee.

Council discussed possibility of treasurer position on council. Tonya questioned whether there could be a committee devoted to acquiring funding for the Charter School. Sue clarified fund distribution of various schools. There will be a cut of funding to CES. Technology monies will be pulled out of individual school budgets and put under the direction of the technology director as he disperses funds K-12. Question of whether the DCS funds that were devoted to technology within DCS will remain. Agreement that DCS would benefit from a committee that would advocate for separate budget. Sue requested to consider the suggestion and the discussion for a possible separate operating budget will be scheduled for next month.



Governance Council Minutes

Discovery Charter School, in cooperation with parents and the community, will empower students to become healthy, high achieving, life-long learners through the exploration of science and technology.

Vice-President position discussion. Tonya suggested this be a President-Elect (would automatically become president when current president leaves.) This will be discussed next month. Sue distributed GP5 document from the council documents to find specific verbiage of vice-president position. Sue will update the documents and distribute to new members. Mentioned that the role of the Executive Committee would be to update council documents and resources. Discussion of consistency between website, Wiki and binder of documents. Suggestion to review these sources on a small group basis. Sue, Suzy, Paul and Tonya will lead the project to review these 3 resources to make all consistent and current. Sue commented that our council policies came from the Charter School University book as well as general school board policy models. Sue gave new council members necessary documents.

6. Principal Professional Development –

Sue distributed copies of her PDP draft. Tonya suggested part of Sue's goal or plan involve parents in developing Charter School curriculum. Build Your Own Curriculum (BYOC) is the district's online tool to document their curriculum. Suzy clarified the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) as the new science standards the state of WI is considering adopting. Sue stated that goal of the Charter School is go deeper and wider with these new standards. Sue will consider adding to her PDP the application of these new standards as well as involving parents. Sue will consider specifying the test score level within her assessment of success. She will also consider involving enrollment for the charter school and waiting list for charter (disseminating information about DCS) as part of her assessment. Sue has been giving tours recently of CES/DCS. There were questions on how to assess students' awareness of engineering. Wisconsin's future state assessment, which will replace WKCE, will incorporate engineering aspects. Tonya suggested hi-lighting the technology that is utilized within DCS as an assessment aspect of Sue's PDP. Sue will bring edits to her PDP for next month's meeting. There was a suggestion that Sue connect more with DCS teachers on late start days as part of her activities section of her PDP and adjust activities based on any expanded goals. Sue will consider these suggestions and update the Council at next month's meeting.

7. Summer School Plans –

Suzy will be teaching a gardening class again this year. Suzy will also be teaching a 2nd – 4th grade engineering class. Council suggestion to have a DCS session of this class and an open-to-all engineering session. Sue will find another teacher to teach the 2nd elementary engineering course. A middle-school engineering course will also be offered in the summer-school booklet. Laura suggested a future summer-school course devoted to DCS alumni students. The council will pursue this idea in the future.

Motion to adjourn by Suzy at 7:36 PM. Seconded by Dawn.

Motion passed.



Governance Council Minutes

Discovery Charter School, in cooperation with parents and the community, will empower students to become healthy, high achieving, life-long learners through the exploration of science and technology.

Next Regular Meeting – May 15th, 2012

- *Discussion of potential separate DCS operating budget and treasurer position*
- *Principal's PDP*
- *Project to review and align DCS website, DCS Wiki and binder documents*
- *Revisit invitation for Steven Sobiek*
- *Open House reflection*