



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.

May 15th, 2012

In Attendance:

Sue Sewell-Principal

Suzy Zietlow-Teacher/Secretary

Tonya Roberts- Parent/President

Laura Reetz-Parent

Lacy George-Parent

Katie Meister-District Employee/Parent

Paul Vande Hei – Community Member

Stephanie Beaver - Parent

Dawn Loomis-Vierck-Teacher

Meeting called to order at 6:20 PM.

Minor edits to April minutes. Motion to approve April minutes by Laura, seconded by Lacy.

Motion passed.

No public comment

1. Updates- Sue and Teachers

- a. Peggy is working on frog and toad, lifecycles, plants, butterflies and the class has an aquatic frog as a new pet.
- b. Dawn has had a guest from the UW- Extension office, Deb Weblehouse, that visited and talked to the students about animal tracks and signs. Students did plaster casts of tracks. Students also made print shirts that they've been able to take home as they connected to their Woodland Creature unit. Students repotted Mother's Day plants with the 3rd graders. They are working on non-fiction writing pieces and learning typing with the 3rd graders. Dawn has chicken eggs in the incubator in the classroom. She has a parent volunteer to take the chickens after they've hatched. Laura suggested we contact Zach F. in the future for eggs to incubate. The eggs should be hatching the end of May.
- c. Suzy has had students finish up their renewable energy models as well as the persuasive writing pieces that were paired with the models. Students have been posting their writing pieces on their science blog. They have been planting at the garden. Last week they planted potatoes and peas. This week and next they plan to plant tomatoes, beans, peppers and squash. Students began studying plants and soils this week. They are also preparing to take MAPS tests.



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- d. Jeannie has finished up her rock and mineral studies. Students have also been exploring the ocean via a display that Jeannie acquired from the NSTA conference. Students have been maintaining the greenhouse plants.
- e. Sue informed us that the iPads have arrived. All teachers will be getting one iPad to use in their classrooms. Suzy will be getting two iPads to use for the summer school classes. Sue has been working on the master schedule. The DCS teachers will be having common prep times next year. They will be able to coordinate science and other projects. Teachers will be working with Sue during Late Start tomorrow to work out details of next year's schedule. There will be two sessions of the Elementary Engineering summer school class.

2. Updates - Committees

a. Event Planning Committee

Open House seemed to go well. Many families have enrolled in Charter since the night of Open House. 17 have enrolled in kindergarten. There will be a lottery for other families interested in enrolling in Charter. Central office will be conducting the lottery. A wait list will be in effect until school starts. Then Sue will make final decisions on enrollment.

- i. Teachers felt that Open House was successful. The parent helpers in the classroom doing activities weren't necessarily needed. The general vibe was that families came to talk to teachers and see the room, not really participate in activities. Next year we will revisit planning specific activities in the rooms during Open House. An extra person in the room may still be good to have. The Council members that floated during Open House were able to answer many questions regarding the program and transitions. There was discussion of the timing of the Community Open House with DCS Open House. Sue mentioned it was good publicity for DCS. Many community members were able to see DCS and talk to teachers while on the tour of the building.
- ii. Families were able to sign up to help in the garden plots during the summer. Eight weeks have been filled. Suzy will send out an email asking for parent volunteers to fill the other weeks. DCS has made close to \$350 with plant sales. Sales have gone to the DCS activity account. Sue will investigate the total funds available in the DCS activity account.



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b. Green Team

Green Team will be meeting on 5/16. Zach is still working on composting at garden. Laura will contact him. He has been doing the composting at home and taking it to garden.

3. Principal Professional Development

Sue distributed an updated version of her PDP. She adjusted the wording and plan for assessments after last month's discussion. Sue explained changes and additions under her goal and plan for assessing her success. Tonya suggested adding parent interest increase to part of the assessment for success. There was also a suggestion of informing parents of curriculum to spark interest in DCS. Build Your Own Curriculum (BYOC) is the software being used. ELA will be the first to be documented with BYOC. The council suggested that Sue also include community outreach as part of her goal. Sue will develop the final draft of her PDP and present it to council for approval at next month's meeting.

4. Election of Vice President

The council discussed the language in the current by-laws regarding the vice-president position. The council agreed that the position should read "President Elect" (the President Elect would take over for the President at the end of his/her term which would translate to a 2-year commitment.) This would create a more seamless transition. It currently states that officer election is a yearly basis. The council voted to approve a Vice-President Elect position. Council members will consider their interest in this position and a vote will be conducted at the next meeting.

5. Budget/Finance Committee

Council reviewed Tonya's proposal for a budget/finance committee. This committee would potentially be an advocate for DCS regarding technology, etc. Sue will be speaking with Bryan Davis regarding this potential committee. The council will review Tonya's proposal for this committee and discuss at the June meeting.

6. Sue will soon begin creating the DCS annual report for BOE presentation at the end of August. She will present this info at a future DCS council meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Dawn at 7:16 PM. Seconded by Tonya.

Motion passed.

Next Regular Meeting-

- *Approval of Sue's PDP*
- *Budget Committee discussion*
- *Document/website review*
- *Zach F. visit – Teachers will contact him directly for classroom visits*