



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.

July 17th, 2012

In Attendance:

Sue Sewell – Principal

Lacy George – Parent

Tonya Roberts – Parent/President

Suzy Zietlow – Teacher/Secretary

Stephanie Beaver – Parent

Katie Kastenson-Schmidt – New 2nd Grade Charter Teacher

Meeting called to order at 6:25 PM.

Motion to approve minutes by Lacy, seconded by Stephanie.

No public comment

1. **New 2nd Grade Charter Teacher – Katie Kastenson-Schmidt** – Katie introduced herself. She got her undergrad from UW-Madison as well as her teaching certification.
2. **Budget/Finance Committee** – Discussion of the DCS Budget Committee and corresponding handout (examined in May). Suggestion to change title to *DCS Resource Committee* with addition of grant writing to possible charges. This committee would serve as an advisement committee only with no decision making responsibilities. Sue spoke with Chet as far as technology resource allocation. Sue reiterated that DCS monies will continue to be used for DCS technology resources. Motion to accept the rephrasing the Resource Committee by Sue. Seconded by Lacy. Motion passed. Tonya will revise the document and we will revisit it next meeting. Sue will share the document with Bryan Davis this week.
3. **Sue's PDP** – Addition of students on waiting list for DCS as measurement of success. Sue suggested connecting with UW-Madison scientists to visit DCS on regular basis. Sue researched the Field Program (Victoria Rydberg) and the expense (\$4,000 - \$7,000). Sue will be attending the No Teacher Left Inside Institute through the Green Schools Network in August. Motion to accept Sue's PDP by Lacy. Seconded by Stephanie. Sue's PDP accepted.
4. **Vice President Election** – Position remains open at this time. Council members will continue to be encouraged to fill the position in the near future within Tonya's term as President.
5. **Updates – Suzy gave updates on Summer School classes.**
The Garden Environment class has 10, 2nd and 3rd grade students. Students have been working on insect, plant, soil, weather, and weed investigations. Students compared store-bought and homemade Japanese Beetle traps. They also made plant dye mixtures and have dyed handkerchiefs. Students will finish the week of the Garden class with harvesting peas and tomatoes as well as building Ladybug Feeders.



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The Elementary Engineering class has roughly 30, 2nd, 3rd and 4th grade students (Charter and non-Charter students). They have been building boats, roller coasters, rockets and investigating various engineering fields including structural, and chemical. The class has been very well received and students are enjoying the Elementary Engineering blog where they are tracking their designs, successes, ideas and questions. Suzy suggested offering 2 sections of the Elementary Engineering classes next summer considering the popularity of it this summer.

6. **Field Program** – Sue has been in contact with Victory Rydberg regarding the Field Program. It would cost at least \$4,000 (see #3 above.) Sue suggested that we contact scientists directly from UW-Madison at minimal cost to come in to discuss their careers with Charter students.
7. **Annual Report** – Sue will present the DCS Annual Report to the School Board on August 13th (HS IMC.) Suzy will be assisting Sue in compiling MAPS data for the report. A 10-point increase from one year to the next is considered adequate growth.
8. **Miscellaneous** – Tonya mentioned IXL website as a math resource for parents and students during the summer. Suzy also mentioned she spoke with Brenda Maier at the end of this past school year. Brenda is writing a Farm to Table grant and expressed an interest in including the Charter school and its garden endeavors in the grant. Suzy will give any updates on this in future meetings.

Motion to adjourn by Lacy at 7:10 PM. Seconded by Sue.

Motion passed.

Next Regular Meeting-

- *Bryan Davis will attend to discuss Facilities Committee decisions as they relate to DCS*
- *Cancellation of August meeting due to few potential attendees, will meet in September*
- *Summary of DCS Annual Report*
- *Revisiting Committee obligations*
- *Revisiting Document Committee (Tonya, Paul, Sue, Suzy)*