



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.

Date 7/16/2013

In Attendance:

Sue Sewell-Principal

Dawn Loomis-Vierck-Teacher

Tonya Roberts- Parent/President

Peggy First - Teacher

Paul Vande Hei, Community Member

Laura Reetz-Parent

Katie Kastenson Schmidt-Teacher

Stephanie Beaver - Parent

Lacy George-Parent

Melody Tadych-Parent

Meeting called to order at 6:18 PM

June minutes will be approved at the next meeting

Minutes approved by _____, Seconded by _____

No public comment

- 1.**
- 2. Updates- Sue and Teachers**

Sue: Sue provided the DCS Summary Report that was provided to the school board and presented at the July school board meeting. Katie KS and Suzy both attended the school board meeting and answered questions from school board members. Sue explained the student achievement goals that were part of the report. Students at DCS are compared to a national mean on the MAP tests. Sue explained that we integrate social studies curriculum, not explicitly teach it. Students scored well on the WKCE social studies test. Third graders took the HOPE survey this year, but results have not been returned yet. Sue will e-mail a copy of the report to everyone. Tonya asked how the goal indicator is set. Sue explained that the goals were established when the contract with the school board was created. These have not been rewritten, but they can be changed in the future with a contract renewal. Charter schools have to have high goals, and we have to prove that we are meeting those goals. Tonya asked about ELL and special education students in DCS. Peggy explained that the hands-on nature of DCS is helpful for these students. She has seen a lot of growth in ELL students that were in her classroom. These students were highly motivated and engaged. Suzy answered a similar question at the school board meeting. Tonya asked in there would be value in tracking students beyond fourth grade to see if scores are dropping once they are out of the charter school. Laura and Tonya shared their experiences with children who left the charter school. Sue said the



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school board has also asked for this data. Katie shared some questions the school board members asked. The school board asked about differentiation for special education students and expansion. Sue reported that Dr. Davis will be exploring expansion to fourth and fifth grade. He said he would like to come to our meeting in August. There was also a discussion about asking Paul Kurth to attend a meeting in the future. The school board inquired about the additional cost of having a charter school, but Sue said there is no additional cost. The teachers are resourceful with what they already have access to.

Teachers: Dawn and Peggy worked on writing curriculum. Katie has attended math, literacy, and science PD this summer. Dawn attended literacy PD. Suzy attended science PD. Dawn discussed what Linda Dorn (literacy) shared about the importance of preserving the core science time during instruction.

2. **Event Planning Committee**

The event planning committee discussed some fundraising ideas. There were questions about how money that is raised can be used and if it can be used specifically for the charter school. Laura asked if the money raised can be used to pay for a water bottle filling station. Melody discussed ideas for fundraising: selling polar water bottles that can be customized, Culvers night, Charter social that takes what the kids have grown in the garden and make food with the produce.

They are hoping to do a Culvers night this summer. At least 6 people will be needed to do this. Melody thought November would be a good time to do the water bottle fundraiser. The water bottle filling station could be installed for America Recycles Day.

There is an energy fair in the fall that Sue mentioned many families attended in the past. We have also participated in the Columbus Arbor Day and Earth Day celebrations in the past. Sue mentioned the city organization can probably lend support to one of our projects. Sue will be meeting with them tomorrow night. They would like to jointly meet with the DCS governance council at some point.

3. **Summer School**

Dawn, Suzy, and Sue are all teaching summer school this year. Sue said her classes are going well. Her engineering class is working on creating a vessel for studying hydrothermal vents. This week they are studying ants in the rainforest. She is tying engineering into problem-based learning. In horticulture they are working on creating a more beautiful green space where the school tree was. They also planted fast radishes and cabbage. Sue said the kids are excited to learn and was very impressed with how the charter kids in her class worked together to build their vessels. Dawn said the students in horticulture loved dissecting seeds and plants from the butterfly garden. Suzy's students are having a great time in engineering. Sue mentioned there



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are a lot of science-based classes offered at summer school. Laura asked if we could include data about charter students in summer school in the next Summary Report.

4. **Strategic Plan**

This was covered in the Summary Report conversation.

Motion to adjourn by _____ at _____ PM. Seconded by _____ .

Motion passed

Next Regular Meeting-

- *Next meeting may be cancelled*