



# 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.*

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**Date: September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**In Attendance:**

*Sue Sewell-Principal*

*Katie Kastenson Schmidt-Teacher*

*Tonya Roberts- Parent/President*

*Laura Reetz-Parent*

*Dawn Loomis-Vierck-Teacher*

*Dr. Bryan Davis-Columbus Superintendent*

*Suzy Zietlow-Secretary/Teacher*

*Stephanie Beaver-Parent*

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**Meeting called to order at 6:17 PM.**

**June minutes approved by Laura, seconded by Dawn.**

**July minutes approved by Laura, seconded by Sue.**

No public comment

**1. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Charter Expansion/New Charter (All)**

- a. Dr. Davis explained that the School Board and community members are supportive of a charter school expansion or a new charter in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The Council discussed and brainstormed possible attributes of this charter:
  - i. Separate charter school (*not* a continuation or expansion of DCS)
  - ii. Allows for students to learn in an environment that suits their interests and affinities
  - iii. Need to find the team/individual with a passion for creating the “new” charter
  - iv. STEM, agriculture, or engineering (lego/robotics, tech-ed, other?) focus
  - v. Inquiry based
  - vi. Staff possess an intense passion for the mission of the charter
  - vii. Extensive outdoor experiences
  - viii. Direct applications of learning/problem solving
  - ix. Possible joint governance council
  - x. Strong partnership with DCS
  - xi. Integrated curriculum



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xii. New charter classrooms would be adjacent with a possible common laboratory/project area

b. Dr. Davis will provide these ideas to the BOE. He and Sue will also investigate the opportunities for an implementation grant and seek interested staff within the middle school to be involved in this project. Dr. Davis envisions that by January we should have more concrete information and decisions made to go forward with a charter 4/5.

## **2. Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) (Suzy, Katie, Dr. Davis, Sue)**

a. Suzy and Katie explained the NGSS's origins. They were created based upon the Framework for Science Education K-12 by a consortium including the National Science Foundation, etc. NGSS are not affiliated with Common Core, but explicitly reference connections to both ELA and Math CCSS. They also described how the NGSS covers current Wisconsin Model Academic Standards in science (going above and beyond) and will prepare students for current WKCE as well as the upcoming Smarter Balanced assessments. Katie and Suzy have been working on writing units of study based on NGSS during curriculum planning times. Dr. Davis and Sue also briefly explained the state legislation's hesitancy to adopt NGSS state-wide because of some issues related to CCSS. DCS is able to adopt them as a school and upon adoption would be able to work through implementing them with the goal of sharing knowledge of and about NGSS with the district at large, should they decide to adopt NGSS.

b. Sue motioned to adopt NGSS, Suzy seconded, motioned carried. DCS will adopt NGSS and write their curriculum based on NGSS. This will directly connect to accomplishing goals within the DCS Dissemination Grant (to be discussed at the next meeting.)

## **3. Columbus Energy Fair (Sue)**

a. The Greater Columbus Energy Commission met last night (Sue is an acting member.) Their mission is to help Columbus use more green energy and become a greener community. They are having an Energy Fair on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. As part of their mission, they hope to reach out to schools within Columbus. DCS will have a booth at the Energy Fair with energy projects on display. The Commission will buy the kits (wind, photovoltaic, etc.) for families/students to create the projects for display in the booth. This will accomplish goals with the DCS's Strategic Plan of building community partnerships. Katie and Suzy will gather family volunteers to meet at an energy club (10-12 kids, led by Sue, may also include DCS student alumni) weekly between now and October 12<sup>th</sup> to build the projects and prepare the display booth.



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## 4. Event Planning/Fundraisers/Resource Committee

- a. **Tonya reminded the group that the DCS Soup Social is coming up on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Several families have already RSVP'd.**

Motion to adjourn by Suzy at 7:30 PM. Seconded by Dawn.

Motion passed.

### ***Next Regular Meeting-***

- *Dissemination Grant*
- *Soup Social, DCS Fall Clean-Up and Energy Fair Reflections*
- *New Charter School Continued Discussion*
- *Fundraisers/Resource Committee*