

NCS Site Council Notes February 10, 2015, 4:00pm at NCS, Lee Lohr's Classroom

Welcome: Valentine/Friendship stories: Share if you like. The following site council members were in attendance: Jim Ruder, Beth Junge, Leigh Schmidt, Lee Lohr, Tonya Benz, Sarah Gaskell, Susan Christiansen, Jennifer Bradley, Brandi Mueller (We need family pictures of Bruce, and Brandi for the bulletin board.) Not in attendance: Abby Jakowski, Jen Krull, Kaitie Smith, Charyn Grandau, Steve Schultz

BUDGET, 501c3, and RECHARTER EFFORTS:

STEM Curriculum/ Personalized Learning -

*The afterschool, SOS: Endangered Earth, STEM program started Monday, Jan. 26, with Sue Austen leading the charge. We only had two students request bussing, so we called and encouraged carpooling instead. It worked out, so we will be able to reallocate the \$417 bus fee somewhere else. Jim and Tammy will look at the third session and see if we might be able to swing that again.

* Project Lead the Way and other STEM efforts continue. Grades K/1 and 2/ 3 have about \$3,200 of \$4,000 budget yet to spend. 4/5 students have been highly engaged in circuits and studying catapults and collisions and how to design an egg carrier to sustain a crash.

* Jim checked with Central Office and they would allow our site council to pay for half day subs to create a block of collaboration time for teachers to collaborate, if we wish to pursue that.

* Two teachers are currently in the 5Ws class, Jennifer and Lee.

Technology Request - There has been an increased demand for I-Pads and Chromebooks, after surveying usage and a discussion with teachers. We are in the process of making scheduling adjustments to lessen the demand from the most demanding time (math) 12:30-1:30 pm. The District is working on a plan for 1:1 student: technology device ratio. We do not know when that might come to NCS.

Teachers collaborated on a request for Site Council to purchase some more units as listed below by priority:

1. Buy 10 more ipads to fill the recharging cart to 40.
2. Buy 5 more Chromebooks to total 23 units.
3. Buy an additional 10 more ipads to be kept in classrooms.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the purchase of 10 ipads at an estimated price of \$450 each and 5 Chromebooks at an estimated price of \$250 each, totaling \$5,750.

MARKETING UPDATE:

David Voss Meeting: We plan to meet with Kelly and David Voss one more time, tomorrow after school to consider slogan and other marketing strategies.

Heidi was awarded the Channel 3 Top Notch Teacher Award!! Last week.

Kindergarten Information Meetings had been scheduled with the other Charter Schools and a neighborhood school rep on:

Jan. 20, 5:30 Stonecrest Apt. 5673 King James Ct. (2-3 families attended)

Jan. 20, 6:30 Boys and Girls Club, 4619 Jenewin Rd. (2-3 families attended)

Jan. 22, 5:30 Nakoma Heights, 4929 Chalet Garden Rd. (2-3 families attended)

Jan. 27, 6:30 Badger Ridge (about 70-80 families attended)

Letters had been sent by the District mid-December. The DVD overview was placed on-line and not sent via mail and DVD. NCS site council members and other parents called 200 (one third of the 600) families to promote attending K Information Meetings and reinforcing that families have a choice.

NCS Group Tours took place on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 8-10 am and Saturday, Feb. 7, 10am-12:00pm for larger group tours. Each had about 12 families attend.

Enrollment: We are again approved by the board to host placement for 126 students at NCS next year. (21 students per classroom) We currently have 19 students applying for 5K next year at NCS with the deadline for application set for this Friday, Feb. 13. We have just 17 current K students who will move to 1st grade next year. And one of the 17 had requested a transfer to Core. We also have 3 students applied to attend NCS 1st grade. If more apply by Friday, we will plan to fill with as many as 22 K students and 20 First Grade students.

SCHOOL CLIMATE/WELLNESS

* **Survey- Update:** Results discussion tabled to next month. Let's make it available at parent teacher conferences in the hallway with some lap tops.

***Melissa Albright:** visited to express her opinion on Valentine's Day Candy exchange. She expressed her disappointment and frustration that students were not allowed to exchange candy or other sweets on Birthdays or Valentine's Day. A brief discussion followed how this issued has swung back and forth over the many years of NCS. Pros and cons and rationale were briefly discussed. It was Melissa's hope to be heard, and not expecting a change in policy at this time. Site Council was appreciative of Melissa bringing her concerns forward.

***Student Council:** Jim has continued to meet with a student council group from 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade twice a month. The latest topic has been to include a School Bazaar component to the School Dance on March 6 and allow 4/ 5 students to sell homemade crafts. Jim will organize students to help raise and lower the American flag in front of school from 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms. Jim will organize 4th and 5th grade volunteers to help Orma receive lunch trays more easily.

* **NAEP Assessment:** was completed by all 4th graders yesterday from 10-11:30 am. It went smoothly. Students were very good sports. We do not receive results.

***Badger Assessment:** Teachers will provide a practice test session before the real window opens up March 30 into mid May. This will replace the WKCE this year. It will be taken electronically but is not expected to be of an adapted nature as we had expected. State level decisions are yet to be made for next year.

***Gymfinity, Jan. 31, with Bake Sale 1:00-3:00pm:** The Bake Sale at Gymfinity made \$175 and that money is deposited already into our 501c3 account. A check from Gymfinity for the portion of the admissions should be rolling in this week. Note: We did have one sibling of a student looking for a nut-free treat, which we could not safely hand her. I will file this away and come up with something she can get next year!!!! Could we get a prepaid ticket and waiver ahead of time next year to avoid the long line? Should we collect a freewill offering versus a price per item area?

Verona Ice Arena has been secured for Sunday, March 29: from 1-2:30 pm (that is ice time). We have the mezzanine from 12:30 to 3:00 pm. It is a private event for \$180. Susan and Abby will meet in the next two weeks to iron out the menu!

I, Abby, with permission from Mr. Gundlach, am throwing a baby shower. He wanted to downplay the gifts, so I decided to up-play the most important thing that ALL new parents need...ADVICE. If you would like to partake, the invite and advice sheet are attached. The invite went home in all the 2/3 folders last Friday. I also emailed a copy to the 4/5 parents in case any former students would want to celebrate. A small note will also go in the February newsletter.

Field Day: We have a call in to request the Goodman Recreation Center for the same price (\$500.00) for Wed., June 10th, the last full day of school. They have given a special rate of \$500 the last several years; we expect that may go up some.

Mississippi River Museum Trip is scheduled for Wed. May 6 (day following Spring Sing and Art Show)

Diversity and Equity Committee: Feb. 16 and is expected to have 4 stations for multi-age groups to rotate through the afternoon. 1. Drum Power 2. Kaitie Smith presentation on Kenya experience 3. Sidiki Bitie (parent of first grader) to present on growing up on Burkina Fosa and his immigration to U.S. and 4. Engineers without Borders will focus on efforts to provide drinking water. We need checks in advance for Drum Power Inc. EIN#76-0708821 (\$225.00) and Luke Struttgen (\$75.00), Engineers Without Borders speaker.

Staffing

We will await our FTE budget expected soon from Central Office. Our FTE may be affected by the state budget soon to be released and by our lower enrollment numbers this year, 119 versus 124 last year.

We are awaiting news from Sandee Tolleson on the status of her return. In the meantime, we are fortunate to have Tara Gilbert available to continue long term subbing.

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:

Account Balance: The amount in the bank is \$13,752 at this time. That includes the Gymfinity bake sale money. We have not yet gotten the check from Gymfinity. There is about \$1,000 left on Paypal that needs to be transferred to the bank from the Silent Auction. Paypal only allows me to transfer \$500/month

Some other expenses we may incur are:

- *African Study \$300, May: South American Study \$250
- *Possible Everyday Math updates to teacher guides and materials \$5,000-\$6,000
- * Possible Operating Budget contribution of about \$1,200
- * Possible adjustments to the budget for next year if we suffer a cut

Grant Updates: Heidi received two Ipad Minis from the Verona Area Education Association.

Some other Fundraiser ideas to be explored were:

Roman Candle Pizzeria may be sponsoring a NCS night. (3 locations) maybe?
Orange Leaf may do something similar
Culvers maybe? Grandparent Day Maybe?
Coffee Sale?
Butter Braids?

Spring Concert Baskets: YES. Leigh is looking for a volunteer to head up efforts. We will also need a Boxtops coordinator and there was some interest expressed among members.

Announcements:

- * Listening Session with Mr. Ruder, 6:00-7:00 pm this evening
- * Whole School Study of Africa, April 16, 12:30-2:20 pm
- * Conferences Thursday, Feb. 19, and Tuesday, Feb. 24 (Abby sign up generous for meals). Also conferences on Feb. 17th for Larry only.
- * No School Feb. 26 and 27
- * Friday, March 6, 6:30- 8:00 pm, all-school Family Dance and Student Bazaar, popcorn and pretzels.
- * Ice Arena Skating Party on Sunday, March 29, 1:00-2:30 pm (ice time)(12:30-3:00 pm mezzanine reserved)
- * Spring Break, April 3-10

**Next NCS Site Council meeting date: Tuesday, March 10, 2015, 4:00 at NCS.
Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.**