

NCS Site Council Notes December 8, 4:00 pm at NCS, Lee Lohr's Classroom

Welcome: Holiday Preparation Stories? The following site council members were in attendance: Leigh Schmidt, Jennifer Bradley, Jennifer Klawiter, Jim Ruder, Katie Kohl, Kim Wroblewski, Tiffany Minter, Non-voting 501c3 Representatives Charyn Grandau, Not in attendance: Abby Jakowski, Sarah Gaskell (but brought some great cookies), Brandi Mueller, Robin Kling, and Susan Christiansen.

501c3 Report: Susan is looking for a small budget to help with acknowledging the many efforts of volunteers, with her focus on fundraising volunteers. Susan also asked if it was possible for steady volunteers to have a Building Access Proximity Card for entry to school. Jim will double-check, but it may be unlikely. Can we make reusable Raptor passes for regular volunteers to conserve paper? Brett introduced the practice of having a second person sign all checks over \$1,000. 501c3 President, Treasurer and NCS Director will be possible signers. Brett is working on a transparent statement sheet to share.

STEM AND Personalized Learning- A few teachers have expressed interest in attending a STEM and Personalized Learning related workshop in Oregon WI on Sat. Feb. 6. The workshop is entitled, Empowering Passion Driven Student Projects in Redesigned Collaborative Learning Spaces. Cost is \$100 to attend. Is there also a motion to pay teachers \$100 to attend? Leigh moved, Katie seconded, and all were in favor. Staff will continue work to outline STEM curricular efforts in January to help guide STEM material purchases.

Staffing - We expect to extend about 90 minutes daily of a Special Education Assistant to Sugar Creek after Winter Break, as a 3rd grade NCS student currently receiving that many minutes of SEA support is transferring to Sugar Creek.

After-School Programming:

	Fall Oct. 12-Nov. 30	Winter Jan. 4-Mar 7	Spring Mar.14-May 16
STEM	Scott-Inv. Spec.-20 Heidi's Room	Tess Wirth-Recycled Racers-21	Tara-Sun/Moon-21
Club	Chess with Abby-21 Library	Cursive- Charyn-24 Library	Bricks for Kidz-23 Library
Homework	Tara/Sue-4 K/1 room	Jennifer-3	Scott-4

From Abby: Chess is over. It is unlikely I taught them much, but they definitely got many opportunities to play and better their games!!! It seemed like most kiddos enjoyed it. It should be noted that kindergartners should not be in chess club.

Despite massive search efforts after each session, two of Sugar Creek's sets had (several) pieces go missing. They are very inexpensive sets and I let Todd Brunner know I would be replacing the sets ASAP. I had four great gentlemen who came to EACH of my classes to help: Jim Johncox, John Porco, Ed (James Bradley's grandpa) and Bruce Moore! Also, we had an anonymous donation of 10 Club style sets (rubber mats with large sturdy pieces and zippered bags). WOOHOO – Looks like we should do chess club next year too. If we do, we need to cap it at 20 players. I stashed the chess sets in the bottom of the large cabinet in the lounge in case anyone wants to use them. The chess pro suggested when done playing, set the board up completely before packing it away to make sure all the pieces are accounted for.

Scott Pelton reports that the EIE unit of Invasive Species was easy to work with and required minimal extra preparations. It was designed to be a 6 week unit and most of the lessons needed a supplementary activity to fill the hour session. On the whole it worked well with the assistance of several steady parent volunteers. It was a stretch for K/1 to fully participate.

Tara and Sue report Homework Club seemed to go as planned. Students seemed to appreciate the opportunity to work with support in a quiet, friendly environment.

Enrollment- A first grade student transferred back to Sugar Creek, where they attended kindergarten, after Thanksgiving break. The family reported they were thankful for our efforts but thought they had subjected their child to too many school changes and that they missed the lower class size at Sugar Creek. We are also expecting the transfer of a 3rd grade student to SC. Again no complaints have been received, but the family is hoping a fresh start might help. With that transfer we will be at 122 students, with 20 students in 4 classrooms and 21 students in two classrooms.

Diversity and Equity Committee- We will be meeting tonight to finalize planning for the December 16 Asia Event. The Madison Hmong Cultural Center will offer a 40 minute session to a group of 60 students in the STEP room, Roshni Chowdhry (Mihika's mom) will present on India to groups of 30 students 4 times, and a VAIS teacher and Director, Barb Drake, will present on China to groups of 30 students 4 times.

Poetry Pole- Jennifer shared the idea she saw in a Madison neighborhood. We were able to get our version of a Poetry Pole up in front of school. Anyone is welcome to read student poems from the box, return them, and get copies from the office if need be. Teachers will take turns per month or two stocking the box with fresh poems.

Safari Symphony- Although there were many positive aspects of the trip, general consensus from teachers was a recommendation we take a break from the Symphony next year and explore other performing Arts opportunities. On the whole, students represented NCS well by displaying appropriate audience etiquette. The maestro's short comments included content mostly above our students. Most students thought the highlight was the STAR WARS music. Perhaps we will explore bringing in Windy City Players with Stoner Prairie or bringing in the Madison Youth Choir and Symphony.

VASD School Board Report- Discussion continued last evening at the Board Meeting. Moving Two Way Immersion from GE and relocating NCS appears to be at the bottom of the list of options being considered. However, the option has not yet removed from consideration. Electronic surveys were sent to all NCS families. Participation has been strongly encouraged. Decisions will be made in January. The NCS Future Schools Committee has prepared a list of preferred considerations if in fact we would be recommended for relocation.

* Access to outdoor learning environments, such the school forest/prairie and the Mill Creek stream to pursue STEM and environmental studies.

* Location in or next to a middle school so that we can expand to Grades 6-8.

* 6 classrooms with ample student space, storage space, and Smart Boards, all located within one location to help maintain school identity.

* An Art/Music room

* A designated small conference room.

* Access to a library, gym, computer lab, playground, lunchroom, and OT room.

* Separate school office and entry.

* Designated Administrator and School Secretary.

* Avoid temporary relocation and placement.

Proposed Marketing and 5 year old Kindergarten Registration Dates and Events:

Monday, Jan. 4- District mailing to all families.

Thursday, Jan. 21- School Tours 8:30-10:30 am (need 3 people)

Mon. Jan. 25- Badger Prairie Food Pantry Booth 10:00 am-1:00 pm and 3:00-7:00 pm (VAIS)

Wed. Jan. 27- B & G Club Food Pantry Booth 9:00-11:30 am and 6:00-7:30 pm (CORE)

Thur. Jan. 28- Badger Prairie Food Pantry Booth 10:00 am-1:00 pm and 3:00-7:00 pm (need 1 person)

Tuesday, Feb. 2- District Kindergarten Info Meeting at B& G club 6-7 pm (need 4-6 people)

Saturday, Feb. 6- School Tours 9:00-11:00 am (need 3 people)

Thursday, Feb. 11- School Tours 8:30-10:30 am and 6:00-7:00 pm (need 3 people)

Tuesday, Feb. 16- School Tours 8:30-10:30 am (need 3 people)

Friday, Feb. 20- Charter School Applications Due

We will explore having some students prepared to assist with tours. Jim will prepare all students for visitor etiquette through a Cool Tool visit.

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:

REAP Results: \$1,152.41 profit

Wreath Results: \$246 profit

Equal Exchange: \$730.60 profit

School Wear: \$424.14 profit (Should we give car stickers away to newly registered families this spring?)

Silent Auction: donation of items is up. Bidding seems to be active.....

Barnes and Noble Gift Wrapping? From Abby: If Charyn is not in....I asked about doing our Barnes and Noble gift wrap night again this year. She is checking to see if there are any dates that might work. Definitely not a money maker – I just love it). Charyn will check to see if we can still get a date.

Fun Run- Not much new to report. The event may be in jeopardy as the Wasneiwskis may not be available to devote as much time and effort as originally planned.

Jan/Feb Social event? In lieu of Gymfinity, we have booked Badger Gymnastics for Saturday, February 6th, from 3-5 pm. This is a private event with no rental fee! Cost is \$8 per person. (This is higher than Gymfinity, but much cheaper than Rockin' Jump) We can invite our school as well as friends!!! Non-school aged kiddos should be tailed by a parent for safety! 40% of the profits come back to us. We have use of a small party room for food, but I haven't decided what food to have there yet. Bake sale before dinner might not be the best option? I did also visit Rockin' Jump but wasn't impressed with the management and they had artificial fragrance pumping throughout the facility. Madtown Twisters was not interested in talking fundraisers. REI did not have enough snowshoes for us to use nor could they guarantee snow and 30 degree sunshine weather.

Account Balance: We will be receiving a \$9,448.00 grant to offset costs of Everyday Math Update purchase from an EPIC grant. December Balance was estimated to be between \$15,000 and \$16,000.

o Curriculum/School Supplies: \$500

o Fieldtrips: \$500

o Marketing: \$1,000

o STEM: \$4,000 (\$500 per teacher per year plus \$1000 for PD/global purchases). Note that for 2015-16, all of this money would be allocated to the purchase of EveryDay Math – unless the Epic Grant is approved.

o After school Programming: \$4,000

o Internal events/cultural: \$1,000

Operating Budget: \$1,500

Summary of requests:

\$ 250 check made out to Hmong Cultural Center (already approved)

Announcements:

Dec. 7-13: Silent Auction Bidding

Dec. 15 and 16: Silent Auction Pick up 2:30-7:00 pm

Dec. 16: Diversity and Equity Asia Event in the afternoon.

Dec. 23-Jan. 3: Winter Break

**Next NCS Site Council meeting date: Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2016 at 4:00 pm at NCS.
Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.**