

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

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

### **STEM Curriculum/ Personalized Learning -**

\*The afterschool SOS: Endangered Earth STEM program is concluding in one week with Sue Austen leading the charge. Kaitie has sent out an email to confirm participants in the 3rd session starting on March 23. We will explore car pool vs. bussing.

\* Project Lead the Way and other STEM efforts continue. Grades K/1 is planning to purchase some Lego Can Do kits and 2/ 3 is planning to purchase some PLTW kits and Makie Makie, Picu Boards and possibly some Lego Can Do kits. 4/5 students continue to be highly engaged in circuits and studying collisions - how to design an egg carrier to sustain a crash. Lee and Heidi are switching classes.

\* Verona Press was in to take pictures of 4/5 during STEM and is doing an article on Personalized Learning focusing on Charter Schools in the coming weeks.

\* Teachers have opted for STEM planning time to occur as an extension of our May or June staff meetings and will be submitting time sheets for that additional 60-90 minutes.

\* Kaitie Smith met with a representative from Camille Solberg, a staffer in Senator Ron Johnson's office to discuss involving underrepresented students in STEM programming. This connection was facilitated by Lilada Gee who is a consultant working with the district to close the gap regarding students with diversity. Camille is looking for a focus group/school to promote STEM in the Madison area. Black Girls Code is a nationwide code for black (or Latino) girls ages 7-16. She is interested in helping seek private funding for the efforts. Camille is getting a group together to discuss future partnerships in the next month or two. Jennifer from Madison College may be interested in developing a mentor program with minority students from MATC.

\*Afterschool programming for next year? Kaitie would like to start up an effort to organize the options for next year. Sarah and Jennifer will join Kaitie in this effort.

**Technology Request** - The 5 additional Chromebooks have been received and are now in use by students. The 10 additional Ipads have been received and are being processed by the Tech Department.

### **MARKETING UPDATE:**

**David Voss Meeting:** Leigh and Beth met with David Voss and Kelly Kloepping. There was a good discussion about the merits of developing a key message and of adding a slogan to our logo. We played around with "Discover. Empower. Grow."

### **Enrollment Update:**

The NCS lottery took place on Feb. 26. 22 K placements were offered to families, leaving 3 families on the wait list. Two have declined placements now leaving just 1 family on the wait list. We also offered placement to the two families who applied to first grade. We offered placement to the one family who applied to 2nd grade. We wait listed the two families who applied to 3rd grade, placed the two families who applied to 4th grade and wait

listed the one family who applied to fifth grade. We have yet to receive acceptance letters from a few other families. An informal tally indicates we did not do as well as hoped with attracting new students with diversity in race or low socioeconomic status. Marketing Committee will meet within the month to discuss strategies more and talk about David's suggestions and signs.

### **SCHOOL CLIMATE/WELLNESS**

\***School Dance** - went well last Friday evening, March 6 from 6:30-8:00 pm. Well attended, well supervised with parents present. Tim Schmidt did a nice job sharing his mix of songs using Andy Larson's equipment with the help of Sarah. Glow sticks were a big hit. Had just the right amount of snack- no drinks worked. Bazaar combination worked well. "Rocking good time, lots of incoming K families came."

\* **Survey Update** - Results have been emailed to Site Council members; paper copies will be provided. A brief discussion of how positive the results were with a relatively strong response rate. We will explore using information in future Marketing efforts. We will discuss in further detail in April, giving people a chance to read the document in more detail.

\***Kelly Kloeping** visited to share information about the upcoming April 7 referendum. Kelly gave an overview and answered a few questions. All are encouraged to make informed votes.

\***Student Council** - Jim has continued to meet with a student council group from 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades twice a month. The 5th grade school Bazaar went very well with six 5th graders participating. Over \$100 was raised to contribute to the 5th grade graduation party.

\* **Listening Session** with Mr. Ruder on Feb. 10 was lightly attended by about 4-5 families. In general, no major concerns were shared. Instead, a general appreciation for the improved school climate was expressed. There was discussion of traffic in front of school. Should place a sign in front of school with "No Jaywalking." Can we purchase signs for "Watch for kids"? Susan will check it out. Sarah will call to request an occasional Police presence. Can we ask for "No U-Turns" signs?

\***Badger Assessment-** Teachers are scheduled to provide a practice test session before the real window opens on March 31. We are tentatively scheduled to administer the test to each 3rd-5<sup>th</sup> grade NCS student April 13-24, approximately one hour per each of the 10 days. We will use the computer lab and our Chromebooks. We will share our Chromebooks with SC during the test window.

\***Lilada Gee**, consultant with VASD, will lead a discussion about how we best serve students who are black with our staff on May 11 or 14 after school. Charyn and Leigh expressed interest in also attending.

**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. A chili cook-off will be part of the menu.

**Field Day** - We had a call in to request the Goodman Recreation Center for the same price for Wed., June 10<sup>th</sup>, the last full day of school. They have given us a special rate of

\$500 the last several years, but this went up to \$850 this year. Jim will call Goodman and ask if we could lock in the price for the next two years as well.

**Mississippi River Museum Trip** is scheduled for Wed., May 6, (the day following Spring Sing and Art Show). Jim will design a short flier to explain that there won't be room on the busses for adult chaperones, but that a Sign-up Genius to encourage car pooling will be coming.

**Diversity and Equity Committee-** The school-wide event was held Feb. 16. We had 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 focus on efforts to provide drinking water. Thanks to committee members and to Site Council for funding. Feedback and reviews were positive from students and staff. The more hands-on the session, the more students stayed engaged. The committee is exploring having a speaker on Down Syndrome to come in on Friday May 1, perhaps meeting with each class during I/A times, and then a whole school rotation focusing on S. America on the afternoon of Fri., May 22.

**6 Day Schedule** - All elementary teachers will be polled later this week to survey if they support moving to a 6-day rotation for specials schedule.

**Girls on the Run** - Sarah shared information and interest in starting a chapter at NCS perhaps in the fall. The running club is designed for 3rd-5<sup>th</sup> grade girls to enhance fitness, self confidence, etc. It would meet after school 2 times per week for about 6-7 weeks and culminate in an organized run open to all. There is a cost of about \$125, but scholarships are often readily available. This has been popular at Stoner and Core. Jennifer Klawiter has expressed interest in being involved.

### **Staffing**

We will wait some more for our FTE budget from the central office. The delay stems from the delay at the state capital. Our FTE may be affected by our lower enrollment numbers this year, 119 versus 124 last year.

We are fortunate to have Tara Gilbert available to continue long term subbing. The District has extended her long term sub position through the end of the year.

We will have to be posting for the I/A position this spring because it has been a 55% position and the 15 hour EA position because it was a late August hire, but we will wait until the dust settles with the budget.

Larry Gundlach has returned to teach after being out 2 weeks with the birth of his daughter, Rory. All is going well!

## **FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:**

**Account Balance:** Jen estimated we had between \$5,000-6,000 in our account at the present. The 501c3 Committee will meet tomorrow at 4:00 pm at Tuvalu to discuss a minimum balance to end the year and to begin the process of establishing a budget to work within.

### **Requests:**

\$93.99 to VASD for matting and framing of student art work for Central Office Display.

\$5,663.01 to VASD for 10 Ipads and 5 Chromebooks. (already subtracted from the balance.)

\$676.31 to VASD for Bulk Supply depletion caused primarily for EDM Math purchase of last summer of \$2,600.

All were approved with a unanimous vote.

**Grant Updates:** Two Epic Innovation grants from last summer were approved! We will receive \$6,629 as requested to cover the 20% of local contribution to our STEM grant. We also were part of the general elementary school after-school grant for next year. We can plan for about \$850 to contribute to after-school bussing for next year.

### **Some other Fundraiser ideas to be explored were:**

Roman Candle Pizzeria Night- pros and cons were briefly discussed without a decision being made.

Orange Leaf Night - pros and cons were briefly discussed without a decision being made.

Butter Braids- Melissa Albright is heading this up. Orders due March 16 and delivery March 31.

**Spring Concert Baskets-** YES. Brandi will head this up with the help of others.

**Box Top Coordinator** for next year will be Melissa Albright. After next year, Elizabeth Zraggen will take over as the Box Top Coordinator for several years as her children are at NCS.

### **Announcements:**

\*March 18- Spring Photos

\*Friday, March 20 NCS Hat Day to celebrate WI Charter School Week.

\* Ice Arena Skate-A-thon on Sunday, March 29, 1:00-2:30 pm

\* Spring Break, April 3-10

**Next NCS Site Council meeting date: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 4:00 pm at NCS.**

**Meeting adjourned at 6:03 PM.**

We agreed to place the time used for Site Council Meetings on the next agenda.