

## NCS Site Council Notes May 12, 2015, 4:00 at NCS, Lee Lohr's Classroom

**Welcome:** Mother's Day Stories- Share if you like: The following site council members were in attendance: Jim Ruder, Leigh Schmidt, Tonya Benz, Susan Christiansen, Jennifer Bradley, Abby Jakowski, Kaitie Smith, Charyn Grandau, Beth Junge, Lee Lohr, Steve Schultz, Not in attendance: Brandi Mueller, Jen Krull, Bruce Moore, Sarah Gaskell

**Angie Shaw from Hansen Foods LLC presented fundraising options** for next school year. Kaitie and the fundraising committee will take options under consideration.

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

\*The after-school STEM program, Garbage Patch Kids with Lee has one week left underway. It has been challenging to prep and supplement as necessary. Abby's Sign-up Genius has worked to organize three more parent volunteer slots for each of the sessions.

\* Teachers met for 1.75 hours on May 5th to summarize and document efforts thus far in STEM curricular efforts.

\* Kaitie Smith and Jim will conference call representative from Camille Solberg, a staffer in Senator Ron Johnson's office, to discuss involving underrepresented students in STEM programming again at the end of May.

\*Kaitie is overseeing STEM budget and will spend our grant within given budget accounts and time lines.

\*After-school programming for update next year- Kaitie shared the plan to offer three 8 week sessions of STEM, one in fall (grades 2-5), one in winter (grades 2-5) and one in spring (K/1). None of the three teachers who taught programs this year is wanting to teach next year. Scott Pelton is the only teacher to express interest right now. On STEM after-school program days, it is hoped that we could also offer a variety of clubs, including a teacher lead homework club and other parent lead clubs which might include community helpers, nature clubs, Girls on the Run, Badger Bot, etc. More details to come in June.

\*Gardening will begin in May again. Scot Junge roto-tilled the garden again. Many teachers have plants started in classrooms. Planting will take place in the coming weeks.

### **MARKETING UPDATE:**

\*We have scheduled and sent invitations to an incoming K Visit/Orientation evening on Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 pm. Abby will do a brief welcome from Site Council.

\* Jim's father-in-law, Keith Sullivan of Janesville, volunteered and painted 3 new signs for us. They are in place on the front lawn and at the entry inside the school.

\*One to three tour requests have been received each week. We currently have students aligned to be at a capacity of 126 students, 21 in each class to start the year. We have a short waiting list at several grade levels.

## **SCHOOL CLIMATE/WELLNESS**

**No Food Treat Policy-** Discussion about the no-treat policy from April's meeting continued. We talked briefly about designating one day for food treats, the Valentine's Party. This would allow diet sensitive families a heads up of when that day is coming, rather than throughout the year with birthday treats. While at the same time, this would allow for other families to carry on a tradition of sending in a snack/treat if they wish. Leigh made the motion and Jennifer seconded; all were in favor.

**Eppstein Uhen Architects** presented their findings to the VASD Board on May 4. They found our building to be in tough shape with exterior cracking of the walls, lack of access to the second floor for disabled people, and mechanical structures past their useful life. They estimated our building classroom number and size could service a limit of 87 students effectively. They expressed concern about pick up and drop off on Verona Ave and that the grounds we share with Sugar Creek are also too small. The School Board was pressed to pass plans to install a new boiler at NCS this summer. The maintenance department did a fine job of nursing it through this last winter, but it was uncertain if they could do that again. Also, our front steps with the cracking and deterioration taking place, have created a safety hazard. It is likely the steps will be replaced this summer as well. Our main building was built in 1918 with the K room addition in 1950, both before insulation was a standard practice. The Sugar Creek building received similar reviews with outdated mechanics and concern over many of the service pipes being located under the hallways.

**Spring Concert/Art Show-** Bonnie appreciated the many volunteer hours given to prepare for the Art Show. The event was another huge success held at the Performing Arts Center at VAHS during the evening of May 5. People commented on the great variety of songs, instruments, and dances. Student art was nicely displayed on the back walls of the PAC using magnets to attach to folded up seats. We had strong attendance, but 4 students did not participate due to last minute conflicts or illnesses. Students and families seemed to enjoy and appreciate the opportunity to perform at the PAC again. Jim will explore posting a video of the concert on our web page.

**Mississippi River Museum Trip** took place on Wed., May 6. We wrote a check for \$1,204.50 with 77 K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students at \$7.00 each (\$539.00), 40 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at \$6.00 each (\$240.00) and 37 extra adults at \$11.50 each (\$425.50). One K/1 class had a great tour guide and they were glad to have participated. 2/3 and the other K/1 guides were not as dynamic and struggled to keep the attention of 20 students. 4/5 were glad they opted for the self-guided tour. Recommendations were to return in two years again if we can afford it. 2/3 will request just 10 students per tour guide or opt for self-guided tours. It is a great museum with lots to offer. Other options could include the Discovery Center in Milwaukee, Cave of the Mounds, or the UW Discovery Center in Madison.

**Diversity and Equity Committee-** The committee hosted speakers on Down Syndrome last Friday, May 8, for 45 minute presentations to the three multi-age groups. Heather Hiusmann and Rebecca Hiegel presented with NCS parent Isabel Agasie. Heather is a Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin, Madison Chapter Board Member. Rebecca traveled from the

Milwaukee Area Down Syndrome Association of Wisconsin to share information, appreciation, and awareness of people with Down Syndrome. The South American Journey will take place the afternoon of Fri., May 22, with multi-age groups rotating to stations.

**Teacher Appreciation Week** efforts were well received by the staff and GREATLY appreciated. Abby, through Sign-up Genius, organized meals to be provided for lunches throughout the week and a Tuesday evening pizza supper between teachers working on STEM and attending the Spring Concert.

**Napoli Earthquake Relief Collection-** Charyn shared some ideas. We settled on Charyn to give a brief description of the needs and to introduce an opportunity to contribute to a single change collection.

**Howard Glasser-** Author and founder of Nurtured Heart is presenting to administrators and interested staff and families on May 13 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Badger Ridge Middle School.

**Lilada Gee-** a consultant with VASD, will lead a discussion about how we best serve students who are black with our staff on May 14 after school. 2:50-4:20 pm Charyn and Leigh expressed interest in also attending.

**Field Day-** Abby is heading up efforts again. She will design a rotation of groups again between hiking, fishing, and a couple of games. We will try to leave by 9:05 and arrive closer to 9:20. Rain options will be considered.

**Spring Walk or Ride to School Day- June 9.** Sarah will bring in prizes for drawing that day.

**6 Day Special Rotation-** was supported by the Verona Areas School Board. We have been directed to use a 6 day rotation schedule with other neighborhood schools. The biggest benefit will be had for larger schools being able to reduce the number of 1 ½ classes scheduled into specials. Jim has drafted a 6 day schedule which may be able to include I/A on even days, and PE on odd days (actually increasing our PE time.) We are waiting to hear from the Human Resource Dept. and from other Schools which we share services if this is going to be workable. Regardless, it will take extra efforts to communicate when PE, especially swim, Library, etc. are scheduled. This will be considered a one year pilot subject to review.

**Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences in August-** Teachers will devote one day to meeting with new families to get to know students and their hopes, interests, dreams, etc. As a result, we expect to establish class lists by June and schedule conferences before school is out. We have the four study rooms at the Verona Public Library reserved.

**Dates For Summer Play dates:** Tuesday July 21, Wed., August 12, Thursday, August 27 6:00-7:00 PM. No popsicles this year. Culver's Scoop cards were discussed.

**Ice Cream Social-** Leigh will be in charge of bringing and having help serve ice cream and water.

**Summer Book Give Away** -Susan will draft communications to collect donated gently used books to in turn make available free to all NCS students during the afternoon of June 8.

**Staffing**

FTE budget was determined to be the same for 2015-2016. Our current FTE breaks down as follows. A slight adjustment was requested in our previously approved FTE plan with .01 reduction in the Ad. position (from .80 to .79) balanced by a .01 increase to the LMC Assistant (from .03 to .04)

Position	2014-2015 FTE	2015-2016 FTE with detail
Administrator	0.79	0.80 18 hours/week
Classroom Teachers	6.00	6.00 37.5 hours/week
Integrated Arts (Music/Art)	0.55	0.55 (20.62 hours/week)
PE	0.29	0.29 Shared Service
Secretary	0.73	0.73 One 30 hours/wk One 10 hours/wk
Ed. Assistant	0.66	0.66 Two at 18 hours/wk
LMC	0.10	0.10 Shared Service
LMC Assistant	0.04	0.04 Shared Service
Ed. Tech.	0.08	0.08 Shared Service
Ed. Tech. Assist.	0.08	0.08 Shared Service
Site Council	0.04	0.04 Ed. Leadership
Operations	0.08 (.02 continuing from fundraising)	0.08 (.02 continuing from fundraising)
Total	9.44	9.44

\* We will have to be posting for the I/A position this spring because it has been a 55% position and the one 18-hour EA position because it was a late August hire. This will likely require 2 half days of interviews. Volunteers to serve on that hiring committee included:

Leigh and Abby. Susan, Brandi, and Tonya are also interested depending on the timing and need for them. We expect Sandee Tolleson to return in the fall and assume her K/1 position. Leigh will head up securing a gift for Tara Gilbert.

### **FUNDRAISING EFFORTS:**

**Account Balance:** With the EPIC grant of \$6,600 being applied to our required STEM grant local agency contribution, we will be able to reverse our 501c3 contribution of \$8,400 which took place in December.

### **Requests:**

Possible EveryDay Math update. Teachers continue to look at sample materials. The full package replacement would be \$9,171.05; partial package \$4,930.86. We will have a recommendation in June, as we await neighborhood school math plans for next year as well.

**Spring Concert Baskets Raffle-** Basket donations were a bit lighter than last year but still produced a nice collection in baskets in the end. Each student received a “free” raffle ticket when they arrived. Our profits were about \$700.

### **Announcements:**

May 12 K-3 Field Trip to Overture Center for Symphony Soup 9:20-11:30

May 14 4/ 5 Field Trip to Overture Center for Link-up Concert 11:20-1:30.

May 14 2:50 Staff meeting with Lilada Gee, consultant on race.

May 20 1:30-2:15 5th Grade History Play

May 21 Welcome to Kindergarten Evening 6:30pm/12:45-1:30 pm 5th grade History Play

May 22 South American Journey school wide afternoon program.

May 25- No School- Memorial Day

June 2 4/ 5 Canoeing trips

June 4, 5:45 pm 5th grade Graduation/6:30 pm Ice Cream social

June 5- 5th Grade evening party at school.

June 8 Summer time book give away, 12:30-2:00 pm.

June 9- Walk/Ride Bike to School Day.

June 10- School Wide Goodman Center Field Day (last full day of school)

June 11- Dismissal at 12:20 pm.

**Next NCS Site Council meeting date: Tuesday, June 9, 2015, 4:00 pm at NCS.**

**One more update in writing which Jim forgot to include during the meeting:**

**District Technology Update** The VASD School Board has adopted a plan to provide 1:1 Ipads to each 4/5 student next year. There is hope that the District will also buy up to 10 Ipads per K-3 classroom and work toward eventual 1:1 Ipads K-3 students as well. We will keep our new silver MacBooks (12). We will have to return all our older white MacBooks. The District is selling them back and using money to help acquire the Ipads. We will also keep all of our 25 purchased Chromebooks and donated 10 Thinkpads.